

Tallgrass Sierran

January/February 1998 Volume 26 No. 1

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

HOI Group Meetings

WED
JAN 21

The Wonderful World of Mushrooms Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Dr. Harry D. Thiers, retired in Peoria after decades of devoting his life to the study and understanding of mushrooms, will give you an introduction to this important environmental asset. His slides will help you identify local mushrooms and gain a better appreciation of what they mean to a healthy ecosystem. Dr. Thiers has published extensively and is a renowned expert on mushrooms. A mushroom is named after him, in honor of his research. Brighten your winter evening with thoughts of spring and an enjoyable consideration of mushrooms! *Refreshments after the meeting! Bring a mushroom hunting buddy!*



WED
FEB 18

State of the State: Rails-to-Trails in Illinois Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

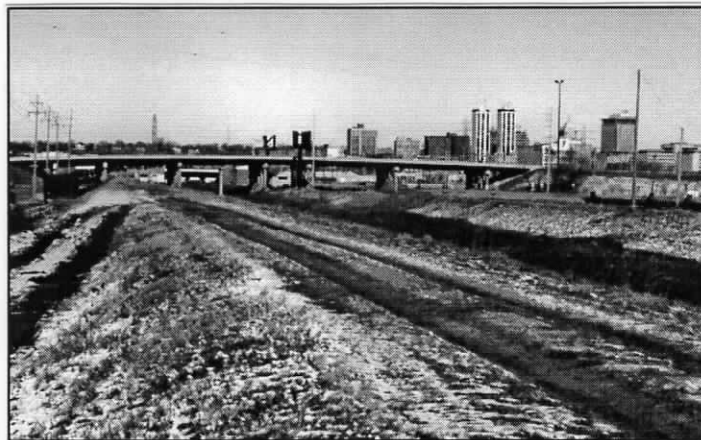
Mike Ulm, Director, Illinois Rails-to-Trails, will bring us up-to-date on rail-trail progress in Illinois. He will give his views on how the prospects of a new Governor may impact rails-trails efforts, and comment on the direction of rail-to-trail projects from DNR, Springfield. Other topics will include how rail-trail challenges in Indiana may impact Illinois, and an update on our nearby I&M and Hennepin canal trail links. Mike has bicycled more Illinois trails than most of us know about, so bring your weekend bicycling questions and get ideas for great rides (or hikes!). *You don't have to bicycle to enjoy this program: hikers will gain from this, too! Refreshments follow the meeting!*



WED
MAR 18

Growing Rare and Threatened Native Trees Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Jim Anderson is called "Jimmy Butternutseed" by his wife because of his "Johnny Appleseed" type work to grow and distribute American chestnut, Illinois pecan, pawpaw, wild hazelnut, butternut, wild plum and persimmon trees, among others. Totally as a labor of love and concern, Jim has educated himself on the cultivation and care of endangered native trees, has grown thousands of seedlings, and has given them away for planting. His personal computer database lists his sources for seeds and individuals to whom he has given seedlings. Learn about what habitats are in danger for some of the most important food source trees for wildlife. Find out what you can do to help promote planting and to care for our native trees. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting!*



Proposed Trail Extension: The proposed East Peoria trail extension would run west along this levee from the current terminus at Main Street, and connect with the Robert Michel Bridge and the City of Peoria's new riverfront trail across the river. Photo: John Wosik

East Peoria City Council Votes to Request Extension of Trail Funding

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

On December 30th, the day before the state deadline, the East Peoria City Council voted unanimously to request an extension of trail development grant funds from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This is their third one-year extension in spending for the grants. At stake was a combined total of \$1.13 million in trail development funds, which was jointly received by the city and the Fondulac Park District in 1993. The park district voted unanimously to ask the state for an extension of the funding at their December 15th meeting. Even though the grant topic did not appear on the city council agenda, the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club presented letters requesting approval of the grant extension to East Peoria Mayor Giebelhausen and to each council member at their December 16th meeting. Emphasis was made on the importance of having the East Peoria trail link to the Robert Michel bridge completed, so that safe bicycle access could be made to the bridge and the Peoria riverfront trail. George Burrier, Chairman, Friends of the Rock Island Trail and trail advocate brought the issue to the Heart of Illinois Excom at their December meeting. He made numerous press contacts, and several stories appeared in the PEORIA JOURNAL STAR. Heart of Illinois Sierra's Conservation Chair, Ralph Ginn, had letters to the editor in the JOURNAL STAR and East Peoria COURIER. Continued efforts are needed to encourage the City of East Peoria to take action on the Main Street to Robert Michel Bridge link for their trail system. *Please write a letter stating your concerns that this trail section be completed to: Mayor Jeff Giebelhausen, City of East Peoria, 100 South Main St., East Peoria, IL 61611.*



Dirty Secrets

By RALPH GINN

My vote for the worst law against the environment is audit privilege. It is not yet the law of the land, but soon could be if Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss) has his way. Incredibly, it is the law in 22 states, including Illinois.

Audit privilege allows polluters to confess violations they discover while monitoring themselves, and then keep all the pertaining documents secret. This secrecy blocks public and, in the event of a lawsuit, judicial access to the details of the violation. For example, if Company X accidentally dumps arsenic into a stream and livestock downstream die from drinking the contaminated water, Company X can legally keep the information secret as long as they report it to regulating agencies and take steps to prevent future spills. The livestock owners would not have access to this "privileged" information. In other words, strike one and two for the livestock owners.

How audit privilege will affect mega-hog factories is predictable. Up to now they did not have to report waste lagoon spills. Recently passed additions to the Livestock Management

Act, now require large lagoon spills to be reported. But audit privilege will prevent access to spill information by the public or courts.

In a democratic society audit privilege is fundamentally wrong and it should be repealed. That polluters can legally monitor themselves and then keep the results secret does not bode well for those living downstream.

(Editor's Note: This article by Conservation Chair Ralph Ginn was also published as a letter in the Forum section of the Peoria Journal Star.)

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
Capitol 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

Update on Peoria Trail Link

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Dave Wheeler, Peoria Park District Planner, feels very positively that some resolution will be made to aid in connecting rail access to Pioneer Park from the west and to allow development of the Pioneer Park to downtown Peoria trail. The Peoria Park District, in conjunction with the City of Peoria and the Village of Peoria Heights, is working on a feasible outcome to provide a win-win situation for rail service to Pioneer Park and for continuation of the trail. This issue must be resolved before trail development can continue from Pioneer Park, and efforts are in progress. The downtown Peoria trail section is almost finished. Compared to trail status in Peoria even a few years ago, great progress has been made. Mr. Wheeler sees a much greater awareness among city officials and businesses as to the economic and recreational benefits trails can provide.



The Peoria City Council Giveth and Taketh Away

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

After approving \$100,000. for their 1998 budget to be used to promote curbside recycling, the Peoria City Council voted several meetings later to delete \$75,000. from the plan. The deleted money was designated for matching funds to reduce rates for new curbside service subscribers. Now \$25,000. remains budgeted for a 1998 effort at promoting recycling through community groups, schools, and other organizations. If you have an idea you would like to suggest for promoting curbside recycling or other recycling in Peoria, please call Joyce at 688-0950.

Schnuck's Grocery Vote Delayed to February 17th Peoria City Council Meeting

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

For the third time, Schnuck's Grocery Store Chain is attempting to gain City Council approval of their proposed development at the corner of Sheridan and Glen Avenues. The Peoria Zoning Commission voted unanimously against Schnuck's proposal on December 4th. Concerns regarding drainage issues at the site and hazardous traffic congestion were major issues cited by the Zoning Commission. The City Council can approve the rezoning request, however, it is expected that a 3/4's vote will be required because of opposition to the proposal. Volunteers from the Lakeview Wilds group are fighting hard to keep the greenway intact, and to have appropriate scale commercial development limited to near the perimeter of the site.

A decision on Schnuck's proposal was scheduled for the January 13th City Council meeting. Schnuck's requested, and was granted a postponement by the City Council until February 17th.



Thanks! and Happy Retirement to Jack Fuller

One of Peoria Park District's finest, Jack Fuller, retired in December, after decades of service to the district. George Burrier, Chairman, Friends of the Rock Island Trail, presented Mr. Fuller with a commemorative Rock Island Trail spike, in honor of Jack's work for trail development in Peoria.

Thanks to All!

November Harvest Dinner Souper (Super) Supper!

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

A special thanks goes to everyone who came to the Annual Harvest Dinner and helped Heart of Illinois Sierra raise \$962. from the dinner and \$127. from the silent auction. These funds will keep your newsletter coming for 1998! Especially appreciated were all of the great soups, salads, breads, and desserts provided. Thank you for your food donations! This event could not happen without a dedicated and strong-backed set-up and clean-up crew. Hopefully, everyone has recovered by now! Our speaker, Willard Clay, donated \$30. to the group from his calendar sales. Thanks to all those who cooked, set-up, supped on soup, and in other ways joined in the evening. We are also thankful to the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church for allowing use of their facility.

New! 1998 HOI Officers

New HOI officers were elected at the January 13th EXCOM meeting. Joyce Blumenshine is the HOI Group's new Chair, and John Wosik is the new Vice-Chair. New Excom member Cindy Ewing is Secretary and our Chapter Delegate. Cindy Matthias will continue as Membership Chair. Ralph Ginn will continue as Conservation Chair and Grayce Haworth as Treasurer. Rudy Habben is our Alternate Chapter Delegate. Mary Bodell is temporary acting Outings Chair until a permanent replacement is found.

Tremendous thanks go to all those who spent considerable time and energy serving as HOI officers over the past year! Heart of Illinois Sierra Club is fortunate to have three new Executive Committee members beginning in January. Cindy Ewing, Mike Ingram, and Laurel Williams are all joining EXCOM. Welcome aBoard!



ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE®

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Optional) () _____

Annual dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter. Dues are not tax-deductible.

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

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club

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



F94Q **W-0703** -1

JOIN US ON OUR ANNUAL STARVED ROCK WINTER HIKE!

When - Sunday, February 1

Where - Forest Park Nature Center, 9 a.m., or
Starved Rock Lodge, 10:30 a.m.

What - Bring Lunch for the Trail / Dress Warm

What (About Dinner) - Mona's in Toluca

Who - HOI members and the public

Questions? - Al Harkrader, (309) 682-8462



From 1996: HOI Starved Rock winter hikers check the ice formations in Tonti Canyon where they stopped for lunch under the frozen waterfalls. Photo: Al Harkrader

Logging Vigilance Needed

By RALPH GINN

In a complicated set of legal rulings, the "Tulloch Rule" has, at least for the time being, been reinstated. The Tulloch Rule deals with land clearance, excavation and discharge of fill material into waterways. In the complete absence of any State of Illinois regulation of erosion from logging along stream banks, the Tulloch Rule just might be a lever we can use to force logging landowners to operate responsibly. Already an out of state landowner has logged 600 acres of prime oak woodland along Senachwine Creek in northern Peoria County (see Sept./Oct. 1996 Tallgrass Sierran). We have heard reports that the same company is soliciting other landowners in central Illinois for purchase of timber land.

We can not invoke the Tulloch Rule until we have knowledge of an impending stream side logging operation, or one already in progress. This is where we need the help of our 500 plus members throughout our 15 county region. If you know of a planned or ongoing logging operation, PLEASE let us know immediately. We can then contact the EPA and the Corps of Engineers and hopefully head off the type of irresponsible logging that took place along Senachwine Creek. Call Rudy Habben at 309 685-5605 or Ralph Ginn at 309 274-3289.

HOI Group Calendar

January

- 13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights
- 21 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Dr. Harry D.Thiers, The Wonderful World of Mushrooms.* Everyone is welcome!

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



FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WORKDAYS


Workdays are **Saturday February 7** and **Saturday March 7**. 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. *We're looking for new volunteers to help us with projects that will enhance the Rock Island Trail. Everyone is welcome!* Call Chris at 682-0549 for more information.

1998 Mackinaw Canoe Club Outings

Upper Bureau Creek	4/12
Buffalo Nat'l River, Arkansas	4/18-19
Mazon River	5/2
Vermillion River, Wildcat Section	5/16
Current River	5/30-31
Spoon River (Saville-Bernadotte)	6/13
Clinton Lake	6/20
Salt Creek	6/28
Spoon River (Duncan Mills-Havana)	7/18-19
Ocoee	Aug.
Eastern part of Kankakee	9/13
Raccoon Creek, Indiana	10/17-18

Call George Burrier, 266-5085 (H), or 698-5512 (W), for more information.

February

- 1 Starved Rock Winter Hike, 9 a.m.**
SUN  This traditional hike starts by car pooling at the Forest Park Nature Center. . . or meeting at the Starved Rock Lodge Great Hall at 10:30 a.m. Bring something to eat and drink on the trail during the 3-4 hour outing, and dress for the weather. Following the hike a stop is planned at Mona's in Toluca on the way home. *Call Al or Mary Harkrader at (309) 682-8462 for more information.*

- 10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights
- 18 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Mike Ulm, State of the State: Rails-to-Trails in Illinois.* Everyone is welcome!
- 20 Newsletter Deadline**
FRI Send articles for March and April to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@mtco.com
- 25 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.**
WED Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!
- 28 Illinois River Eagle Watch, 9 a.m.**
SAT Join Sierra Club and Audubon member Brenda Onken at the Forest Park Nature Center. From there we will be touring selected Illinois River valley locations between Peoria and Henry in search of our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Dress appropriately and bring your binoculars! *Call Brenda at 923-7676 for more information.*



March

- 10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights
- 18 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Jim Anderson, Growing Rare and Threatened Native Trees.* Everyone is welcome!
- 23 Clean Water Celebration**
MON Peoria Civic Center. The HOI Group will again have a booth. Look for more information in the March-April issue of *Tallgrass Sierran*, or call Rudy Habben at 685-5605.



I-TAN

Now Available by E-mail

Do you want a quick, easy way to make yourself heard on environmental issues? Join the Illinois Telephone Activist Network (I-TAN). Approximately every two weeks you will receive late-breaking action alerts and the officials to contact to make your opinion count. **To join call Mary Bodell, 745-5479, the HOI HOTLINE, 745-1920, or send an e-mail to jwosik@mtco.com.** We need your name, phone number, and if you prefer email notification, your e-mail address. (Current I-TAN members: contact us if you prefer to switch to e-mail notification.) **You DO NOT have to be a Sierra Club member to join.**

New Officers

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

Executive Committee

Chair	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950
Vice-Chair / Newsletter Editor	John Wosik	682-8950
Secretary / Chapter Delegate	Cindy Ewing	693-1881
Membership Chair	Cindy Matthias	686-4134
Alternate Chapter Delegate	Rudy Habben	685-5605
	Michael Ingram	686-2824
	Laurel Williams	244-7238
Treasurer	Grayce Haworth	745-5479
Conservation Chair	Ralph Ginn	274-3289
I-TAN / Acting Outings Chair	Mary Bodell	745-5479
Calendar Sales	Chris Meydam	682-0549

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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