

Tallgrass Sierran

September/October 1998 Volume 26 No. 5

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

HOI Group Meetings

WED
SEPT 16

Costa Rican Adventure
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.



Sierra Club member Al Harkrader will present a slide show of a recent trip to Costa Rica. Come see and hear about the rain forests, mountains, and coasts of this beautiful Central American country. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.*

WED
OCT 21

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Join us to listen to a guest speaker on a topic related to the environment. Call the HOI Hotline at 745-1920 in the near future for information on tonight's guest speaker. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.*



We Need You!

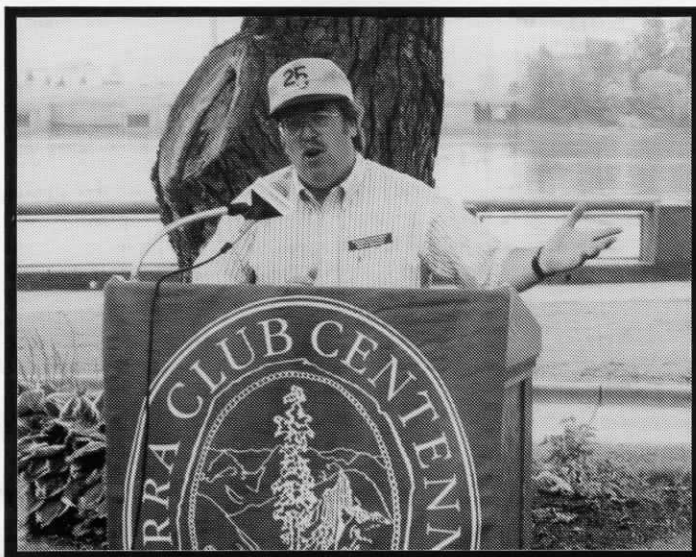
**HOI Group Seeking
Excom Nominations**

The HOI 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 Nominating Committee members **Ralph Ginn (274-3289)**, **Mary Bodell (745-5479)** or **Chris Meydam (682-0549)** by October 14. The EXCOM positions will be for a 2 year period (1999-2000).

Any member not considered by the Nominating Committee, but who would like to be on the ballot should submit a petition with the signatures of 10 HOI Group members to Cindy Ewing (693-1881) by Oct. 14. Ballots will be mailed with the November-December newsletter and counted at the November HOI Group meeting.



Yes you can! 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 jwsik@mtco.com.** We need your name, phone number, and if you prefer e-mail notification, your e-mail address. **You DO NOT have to be a Sierra Club member to join.**



Mark Beorkrem, Sierra Club member and Navigation Policy Director of the Mississippi River Basin Alliance Photo: John Wosik

HOI Group Holds Press Conference Opposing Lock and Dam Expansion

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

At a riverside press conference August 13th, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club challenged the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to manage the Illinois River on behalf of all citizens and taxpayers, and not just for agribusiness and the barge industry. The Corps is working to convince the public that larger locks and dams are needed on the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Sierra Club contends the millions of dollars for such construction are not cost effective, and that the river ecosystems will deteriorate further with the increases in barge traffic brought on by larger locks.

Speaking from a podium on the lawn behind the River Station Restaurant, Mark Beorkrem supplied data to show doubling river lock size would be a gigantic taxpayer subsidy for business. Mark is a Heart of Illinois Group member and a longtime river advocate, serving as Mississippi River Basin Alliance Navigation Policy Director. HOI member Hal Gardner was quoted extensively in a Peoria Journal Star article, pointing out that rail transportation is the most economical and environmentally friendly means of grain hauling in the Midwest.

Jonathan Ela, Midwest Office, Sierra Club, phoned Heart of Illinois Group to hold the press conference to coincide with a river tour for members of the Corn Growers Association. The Army Corps of Engineers provided two barges for the free Corn Growers tour, and the Corn Growers and

■ see page 2 ■

■ press conference, from page 1 ■ members of the Peoria area business community were told the positive impacts doubling lock and dam sizes would have.

This environmental battle has just started to boil, as the Army Corps is expected to hold meetings to promote their expansion requests this fall. The Corps has already spent \$50 million in studies calculated toward justifying doubling lock and dam sizes on the Illinois and Mississippi.

"The Sierra Club gets a free ride on two barges" What?

If the above headline was all you read in the Peoria Journal Star on August 13 you could certainly get the impression that the Sierra Club received a free ride on the same two barges that the Army Corps provided free of charge to the Illinois Corn Growers. The teaser on page one for the article also reinforced the same impression, "Illinois Corn Growers helps Heart of Illinois Sierra Club with river tour." However, the article below the headline stated just the opposite - the Sierra Club opposes the taxpayer subsidized river tour of the Illinois Corn Growers and we did not participate in a free tour of the river. The Journal Star issued a correction the next day.

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



In Case You Were Wondering . . .

Usually in the September-October *Tallgrass Sierran* there is an announcement for the Harvest Dinner and a one page insert about the program. This year, partially due to scheduling conflicts with the potential speakers and facilities, but also because we would like to try something a little different, there will not be a Harvest Dinner in November. In its place we are planning to have an event with a guest speaker sometime during the first quarter of 1999. Look for details in a future *Tallgrass Sierran*.

Help Stop the Auburn Dam!

Ask Congress to Support Repairs for the Folsom Dam and Sacramento Levees

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

The fight to protect the American River north of Sacramento, California, from an exorbitant billion dollar dam has gone on for nearly three decades. The dam will drown fifty miles of scenic and historic canyon lands, which provide outdoor recreation for a half a million people each year.

In 1992 and in 1996 Congress turned down bills for Auburn dam construction, because of its unacceptable cost, the environmental damage it would do, and the fact that the dam site is directly above an earthquake fault zone.

California Representative John Doolittle wants dam construction money for his district and is determined to make every effort to get legislation passed. Citing flood control issues, Doolittle wants 35,000 acres of federal lands along the American River to be given to the state of California to facilitate construction of the Auburn dam. Doolittle has opposed repairs of the Folsom Dam and area levees, which are cost effective and environmentally sound ways to handle flood control concerns.

Please write to Illinois Senators Durbin and Mosley-Braun to let them know that you oppose any funding related to construction of the Auburn Dam. Let them know that you support repair of the Folsom Dam and Sacramento area levees, and that you wish to see the American River saved for its wild, scenic, and historic values.



ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE®

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

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Phone (Optional) ()

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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27

Enclose check and mail to:

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



F94Q **W-0703** .1



1998 LCV ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD MIDYEAR UPDATE

Included here is a midyear summary of 1998 environmental votes of our U.S. Senators and local House Members supplied by the League of Conservation Voters (LCV). The LCV is a bipartisan political voice for over nine million members of environmental and conservation groups and is dedicated to educating citizens about the environmental voting records of Members of Congress.

Do NOT be fooled! Even though Congress has

toned down its anti-environmental rhetoric, the majority still supports harmful environmental legislation. Congratulations again go to Rep. Lane Evans and Senators Richard Durbin and Carol Mosely-Braun for their pro-environmental voting record. If we could pick one vote to ask Ray LaHood about, it would be his vote for the gag order to muzzle the EPA from talking about global warming. Luckily, this gag order was rejected.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact your Congressmen and congratulate them or express your displeasure with their voting record.

+ = Pro-environment action Check out the LCV web site at www.lcv.org.
- = Anti-environment action

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

1998 VOTES	HOUSE	SENATE	Description / Pro-environment position in parenthesis.
Tucker Act Shuffle Relief Act	+	-	H.R. 992 is a "takings" bill that would increase litigation by inviting new challenges to environmental, health and safety protections already approved by Congress, and invite forum shopping by industries in search of responsive courts. (NO) - Passed the House.
Small Business Paperwork Reduction Act	+	-	H.R. 3310 would seriously undermine public health, safety and environmental protection in the name of paperwork reduction. It would broadly waive civil penalties for first-time violations of vital reporting and recordkeeping requirements. (NO) - Passed the House.
Forest Recovery and Protection Act of 1998	+	-	H.R.2515 would expand salvage logging by allowing it in roadless areas, riparian areas, and even old growth forests without any curbs on the abuses that have occurred in the past. It severely limits public participation in the management of our national forests. (NO) - Defeated
Clean Water and Superfund Site Funding		+	Amendment to the Budget Resolution to restore funding to reduce polluted runoff, improve drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, and to increase Superfund Site cleanup funds. (YES) - Defeated
Percentage Depletion Allowance Repeal		+	Amendment to the Budget Resolution to repeal the percentage depletion allowance for mining on public lands. These subsidies encourage mining operations that would otherwise be uneconomical, and that often leave badly scarred landscapes and polluted rivers and lakes. (YES) - Tabled
Defense of the Environment Act	+	-	Amendment to H.R. 3534 (Mandates Information Act) that would place new safeguards requiring an open debate and an independent vote on the House floor on legislative efforts to weaken or roll back America's environmental protections. (YES) - Defeated
Mandates Information Act	+	-	H.R. 3534 creates new opportunities for Members of Congress to kill important health and safety protections without directly voting against them. It establishes new procedural hurdles against considering bills that impose certain costs on the private sector. (NO) - Passed the House
Sugar Subsidy	-	-	An amendment to the Fiscal Year 1999 Agricultural Appropriations Bill to modestly reduce the sugar subsidy for beet and sugarcane growers. Sugarcane fields have contributed substantially to polluted runoff and interrupted water flows that are helping to destroy the Everglades. (YES) - Defeated
Reduced Funding for Wildlife Services	+	-	Amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations bill to cut \$10 million from the operations budget of Wildlife Services. Wildlife Services wastes money by engaging in excessive predator control, using steel-jawed leghold traps, poisons, and aerial gunning to kill predators. (YES) - Passed
Reduced Funding for Wildlife Services (Revote)	+	-	A revote on the amendment to cut funding for Wildlife Services (one day after the original vote). (Yes) - Defeated
Senate Takings Bill		+	S. 2271 would change existing rules to give developers an advantage over local governments in lawsuits challenging land use laws. Developers could bypass local zoning appeals and state courts by filing takings claims against local governments directly in federal court. (NO) - Defeated
Energy Efficiency & Conservation Programs	+	+	Amendment to H.R. 4193, the Fiscal Year 1999 Interior Appropriations bill, to increase funding for energy efficiency and conservation programs: \$16 million for weatherization assistance, \$4 million for state energy conservation grants and \$5 million for transportation programs. (YES) - Defeated
Land and Water Conservation Fund	+	-	Amendment to H.R. 4193 to provide \$30 million for the state-side program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The money would provide matching grants to states and localities for conservation projects, open space protection, and parks and recreation. (YES) - Defeated
Logging Roads in the Tongass	+	-	Amendment to H.R. 4193 to prohibit funds from being used to build new logging roads in the Tongass National Forest. It would rectify the Tongass' omission from the Forest Service's moratorium on road building in roadless areas. (YES) - Defeated
Logging Road In Chugach National Forest	+	+	Amendment to H.R. 4193 to strike a provision mandating construction of a logging road in Alaska's Chugach National Forest which would adversely affect the largest wetlands complex on the Pacific Coast. (YES) - Defeated
Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Mgmt. Plan	+	-	Amendment to H.R. 4193 to strike the bill's provisions which would end the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Plan. ICBEMP is an attempt to devise a new environmental management strategy on a large-scale, ecosystem level for the Pacific Northwest. (YES) - Defeated
K-V Fund for Forest Service Overhead	+	+	Amendment to H.R. 4193 to strike a provision allowing up to 25% of the Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Fund to be used for Forest Service overhead. K-V was originally intended to pay direct expenses for replanting and post-logging restoration of timber sale areas. (YES) - Passed
PCB, Mercury, Pesticides, and Clean Air	+	-	Amendment to H.R. 4194, the EPA funding bill, to strike provisions that would delay PCB cleanup, delay federal action to protect children from pesticides; delay the cleanup of mercury from power plants; and interfere with EPA's efforts to clean the air in national parks. (YES) - Defeated
EPA Global Warming Gag Rule	+	-	Amendment to H.R. 4194, the EPA funding bill, to strike provisions in the bill that would in effect prohibit the EPA from conducting educational outreach or informational seminars pertaining to global warming. (YES) - Passed

HOI Group Calendar

September

10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

THU Grayce Haworth's home: RR1, Lacon.
Call Grayce, 246-8397, for directions.

12 I&M Canal Bicycle Outing, 8 a.m.

SAT In 1848 the I&M Canal opened, linking the Great Lakes to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers and helping to fuel Chicago's incredible growth as the greatest city of the American heartland. Today the era of canal boats is long vanished, but one of Illinois' best bike trails runs atop the old towpath. This leisurely 30-mile round-trip ride will start at Gebhard Woods State Park in Morris. We'll ride east to Channahon State Park where we'll have lunch before turning around. Pack a lunch in addition to your regular biking equipment. Call John, 682-8950, by Sept. 10 if you plan to participate. Meet at Forest Park Nature Center for the car trip to Morris. A late-afternoon dinner on the way home is a possibility, depending on the interests of the group.



16 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.

WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Al Harkrader, Costa Rican Adventure.* Everyone is welcome!

19 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, 9 a.m.

SAT 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.

October

8 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

10-11 Sand Ridge State Forest Camping Trip

SAT-SUN Bring your tent and sleeping bag and join us for an autumn weekend at Illinois' largest state forest. Sand Ridge offers vast expanses of native oak-hickory, extensive plantations of pine, open fields of grassland, and totally unique sand prairies. Tasty meals and great conversation are guaranteed. We're also sure to take advantage of some of the 44 miles of marked trails. Final details are still to be decided. Call Joyce, 688-0950, by Oct. 5 if you would like to participate.



21 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.

WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Guest speaker to be announced.* Everyone is welcome!

21 Newsletter Deadline

WED Send articles for Nov. and Dec. to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@mtco.com

28 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.)



Friends of the Rock Island Trail Workdays

Remaining 1998 workdays are Oct. 3, Nov. 7, and Dec. 5. 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. *Everyone is welcome!*

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.



Native Tree Seedlings Available

Rare native tree seedlings are available free of charge to anyone willing to give them a good home. Contact Jim Anderson, (309) 691-4189, by September 15 if you are interested. The following seedlings are available: American Chestnut, Butternut, Persimmon, Pecan, Paw Paw, Wild Hazelnut, and Wild Plum.



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

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Sierra Club

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