

Tallgrass Sierran

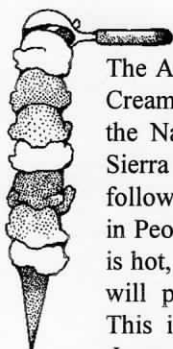
July/August 1997 Volume 25 No. 4

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 ☎ (309) 745-1920

General Meetings

WED
JULY
16

Spotted Cow Ice Cream Hike
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.



The Annual Pimiteoui Trail and Spotted Cow Ice Cream Hike will begin at 7:00 p.m. in front of the Nature Center. This uphill hike, in the true Sierra tradition, takes about 45 minutes, and is followed by an optional stop at the Spotted Cow in Peoria Heights. Wear good walking shoes. If it is hot, you may want to bring water. Carpooling will provide rides back to the Nature Center. This is a participatory event for all ages! Call Joyce, 688-0950, for more information.

WED
AUG
20

Finding Solutions to Pollution Cleanup
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Joe Laszlo, research scientist at the Northern Center for Agriculture Utilization Research, Peoria, will give an overview of environmental problems being researched at the USDA laboratory. Joe will discuss his specialty areas of research, which include cleanup of dyes and water pollution using non-petroleum based materials. Joe was recently featured on an NPR interview that aired nationwide. Questions and answers follow. *Refreshments follow the meeting. Everyone is welcome!*

Air Quality Standards Fight Intensifies

By MARY BODELL

President Clinton recently announced his support for the Environmental Protection Agency's strict air quality standards for ozone and particulates. Manufacturers trade groups and city mayors' associations are mounting media campaigns against these health-based standards, claiming they will cost too much and more study is needed.

What you can do: 1) Write or call President Clinton, commending his stand. 2) Write or call your U.S. Representative and Senators Carol Mosely-Braun and Richard Durbin, asking their support. 3) Write your local newspaper's letters forum to promote local support. We need clean air for our children, our elderly, and for our citizens with respiratory problems.



A group made up of the "Prairie Dawgs", six retired Western Illinois professors, and Angella Moorehouse (Nature Preserves Commission) and her husband, conducted a burn of Bob and Alice Henry's hill prairie near Macomb in late March.

Henry's Hill Prairie Saved

By HAL GARDNER

According to reliable sources, Bob and Alice Henry's hill prairie near Macomb has been saved from being considered as a right-of-way for the Chicago to Kansas City Interstate. Their hill prairie was known to have Illinois's second largest population of Hill's thistle (*Cirsium hillii*), a candidate for federal listing, but a recount elevated this site to the state's largest population.

The Club felt the site was important enough to improve the ecology by a spring burn. Late in March "The Prairie Dawgs", a joint Sierra Club/Nature Conservancy work crew, drove over to Macomb for a controlled prairie burn. We were aided by the Henry's, Angella Moorehouse (Nature Preserves Commission) and her husband, as well as six retired professors from Western Ill. University. Afterwards, the Henry's treated us to a delightful lunch on the deck of their house overlooking a wooded ravine. The luncheon respite was pure paradise after a hard day's work controlling fire against a stiff uphill breeze.

Yes you can!

I-TAN



Make your voice heard on environmental issues! Join the Illinois Telephone Activist

Network (I-TAN). Approximately every two weeks you will receive a brief action alert, pass it on to another local I-TAN member, and then call the HOI HOTLINE for more detailed information and the officials to contact to make your opinion count.

To join call Mary Bodell, 745-5479, or the HOI HOTLINE, 745-1920, mailbox 5, and leave your name and phone number.

HOI Members Participate in RiverWatch

By MARY BODELL

Members of HOI Sierra Club and Peoria Audubon Society performed our annual RiverWatch stream survey of Crow Creek on June 23. After collecting information on such environmental factors as flow, depth, bottom conditions, clarity, and stream surroundings, we sampled a variety of habitats for macro invertebrates. We spent the evening identifying and counting our critters. The report we turned in will be entered into a statewide database. Brenda Onken, Rudy Habben, and Les and Mary Bodell participated. We're looking for other volunteers who are interested in getting their feet wet! Call Les at 745-5479 if you are interested.

Note: Our RiverWatch friends Andy, Betty, and Michelle have all completed their two year Americorps service and will be moving on to other jobs. We'll miss them! Also, RiverWatch is being expanded to include forests, prairies, wetlands, and urban areas, and will be known as EcoWatch.



Join Our Active Sierrans Group



Would you like the chance to participate in activities that may be planned with little prior notice and don't mind being called on the spur of the moment? If you join our **Active Sierrans Group** you'll be called when we plan an activity that did not make it into the newsletter. It's OK to decline; we realize that you may already have other plans or may not be interested in the specific activity. To join call Mary Bodell at 745-5479, or leave your name and phone number on the HOI HOTLINE (745-1920), mailbox 5.

You can make a difference!

- ☐ **The White House:**
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue., NW,
Washington D.C. 20500
Comment Line: (202) 456-1111
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov
- ☐ **U.S. Senators:**
Carol Mosely-Braun / Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510
Capital Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
- ☐ **U.S. Representatives:**
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
Local: 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



Conservationist of the Year

The HOI Executive Committee has named Mary Jo Adams, of Carlock, Illinois, as Conservationist of the Year for 1997. Mary Jo is a volunteer for the Mackinaw River Project, through which the Nature Conservancy and local landowners are developing a plan to protect the river from the impacts of future development and to improve the quality of the river's water. *The HOI Sierra Group salutes Mary Jo Adams as our Conservationist of the Year!*



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Conoco Now Drilling in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

By MARY BODELL

Contrary to previous assurances, Conoco Oil Company has begun drilling for oil in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument before negotiations over lease exchanges could be completed. Construction began on June 6, on land owned by Utah.

The BLM (Bureau of Land Management) can still deny Conoco permission to drill on federal land, but they must hear overwhelming public opposition to drilling within a national monument created to protect natural and historic wonders. (Besides disqualifying large areas of proposed wilderness, industrial development is incompatible with national monument purposes.) **What you can do:**

- ☐ Call the White House comment line during business hours (EST) at 202-456-1111 or write:
Vice-President Albert Gore
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
- ☐ Call DuPont Chemical Corporation, owner of Conoco, and tell them you object to drilling in the national monument and to Conoco's deceptions. Call DuPont president John Krol at 800-441-7515.
- ☐ Do not let the BLM claim that the public doesn't oppose the drilling. Send a copy of your letter to:
Greg Thayne
BLM Utah State Office
324 South State, Suite 301
Salt Lake city, UT 84111-2303,
or call him at 801-539-4071.

This information provided by S.U.W.A. (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance).



Boundary Waters Wilderness Threatened Again Calls & Letters Needed NOW!

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please phone and write to Minnesota Senator Rod Grams and Rep. Jim Oberstar to let them know that you strongly oppose their efforts to open more areas of the Boundary Waters Wilderness to trucks and motorboat use. This area is a priceless national resource as a wilderness area, and needs to be kept safe from further noise, pollution, and environmental damage from expanded motor-vehicle access.

The same message needs to be sent to your Senators and Representatives in Washington D.C., and also to Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone. Ask Senator Wellstone to introduce a pro-wilderness bill, rather than a bill that would include adding trucks and more motorboat use to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The million-acre Boundary Waters Wilderness is the largest wilderness east of the Rockies and north of the Everglades. It is the only large lakeland wilderness in the U.S. Motorized boat use is allowed on about a quarter of the

water areas currently, and anti-wilderness groups are making major efforts to open up truck traffic on wilderness portages and increase the number of motorboat lakes. For more information phone the Minnesota Wilderness and Parks Coalition. 612-379-3587.

Sen. Rod Grams
261 Dirksen Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Ph. 202-224-3244
Fax: 202-228-0956
E-mail: mail_grams@grams.senate.gov

Rep. Jim Oberstar
2366 Rayburn House Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Ph. 202-225-6211
Fax: 202-225-0699
E-mail: oberstar@hr.house.gov

Sen. Paul Wellstone
136 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Ph. 202-224-5641
Fax: 202-224-8438
E-mail: senator@wellstone.senate.gov

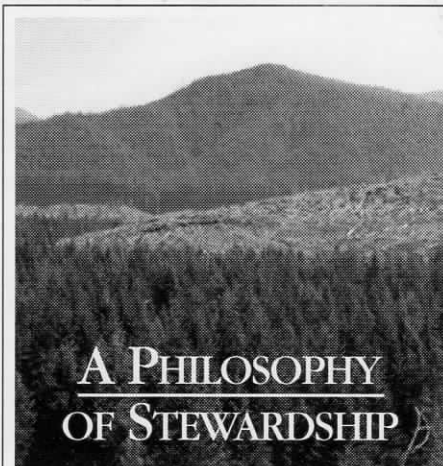


Thanks

Thanks to Mary Harkrader and Larry Johnson for again 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 \$115 for the HOI Sierra Group.



Mary Harkrader and Larry Johnson auction off donated items during our annual picnic at Jubilee State Park.



A PHILOSOPHY OF STEWARDSHIP

The Sierra Club's Statement of Purpose is: To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

As a grassroots-based organization, we rely on individuals for our resources, talent, and energy. Our members are our most important assets.

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB TODAY!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (Optional) () _____
☐ Check enclosed
Please charge my ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO
80322-2968



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W99901

PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT.
For our Families... For our Future.

HOI Group Calendar

July

8 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

TUE Hal Gardner's home: 13809 Jubilee-Brimfield Rd. Call Hal at 446-9792 for directions.

16 Spotted Cow Ice Cream Hike, 7 p.m.

WED Meet at the Forest Park Nature Center. We'll hike up to the Spotted Cow for ice cream. See front page for more details.



August

12 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

TUE Joyce Blumenshine's home: 120 W. Arcadia Ave., Peoria. Call Joyce at 688-0950 for directions.

20 General Meeting, 7 p.m.

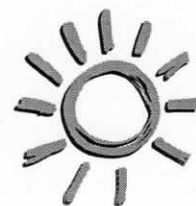
WED Forest Park Nature Center. Joe Laszlo, "Finding Solutions to Pollution Cleanup".

22 Newsletter Deadline

FRI Send articles for September and October to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@mtco.com

27 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.

WED Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!



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

Rock Island Trail Workdays

Scheduled workdays are the following Saturdays: **July 26, Aug. 23, Sept. 20, and Oct. 18.** Rain dates will be the next day (Sunday). On July 26 meet at 9 a.m. at the maintenance building next to the depot in Wyoming. For all other dates, meet at 9 a.m. at the Alta end maintenance building. Directions: Go about 1 mile west of Alta on Rt. 91, turn right on Radnor Rd., follow road around curves, maintenance building is on your right just before railroad tracks. Call Chris at 682-0549 for more information.

Prairie Dawgs Work Crew

Work includes prairie burns, brush cutting, eradicating alien plants, native plant seeding, and planting root stock. Crews meet the 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Hal Gardner's old house about 2.4 miles west of Jubilee-Princeville Rd. on Jubilee-Brimfield Rd. Call Hal Gardner at 446-9792 for directions.

Saturday, July 26

A "Century" Ride to Pluto and back

Starting times between 6-9 am at CILCO Pioneer Park Service Center, 8420 N. University. From the CILCO Service Center near Jupiter riders will take either the Rock Island Trail or low traffic roads to Wyoming (Neptune). From Wyoming all riders will use a low traffic road loop through the Kuiper Comet Belt en route to Kewanee and Pluto. Participants may choose to go as far as any particular planet (options are 10 to 100 miles). Rest stops will be staffed by members of the Peoria Academy of Sciences and Friends of the Rock Island Trail, and will feature exhibits and activities, such as sunspot viewing, and bird and wildflower identification. Plus, rest stops will be stocked with FOOD. Riders will feast on pasta and garlic bread at the CILCO facility upon returning. Showers will be available.

Sunday, July 27

The Inner Solar System

Assemble at Lakeview Museum at 6:30. Start between 7-8 am. Tour the inner solar system from the Sun to Saturn and back. This 30-mile ride takes about 3 hours. Riders will travel through Peoria and East Peoria, stopping at each of the planets in order from the Sun. The final leg from Jupiter to Saturn will cross the Illinois River and climb the bluff for spectacular views of Lower Peoria Lake and the city of Peoria, en route to Saturn at Illinois Central College.

Early registration fees until July 11 are \$18 (Sat. & Sun.), \$15 (Sat. only). Families (2 adults, 2 children) are \$40. Late fees are an additional \$3 per adult rider. **For more information & a registration form, call Lakeview Museum at (309) 686-7000.**

• INTERPLANETARY BICYCLE RIDE •

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

Executive Committee

Chair / Chapter Representative . . .	Rudy Habben	685-5605
Vice-Chair	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950
Secretary / Newsletter Editor	John Wosik	682-8950
Treasurer	Grayce Haworth	246-8397
Membership Chair	Cindy Matthias	686-4134
Conservation Chair	Ralph Ginn	274-3289
Alternate Chapter Representative	Hal Gardner	446-9792
Outings Chair / I-TAN	Mary Bodell	745-5479
Calendar Sales	Chris Meydam	682-0549

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 ...