

Tallgrass Sierran

March/April 1998 Volume 26 No. 2

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

HOI Group Meetings

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!*



WED
APR 15

Factory Farms in Illinois: An Update
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

A representative from the Illinois Stewardship Alliance will give us an update on the current state of factory farms in Illinois, including efforts to enact a moratorium on new construction of these mega facilities until adequate laws can be passed to protect the citizens of Illinois. Learn why current laws are totally inadequate to regulate mega hog farms which can generate as much sewage as a large city. Proposed legislation in Springfield will be discussed. Bring your questions! *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting!*

Step Forward for the Rock Island Trail Extension

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

One more important step has been taken on the long road to continue the Rock Island Trail south from Pioneer Park. Thanks to extensive work by City of Peoria staff and the approval of the Peoria City Council, the Pioneer Rail Corporation will take over running trains on the Kellar Branch Line. Efforts are still in progress to have a rail line coming into Pioneer Park from the west. When this is accomplished, Pioneer Rail can vacate the Kellar Line for development of the trail. Thanks go in particular to Steve Vanwinkle, Public Works, City of Peoria, for all his efforts.

Good News! Schnuck's Rezoning Request Defeated!

Thanks to City Council Members Eric Turner, Gail Thetford, Dr. Edward Glover, and Charles Grayeb

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Schnuck's grocery chain was denied the zoning change they need for development of a shopping area at the corner of Sheridan Road and Glen Avenue in Peoria. Please call or send a note of thanks to Peoria City Council members Eric Turner, Gail Thetford, Dr. Edward Glover, and Charles Grayeb for their vote against Schnuck's rezoning at the Peoria City Council meeting on February 17th. These four individuals have saved the trees, stream, and natural values of this area. After the vote, Mayor Bud Grieses stated that he hoped this issue could be put to rest, and that he would welcome a letter from Schnuck's indicating they were seeking a different location for their new store. This is the third time Schnuck's has brought their rezoning request before the City Council and it has been defeated.

Future Still Unclear as Politics Reigns

Rumors abound that City Councilman Gary Sandberg will find a way to bring the Schnuck's rezoning request yet again to the Peoria Council floor for another vote. In a dispute that may carry over to other neighborhood developments, Sandberg is more than at odds with those who opposed the Schnuck's rezoning. He views the corner of Sheridan and Glen as commercial property for commercial development, and gives no merit to the multitude of issues raised against the rezoning. Schnucks owns part of the property, and has options on adjacent land, and they could decide to change their site plan so that rezoning would not be necessary. Repeated comments that commercial development is the "highest and best use" of the property is a sad commentary on the money motivated development view that does not appear to allow for the values of green space in its own right. Donations to Lakeview Wilds, which is still attempting to raise money to purchase this controversial land, are needed.



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 e-mail 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.

Help Save the Big Wild:

Old Growth Forests Need Your Help

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

The Big Wild of central Idaho, also known as the Greater Salmon-Selway Ecosystem, has the single largest U.S. roadless area outside of Alaska. This precious, remote wilderness is in danger. Logging planned by the U.S. Forest Service will rip the heart out of its pristine habitat and crucial biological corridor. Citizen outcry is needed now to tell the Forest Service, your Representatives and the President, that this destruction must be stopped. Forest Service road building and logging in the South Fork of the Salmon River, near the Cove/Mallard section of the wilderness, caused devastating mud slides that nearly wiped out the salmon. The Forest Service is breaking environmental laws by not following setback requirements for logging along streams and is causing extensive erosion in road building. American taxpayers are paying millions of dollars in log road subsidies and in deficit-running timber sales. In 1997, \$791 million of your tax dollars subsidized logging on our Federal lands. In the Northwest, Forest Service funds are funneled into supporting schools and other public services so that communities are "hooked" on logging. Comments from forest activists indicate that even the loggers recognize that the steep, rocky terrain that is being logged is not reasonable. Logging on our public

lands must stop. Momentum is gaining to pass the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act of 1977, H.R. 2789, which will protect all our national lands from logging. Only 3.9% of total timber sales now come from public lands, and this can be replaced through commercial tree plantations, recycling, and alternative papers made of kenaf and other non-wood sources.

Two activists from the Cove/Mallard Coalition were in Peoria February 21st and 22nd to ask for citizen support in saving the Big Wild. They pointed out that the Cove/Mallard section is essential for threatened and endangered species like grizzlies, wolves, and steelhead trout. You can help in the effort to halt logging in this fragile wilderness. Write to Regional Forester Hal Slawasser, USFS Region 1, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807 and to Michael Dombeck, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250. Ask that the Cove/Mallard timber sales be stopped until a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement can be prepared. Let them know your concerns for saving the Cove/Mallard area as critical habitat. **Send your letters to your Representatives, and ask that they save Cove/Mallard and support the National Forest**



Protection and Restoration Act of 1997 (H.R. 2789). Tell them it is time to save taxpayers millions of dollars in road building for logging and in selling timber at a loss. It is time to stop logging on our national forest lands. Less than 5% of America's great forests remain, and the finest true wilderness in the U.S. will be logged if we do not demand a halt to the destruction

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

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Sierra Club

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



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Luthy Botanical Garden Plant Sale

April 25th (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.)

April 26th (noon to 2 p.m.)

Native plants can be purchased for very reasonable prices. Help support the botanical garden and get some natives growing in your yard or flower pots!





1997 LCV NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARDS

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) has issued its 1997 Scorecard of the First Session of the 105th Congress.

The Scorecard represents the consensus of experts from 27 respected environmental groups who selected the key votes on which Members of Congress should be graded. Except in rare circumstances, the scorecard excludes consensus action on the environment and issues on which no recorded votes occurred.

Included here are the scorecards for our U.S. Senators and the House Members covered by the HOI Group's geographic area. Congratulations go to Senator Richard Durbin for a perfect 100%

Lane Evans (D)
Ray LaHood (R)
Richard Durbin (D)
Carol Moseley-Braun (D)

score and to Lane Evans and Carol Moseley-Braun for very respectable scores. In an era when 80% of Americans consider themselves environmentalists and 67% support cleaner air, we urge Representative Ray LaHood to rethink some of his positions that resulted in a 19% score, such as support for logging and grazing subsidies, and his opposition to the new Clean Air standards.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact your Senator(s) or Representative and congratulate them on their pro-environmental votes. Express your dissatisfaction with their anti-environmental votes on positions you feel strongly about. Check out the LCV homepage at www.lcv.org for much more complete and detailed information on Congress' Environmental Scorecard.

1995 Environmental Scorecard	100%	23%	92%	77%
1996 Environmental Scorecard	92%	38%	81%	77%
1997 Environmental Scorecard	88%	19%	100%	86%

+ = Pro-environment action
- = Anti-environment action

1997 VOTES	HOUSE	SENATE	Results IF the action becomes law. Pro-environment position in parenthesis.
Endangered Species Act Flood Wavers	+	+	Exempt from the Endangered Species Act (ESA) only flood control projects in federally declared disaster areas or if there is substantial threat to lives or property. (Amendment to a bill that exempted all projects from the ESA.) (YES) - Signed into law
Logging Roads Subsidies	+	-	Significantly cut the Forest Service's logging road construction fund, and significantly cut (House) or eliminate (Senate) the Purchaser Roads Credit program, which in essence gives trees to timber companies for road construction costs they incur. (YES)
Weakening Land Use Protections - "Takings"	+	-	Allow developers to sue in federal court for "takings claims" once a single development proposal is denied by the local government. (NO)
Irresponsible Grazing Policies	+	-	Raise grazing fees to a level still far below the government's administrative costs. Further restrict the ability of federal agencies to monitor the condition of rangeland and to alter grazing practices where necessary. (NO)
Grazing Subsidy	+	-	Require livestock operators on federal lands to pay a fee equal to the state grazing fee for the state in which the federal lands are located. (YES)
National Wildlife Refuges	+	+	Establish that conservation of fish and wildlife is the basic mission for the nation's 509 wildlife refuges. Require conservation plans to be developed for each refuge. (YES) - Signed into law
Limiting National Monuments	+	-	Prohibit the President from unilaterally and rapidly designating a national monument greater than 50,000 acres. (NO)
Restricting World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves	+	-	Restrict U.S. participation in the UN program which has designated 20 World Heritage Sites and 47 Biosphere Reserves in the U.S. (The sites and reserves, mostly national parks, are under no UN control or jurisdiction.) (NO)
Sugar "Subsidy"	-	-	Eliminate the USDA's non-recourse loans to sugar processors. The loans allow processors to use their sugar as collateral, and provide an incentive to the USDA to keep sugar prices artificially high. (YES)
Animas-La Plata Irrigation Project	+	-	Halt construction of the environmentally destructive and costly, federally subsidized Animas-La Plata water project in Colorado. (YES)
"Clean Coal" Technology Program	-	-	Cut \$292 million from the "Clean Coal Technology Program" in addition to \$100 million cut by the House Interior Appropriations subcommittee. (YES)
Texas Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact	+	+	Approve a compact permitting Maine and Vermont to ship low-level radioactive wastes to a facility in a low-income community near the Mexican border. (NO)
Nevada Nuclear Waste Dump	+	-	Establish an "interim" nuclear waste dump near the proposed permanent repository in Nevada. Nuclear waste disposal standards would be weakened and radioactive waste would be forced onto U.S. roads and rails without adequate safety standards. (NO)
Release of Funds for International Family Planning	+	-	Override an earlier delay and approve release of international family planning funds on March 1, 1997 instead of July 1. (YES) - Signed into law
Restricting Private International Family Planning Funds	+	-	Deny U.S. international family planning funds to non-governmental organizations that are involved in any abortion-related activity, even if paid for with non-U.S. government funds. (NO)
Dirty Air	+	-	Cancel the EPA's new regulations under the Clean Air Act that update the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone (smog) and particulates (soot). (NO)
Pave The Parks		+	Allow states to claim the right to build roads across national parks, monuments, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas. (NO)
Subsidy for Hard Rock Mining Companies		+	Repeal the percentage depletion tax allowance for that part of a mining company's activity which occurs on public land and some former public lands. This would reduce the mining industry's subsidy by approximately \$468 million over five years. (YES)
American Heritage Rivers		+	Cripple the American Heritage Rivers Initiative by imposing cumbersome notice and consultation requirements and require that Congress approve the designation of each of the 10 selected rivers. (NO)

Clean Water Celebration

By RUDY HABBen

This year's Clean Water Celebration will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on March 23 at the Peoria Civic Center Exhibit Hall. HOI Sierra Club will again have a booth at the celebration. This year's exhibit will demonstrate how herbicides adhere to soil particles, and through soil erosion are responsible for the disappearance of aquatic plants in streams and the Illinois River. *Club members who would like to help staff the booth should call Joyce Blumenshine at 688-0950.*

This year will feature a number of new exhibits. The Shedd Aquarium will present "Funky Frogfest", a multimedia and audience participation program in which students will find out about these amphibians that come in all colors and range in size from a dime to a dinner plate.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will have a major Biodiversity Exhibit. Also returning this year will be Phun Chemistry, the "Hawg Trough" fish tank, Skylab from Lakeview Museum, plus storytellers, theater, and art exhibits.

Astronaut Jan Davis will be the featured speaker in the Civic Center Theater. As a veteran of two space flights in 1992 and 1994 she has logged over 389 hours in space. She has worked on the Hubble Space Telescope project and on the 1997 Discovery space mission. In addition to the theater presentation she will be the speaker at the Rivers Project Dinner on March 22 at the Peoria Holiday Inn City Centre. The dinner is open to the public and includes a special program with Jr. High School girls on careers in science. *If you are interested in more information call Pat Welch at the Tazewell County Health Department, 309/925-5511, ext. 227.*

"Keep Hog Waste Out of Illinois' Water" Bill Needs Help

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please contact your State Representative TODAY and ask that he/she co-sponsor House Bill 3694, Amendment One, the "Keep Hog Waste Out of Illinois' Water" Bill. The Bill will go a long way toward protecting our waterways from mega-hog farm pollution. No mega-hog farms would be allowed to be built in floodplains or in areas where they could leak into groundwater or major rivers or streams. Just like any other industry that discharges pollution into the water, these huge-scale operations would be required to get a permit from the Illinois EPA. The goal of this legislation is to better monitor mega-hog farms and to hold them accountable for pollution that they cause. If a hog factory farm violates their permit by creating pollution problems, they could be fined, just like any other industry or business that creates a water pollution problem. A 40,000 hog facility produces as much sewage as a city the size of Peoria, and no waste treatment facility is required. Mega-hog farms usually store waste in huge lagoons and spray the effluent on farm fields. Serious groundwater pollution can result from spills or from having the sprayed effluent wash into streams and other waterways. H.B. 3694 is an effort to protect Illinois rivers, lakes, and streams from pollution coming from industrial hog production facilities. Please contact your State Representative today! For more information, contact the Illinois Sierra Club Chicago office, phone 312-251-1680. Sierra Club worked extensively on this legislation.

Oppose the Road to Ruin Act

By MARY BODELL

Representative Don Young (R-AK) is pressing for an early vote this session on H.R. 2259, a bill that would pave the way for construction of a road through Izembek National Wildlife Refuge and congressionally-designated wilderness, to connect remote King Cove with Cold Bay at the tip of the Alaska Peninsula. This road would threaten migratory birds and other wildlife, waive existing environmental laws, establish the only new permanent road in a designated wilderness, and ignore transportation alternatives being reviewed by the State of Alaska.

This bill could come before both the House and Senate any time after Congress resumes on February 24th. An "Alaska Day" may be scheduled in the Senate for a whole batch of bad bills, including this one. Call the Capitol Switchboard and urge your Representative to oppose H.R. 2259, and urge your Senators to oppose S. 1092, the Senate version of H.R. 2259.



Starved Rock Outing: Outing members walk under the waterfall in LaSalle Canyon. Photo: Rudy Habben

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

HOI Group Calendar

March

- 10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights
- 14 Jubilee College Hike, 9 a.m.**
SAT Carpool from the Forest Park Nature Center at 9 a.m., or meet at the Jubilee College State Historic Site at 9:45 a.m. Plan to hike 4+ miles with some hills. Bring a sack lunch and drink. Call Mary Bodell, 745-5479 for more information.
- 18 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Jim Anderson, Growing Rare and Threatened Native Trees.*
- 23 Clean Water Celebration, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**
MON Peoria Civic Center. We will again have a booth. (See the newsletter article.) For information call Joyce at 688-0950.

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



FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WORKDAYS

Workdays are **Saturday March 7** and **Saturday April 4**. 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 at 446-9792 for directions.

April

- 4 Mackinaw River Canoe Outing, 8 a.m.**
SAT Canoe "the prettiest section" of the Mackinaw River with Conservationist of the Year Mary Jo Adams. Birdwatching, seining for fish, seeing a hillside prairie and the Nature Conservancy Bateman property are possibilities. Meet at Forest Park Nature Center. Bring a sack lunch and a complete set of dry clothes in a heavy plastic bag. **Canoes provided. Reservations are required by March 27.** Call the Hotline, mailbox 3, or Mary Bodell at 745-5479.
- 7 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights
- 15 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Factory Farms in Illinois: An Update by the Illinois Stewardship Alliance.*

Earth Week Events:
(HOI Group will have a table at all of these.)

April 19
Bradley University Quad, 12-4 p.m.
Music, environmental displays, games, and children's environmental art. Sponsored by SEAC and PEACE.

Forest Park Nature Center, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Displays, games and activities with a family emphasis.

April 25
Earth Fest '98, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Davis Caves, Armington, IL
Live music powered by the SUN CHASER, a mobile solar unit containing batteries, solar panels, and inverters. Earth home tours, children's games, environmental displays, antiques and crafts, educational workshops, roof-top pony rides for kids. On U.S. Rt. 136, 8 miles east of I-155 & 7 miles west of I-55. Call 309-392-2574, or check out www.daviscaves.com for more details.

- 18 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, 9 a.m.**

Route 26 volunteers meet at the Total Gas Station at the Rt. 26 & 116 intersection. Route 40 volunteers meet at the Fry Farm at the intersection of Rt. 40 and Singing Woods Road. Gloves and hard-soled shoes are recommended. Sorry, no helpers under 10 years due to safety concerns. For more information, or if you have not viewed the safety video (required), call Grayce Hayworth at 246-8397.

Mark your calendar for these other 1998 Adopt-A-Highway dates:
June 20 • Sept. 19 • Nov. 14

- 22 Earth Day**



- 24 Newsletter Deadline**

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

- 26 Riverfront Trail Bike Ride, 1 p.m.**

Meet at the Fondulac Park District administration building in East Peoria. Cindy Matthias will lead this ride across the Michel Bridge, along Peoria's riverfront trail, through Springdale Cemetery, and along Grandview Drive to Peoria Heights. Upon our return to East Peoria, there will be an optional ride along the River Trail of Illinois. Bring a snack. Call Cindy, 686-4134, for more information.

- 29 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.**

WED Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

HOTLINE: Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts • 745-1920
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Executive Committee

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	Michael Ingram	686-2824
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HEART OF ILLINOIS

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