

Tallgrass Sierran

July/August 1998 Volume 26 No. 4

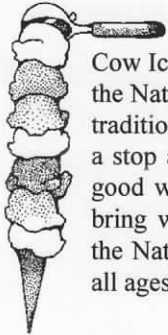
THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 ☎ (309) 745-1920

HOI Group Meetings

WED
JULY 15

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 p.m. in front of the Nature Center. This uphill hike, in the true Sierra tradition, takes about 45 minutes, and is followed by a 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 682-8950 for more information.

WED
AUG 19

Riverfront Walk & Refreshments

Gateway Building, 7 p.m.



Join us for a leisurely walk along Peoria's riverfront. We'll meet at the Gateway Building in downtown Peoria and walk to the Deitweiller Marina and return. Afterward, we'll stop for refreshments at a location to be determined by group consensus. Everyone is welcome! Call 682-8950 for more information.

HOI-F.A.R.M. Coalition to Fight Audit Privilege Law

By RALPH GINN

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club and Families Against Rural Messes (F.A.R.M.) are combining efforts to repeal or change the Illinois Audit Privilege Law. This is the infamous legislation passed in 1994 that allows polluters to audit themselves and then keep violations secret from the public, even in civil and criminal proceedings. Both groups are very concerned about the effect audit privilege will have on livestock regulations. It is also a safe haven for all polluters.

A committee made up of Jane Johnson and Leonard Gorski of F.A.R.M. and Rudy Habben and Ralph Ginn of HOI is gathering information on possible ways to attack audit privilege. In Montana a group of four conservation groups, including Audubon, have forced the EPA to withhold authority for the state to administer several federal waste and air quality programs. EPA is currently investigating whether the Montana law violates minimum federal requirements for environmental law enforcement. This type of citizen challenge may be a possibility in Illinois. Outright repeal of audit privilege is another consideration, although undoubtedly a formidable task. Whatever our course of action, a broader coalition will be needed. Other conservation groups will be sought to join our efforts against audit privilege. Anyone with ideas or a willingness to help, call Rudy Habben (685-5605) or Ralph Ginn (274-3289).

Jim Anderson Voted Conservationist of the Year

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Years of hard work and individual effort to promote planting native trees were honored when Jim Anderson was awarded "Conservationist of the Year" at the June 17th Heart of Illinois Group Annual Picnic. Jim, his wife and his three children attended the event, and they received enthusiastic rounds of applause from the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. Jim's dedication to finding and growing native tree seeds was detailed in an article written by Ralph Ginn, which was read at the ceremony. Jim received a framed certificate of appreciation, an engraved Sierra cup, and one of the last remaining Heart of Illinois Group T-shirts. Congratulations go to Jim Anderson, and his family, for his distinguished efforts on behalf of native Illinois trees. Thank you Jim, for your outstanding dedication!



Jim Anderson - Conservationist of the Year



By RONALD AND LAUREL WILLIAMS

Once again we are the victims of pesticide exposure due to the improper application of pesticides. The latest incident occurred on May 30th when Agland FS was again spraying when conditions were too windy. Once again we have incurred damage to our farm. Obviously Agland FS isn't getting the message, even though we filed a lawsuit on May 15, 1998 over their negligent misuse of pesticides on May 17, 1997 which caused devastation to our farm at the time.

Once again we have filed a complaint with the Illinois Department of Agriculture and are writing letters to the Senators on the Agriculture Committee. Until the pesticide laws in this state are enforced by the powers that be, this devastation to everyone's environment is going to continue. We all need to work together to pursue this effort. Enough is enough!

(Ronald and Laurel Williams live at 22638 Toboggan Ave., Delavan, IL 61734. Laurel is a member of the HOI Executive Committee. - Editor)

Outreach Project with Midwest Sierra

Several Midwest Sierra Groups, including Heart of Illinois Group, will be participating in outreach activities in coordination with the Midwest Sierra Club regional office in Madison, Wisconsin. The project is intended to focus on water quality issues, and particularly on the Mississippi River, or in our case, also on the Illinois River, and pollution, siltation, and other concerns. Watch for more details! Helpers will be needed to contact sportsmen's groups, boating, and other river-related organizations. If you have any suggestions for contacts, please call Joyce at 688-0950.

Action Alert! CALL/WRITE Ray LaHood Now!

Support Funding for Repairs to the Folsom Dam and American River Levees in California

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Your calls and letters, faxes, and/or e-mail are needed to send an urgent message to Representative Ray LaHood. Please contact his local office and Washington, D.C. office to request that he support funding for repairs to the Folsom Dam and American River levees in California. Repairs and upgrades to the Folsom Dam and American River levees will provide cost effective flood control for Sacramento, California. Action may be taken any day, and your promptness is needed. Ray LaHood holds a critical vote to determine whether the Folsom Dam and American River levee repairs will be made or over \$2.6 billion will be wasted on construction of the highly controversial Auburn Dam.

Siting for the proposed Auburn Dam will place it on an earthquake fault. The Auburn Dam will be one of the most expensive dams ever built in the United States. It will damage or destroy up to 48 miles and 10,000 acres of wild lands along the rugged and scenic American River. This area is currently eligible for Wild and Scenic River status. Canyons which would be flooded include more than 400 Gold-Rush era and Native American historic sites. The Auburn Dam proposal must be stopped, and flood control can be done through repairs and upgrades to the Folsom Dam and American River levees. Contact Rep. Ray LaHood, phone Peoria 309-671-7027, and Washington, D.C. 202-224-3121. Check the address listings in this newsletter for his D.C. office, and send a copy of your letter to Rep. Ray LaHood, 100 NE Monroe, Peoria, IL 61602.



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

PEACE Proposes "Living on Earth"

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

PEACE, the Peoria Environmental Action Committee for the Earth group, is working on having the award winning PBS environmental program "Living on Earth" broadcast on WCBU radio, FM 89.9 in Peoria. Dave Pittman, PEACE, is suggesting a possible combined group fund-raiser to obtain the over \$600 needed for the program. If you have not heard "Living on Earth," tune in Urbana's WILL AM 580, Saturdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. or try Springfield's WUIS 91.9 FM on Sundays from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This is a great program that will be good to have in Peoria. If you are interested in helping with this project, call Joyce at 688-0950.

Tell Governor Edgar to Veto House Bill 3129

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

H.B. 3129 will prohibit Illinois from taking any action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. The coal, electricity, oil, and chemical industries want this bill because it will stave off state efforts to reduce air pollution. This is a very bad bill. Governor Jim Edgar must sign or veto H.B. 3129. Please call and write, and ask that Gov. Edgar veto H.B. 3129. The citizens of Illinois deserve healthier air, and our state should make a responsible effort to cut back on the production of greenhouse gases. Fax your letter to 217-524-4049. Write to The Honorable Jim Edgar, State House, Room 207, Springfield, IL 62706. Call 1-800-642-3112 and leave a message to Veto House Bill 3129.

Bread, Poster, Pie, Print....



HOI Sierrans and guests bid for items during the white elephant auction at this year's potluck picnic at Detweiller Park.

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

What do all these things have in common? You missed it: the annual Heart of Illinois Sierra Club potluck picnic and white elephant auction. Yes, all these items and much more were auctioned by the Master of Ceremonies Larry Johnson. Thanks, Larry! An all-time high of over \$136. was earned for Heart of Illinois Group activities. Thanks to Grayce Haworth, Treasurer, for tracking everything through all the laughter. Vice Chairman John Wosik made great arrangements for the lovely park shelter and it didn't even rain! Thanks to everyone who donated items, purchased, cooked, and came to the picnic. It was great!

(And of course thanks to Joyce for all her work in organizing this year's picnic. - Editor)

TMDL, 303d, and the Illinois EPA

By RALPH GINN

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded Illinois \$34 million in 1998 for projects that improve drinking water quality. Up to 15% of this amount can be used for source water protection programs that PREVENT pollution from reaching water supplies in the first place (buffer strips, restoring riparian habitat and purchase of conservation easements are examples of source water protection projects). IEPA has chosen to invest NONE of this money in source water protection. HOI wrote a letter to IEPA asking for a review of this year's decision and greater consideration for source water protection in future years.

The TMDL process and source water protection are currently the only legal tools available for dealing with agricultural runoff and other sources of pollution which arise from land use. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) refers to the level of pollutants a watershed can handle. Section 303d of the U.S. Clean Water Act requires states to identify those areas that do not meet water quality standards suited for fishing, swimming and other uses. Only recently has Illinois EPA begun to address section 303d. IEPA has, in May, released a list of waters which will have TMDL cleanup plans developed. There are 330 watersheds listed and prioritized. In the HOI area those watersheds include: Illinois River, Spoon River, Farm Creek, Big Creek.

HOI will monitor IEPA's progress in implementing the TMDL process and use of the Safe Drinking Water Fund carefully in the future. This agency does not inspire a lot of confidence in their commitment to a better environment.

High Phosphorous Levels in the Fox River

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Water quality samples from the middle Fox River were found to contain levels of phosphorous that were many times what is considered reasonable by federal standards. The USEPA has set a total recommended maximum phosphorous concentration for streams at 0.1mg/L and areas of the Fox River were as high as 7.6 mg/L. The Illinois EPA does not have phosphorous standards and does not check on phosphorous regarding water quality. High phosphorous levels have been tied to outbreaks of toxic bacteria, algae blooms, and other problems that can be hazardous to human and animal health. The Illinois Sierra Club headquarters office in Chicago is considering further studies of phosphorous in our waterways, and we might hope the Peoria area Illinois River will be included.



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

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Enclose check and mail to:

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



F94Q W-0703 -1

HOI Group Calendar

July

9 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
THU Laurel William's home, 22638 Toboggan Ave., Delavan. Call Laurel at 244-7238 for directions.

15 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.

18 See the Sea Horses and Mt. Everest (in Chicago)
SAT City outing to See the Sea Horses and EVEREST. This (long) day trip to Chicago will visit the Shedd Aquarium to view a special exhibit of sea horses. In the afternoon we will go to the Omnimax theater at the Museum of Science & Industry to see an expedition climbing Mt. Everest. Cost for the aquarium is \$11 and the Omnimax & museum is \$12. RESERVATIONS must be made by July 10th. Call Joyce at 688-0950. We will carpool from Peoria.

22 Woods & Prairie Cookout
WED Chicago Sierran Dr. John Raffensperger has invited the HOI Group for a cookout and tour of his property near Henry. Dr. Raffensperger owns 130 acres which he is restoring as much as possible to presettlement conditions. (Volunteer workers are welcome.) It includes second growth woodland on hills and ravines, former farm fields now in prairie grass, two springs, and two ponds. A cabin has electricity provided by solar panels. The time has not yet been decided, but will be flexible. Contact John Wosik, 682-8950, by July 19 if you are interested in attending.

August

9 Bicycle for Breakfast on the Rock Island Trail, 8:30 a.m.
SUN Bicycle for Breakfast on the Rock Island Trail. This easy ride leaves from the main Trail parking lot at the west edge of Alta at 8:30 a.m. Riders will decide how far to travel and then stop at a local eatery. For information call 688-0950.

13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
THU Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights

18 Newsletter Deadline
TUE Send articles for Sept. & Oct. to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@mtco.com

19 Riverfront Walk & Refreshments, 7 p.m.
WED Meet at the Gateway Building in downtown Peoria. See front page for more details.

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

THE Interplanetary Bicycle Ride

Saturday, July 25
A "Century" Ride to Pluto and Back Start between 6-9 a.m. from the CILCO Pioneer Park Service Center. Route options are 10 to 100 miles on the R.I. Trail and/or low traffic roads. Food provided.

Sunday, July 26 - The Inner Solar System
Start at 6:30 a.m. at Lakeview Museum. This 33-mile ride through Peoria and East Peoria takes about 3 hours.

Registration: Call Lakeview Museum at (309) 686-7000 for more information and a registration form. Registration fees are:

Until 7/11: Saturday & Sunday \$18
Saturday only \$15
Sunday only \$5
Family (2 adults, 2 children) . \$40

After 7/11: Late Fees (per adult rider) . \$3
(Not sponsored by the Sierra Club.)

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

FRIENDS OF THE ROCK ISLAND TRAIL WORKDAYS

The next workday is **August 1st (Sat.)**. 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.

Workdays: 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.

Prairie Tour, July 11 (Sat.) - Meet at Hal's old house for a tour of the Jubilee bottomland and hill prairies, and possibly other locations, depending on the enthusiasm of the group. Call Hal, 446-9792, for more information.

Remaining 1998 Mackinaw Canoe Club Outings

Spoon River (Duncan Mills-Havana)	7/18-19
Fat Lake Festival	7/18-19
Mackinaw River (150-DOC landing)	7/26
Ocoee River, Tenn	Aug.
Moonlight Cruise Salt Creek, Clinton	8/8
Fossil Exped, Youghiogheny River, PA	8/13-16
Eastern Kankakee River, Momence	9/13
Mackinaw River (Towerline-Townline)	9/27
Racoon Creek, Indiana	10/17-18
Tellico River, Tenn	11/21
Obed-Emery Rivers, Tenn	12/12

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

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	246-8397
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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Peoria, IL 61614



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