

Tallgrass Sierran

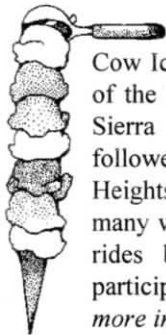
July/August 2000 Volume 28 No. 4

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

HOI Group Meetings

WED
JULY 19

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 many want to bring water. Carpooling will provide rides back to the Nature Center. This is a participatory event for all ages! Call 243-2230 for more information.

WED
AUG 16

Campaign 2000! Hear the Environmental Views of the Candidates
Peoria Public Library, 7 p.m.

Joyce Harant, Mary McDade, Ray LaHood and Judy Koehler: Campaign 2000! Hear the Candidates for the 18th Congressional District and the Third Appellate Court District discuss their views. This is your best opportunity ever to ask the candidates about environmental, or other issues that matter to you. Invited guests are Joyce Harant and Ray LaHood, running for the U.S. House of Representatives 18th Congressional District, and Mary McDade and Judy Koehler, running for the Third District Appellate Court. We will learn why the Appellate Court is important to environmental issues. NOTE MEETING LOCATION: This event will be held at the Peoria Public Library, 107 NE Monroe, at the corner of Main St. and Monroe in downtown Peoria, in the basement auditorium. After the program, an optional hike to the Peoria riverfront and dutch-treat refreshments at a new riverfront establishment will be held. All are welcome to attend! Bring a friend and learn about these important candidates! Call 688-0950 for more information.



Recreational Trail Advocates held a trail promotion outing and brunch on the Rock Island Trail section going north from Pioneer Park. The Peoria City Council vote on the southern extension of the Rock Island Trail to downtown has been rescheduled for July 11th.

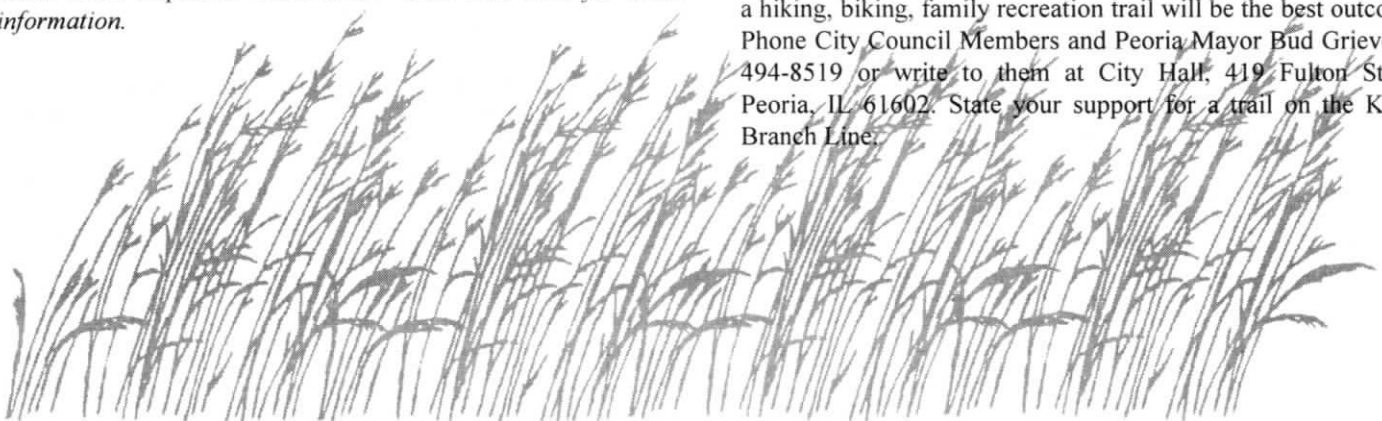
Photo: Joyce Blumenshine

Pack the Peoria City Council Chamber Tuesday, July 11th!

Rock Island Trail Extension Vote Rescheduled...

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Sound familiar? Yes, you have heard this over, and over, and over again. The Peoria City Council is expected to vote on extending the Rock Island Trail to downtown Peoria via the Kellar Branch Line at their Tuesday, July 11th, meeting, 6:15 p.m. at the Peoria City Hall, 3rd floor, Fulton Street, downtown Peoria. Calls and letters are still needed in support of having a safe, off-street, family recreation trail for Peoria. A win-win scenario with rail service from the western Union Pacific Line to Pioneer Park and the abandonment of the Kellar Branch Line for a hiking, biking, family recreation trail will be the best outcome. Phone City Council Members and Peoria Mayor Bud Grieses at 494-8519 or write to them at City Hall, 419 Fulton Street, Peoria, IL 61602. State your support for a trail on the Kellar Branch Line.



Great Food, White Elephants, and a Raccoon

By GRAYCE HAWORTH



The Sierra Club's annual picnic was held on a beautiful Wednesday evening (following the stormy Tuesday evening) at Detweiller Park with almost 2 dozen people present and one raccoon. The food, as usual, was abundant and delicious. The auction, led by Larry Johnson and Mary Harkrader, worked through much laughter and bidding. Thanks to all of you who brought food to eat, as well as food and many other items to be auctioned off, for a record setting amount of \$225. Items ranged from binoculars, a tent, hand blender, bird food and feeders to tissues, toilet paper (made from recycled paper of course), cat toy, silk ornament and quartz. Start saving articles for next year - it is a fun event you won't want to miss!

Court Rejects Farm Bureau and Timber Interests

By RALPH GINN

On April 5, U.S. District Court Judge William Alsup of San Francisco upheld the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and State EPA's to identify waterways polluted by run-off from agriculture and urban areas. Judge Alsup also upheld EPA's authority to set maximum amounts of pollutants allowed to enter these waterways...TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Loads).

The decision resulted from a case filed by the American Farm Bureau and timber groups who claimed that EPA should set TMDL's for point source pollutants only (discharge pipes). Agriculture, urban, and forest pollutants are called non-point source pollution.

Support the Army Corps Reform Act of 2000

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please call and write to your U.S. Representative and urge him to cosponsor the Army Corps Reform Act of 2000, which has been introduced by Representative Ron Kind (D-WI). The Army Corps Reform Act of 2000 will:

- 1) require independent review for large (\$25 million or more) controversial projects;
- 2) require full, concurrent mitigation for project impacts;
- 3) empower the Corps' Environmental Advisory Board to oppose projects when impacts cannot be cost-effectively or successfully mitigated;
- 4) require monitoring of completed projects;
- 5) create a stakeholder advisory group to guide project development;
- 6) make economic benefits and environmental restoration coequal goals of project planning.

Call your Representative at the Congressional switchboard 202-225-3121 and write to U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

One Month Left! Write a Wild Forest Letter Today!

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Right now, the Forest Service is considering plans that could protect the last wild areas in our National Forests. The Forest Service is asking basic questions, such as, should our last wild forests be logged and should the Tongass National Forest in Alaska be protected or remain open to clear-cut logging (the Tongass is the largest pristine temperate rainforest on the planet). Please take time to write your personal Hand Written letter calling for the protection of all our last wild forests from logging, clear-cutting, road building, ATV's, and other negative impacts. Over half of our National Forests have already been damaged by road building (paid for by our tax dollars), logging, and other damaging activities. We must demand that our

remaining forests be given full protection. Ask that the U.S. Forest Service put National Forest protection first. Let them know why wild forests are important to you and to the future. Send your letters to: Chief Mike Dombeck, U.S. Forest Service, c/o Sierra Club, 408C Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20002. Sierra Club will get the maximum impact by sending our letters collectively to the Forest Service. Ask your friends and neighbors to write! Hold a writing party!

Ricca Slone is HOI Conservationist of the Year



By JOSEPH LASZLO

State representative Ricca Slone (D-Peoria) has been named HOI Conservationist of the Year. Representative Slone has an outstanding legislative record in support of environmental issues. She has received a 100% rating from the Illinois Environmental Council for the most recent rating period. Of particular note is her sponsorship or recent legislative actions, including creation of the Illinois growth Task Force (HJR10), creation of the Task Force on Organic Farming (HJR51), new emission standards for aging coal-fired power plants (HB3547), and her work to save Black Partridge Park. We salute her efforts to protect and preserve our environment.



NEEDED: AN ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

By RALPH GINN

Two recent news stories caught my attention...and my dismay. A rural Trivoli man was fined \$500 for repeated abuse and neglect of farm animals. He had, for years, kept animals in confined, deplorable conditions, without food and water for extended periods of time. At the same hearing, the man was also fined an additional \$500 and 14 days of work release in the Fulton County Jail for stealing a utility pole. A second article tells of an 80 year old St. Clair County farmer who spread poisoned wheat in his field, killing 27,000 birds. Many of which were migratory species. He was fined \$20,000. A six month jail sentence was forgiven because of his age.

It strikes me that the judicial system, in these two cases, had an abysmal regard for the lives and well-being of birds and farm animals. In Peoria, Michael's, a new arts and crafts store, cut down a magnificent ancient oak to accommodate a larger parking lot. Same attitude.

Daniel Quinn, in his book, "Ishmael," groups the peoples of the world as "Takers" and "Leavers." The former live their lives harvesting the earth's resources with little or no respect for consequences. Their base line is that the world was made for Man. The Leavers use the earth to pursue their own culture, but in sustainable ways. Their numbers are small. Quinn holds little hope of the human-centered Takers sustaining their culture indefinitely.

It would seem, that at the foundation of all the environmental problems and issues, that we in Sierra Club butt heads with, is the attitude that the planet was put here for human purpose, above all else, and exploitation is perfectly acceptable. It would seem, that an individual and collective attitude adjustment is desperately needed, if ours and millions of other species are to survive.

Do you eat? Do you drink water?

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

You may want to attend some of the agriculture issues meetings coming up in the Peoria area to voice your concerns. On July 13th, the Illinois Department of Agriculture is holding a Region I Ag Assembly Meeting at the Holiday Inn in Rock Falls, IL. Two people will be elected from this assembly to represent the area and key issues and at a two-day meeting in August.

On August 5th, Joyce Harant, Candidate for the 18th Congressional District, is holding a Citizen Forum on Agriculture and Rural Communities at P.A.R.C., 1913 Townline Road, Peoria, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This meeting will be facilitated by Dave Koehler, and will be based on the "Open-Space Technology" meeting style which is a working meeting based on the input and ideas of the group present. Issues from this meeting will be written up and sent to state and federal legislators and agencies. For more information and carpooling phone 688-0950.



The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club sponsored two days of displays and information on tree preservation and the need for a city tree protection ordinance. A "Eulogy for the Oaks" was held Sunday, May 14th, with Brian Fox Ellis giving tribute to the giant, old, white oak trees that were destroyed by the Michaels Craft Store strip mall on Big Hollow Road. Sierra Club members and other concerned citizens answered questions and helped obtain petition signatures at our table directly across Big Hollow Road from Michaels.

Photo: Joyce Blumenshine

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

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Phone (Optional) ()

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

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REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
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LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Enclose check and mail to:

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



PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT.
For Our Families, For Our Future

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THE OAK

The oak, the beautiful oak,
The gracious, ancient oak.
Century, after century,
People come to stare,
At the gracious, ancient oak.

- Emily Goodyear
5th Grade,
Columbia Middle School, Peoria

HOI Group Calendar

July

12 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Joseph Laszlo's home, 330 S. Barnewolt Dr., Peoria. Call 637-4692 for directions.

15 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, 243-2230, by July 13 if you plan to participate. We will meet for the ride to Morris at a location convenient for the group. A late-afternoon dinner on the way home is a possibility, depending on the interests of the group.

For more information on the I&M Canal, check out the I&M Canal Virtual Tour on the web at:

<http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmgmt/parks/i&m/main.htm>

19 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

9 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Ralph Ginn's home, 20822 N. Blue Ridge Rd., Chillicothe. Call 274-3289 for directions.

12 A Day at Morton Arboretum, 7 a.m.
SAT

Join us for a day at the world famous Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL. The Arboretum covers 1,700 acres and includes over 3,600 types of plants from around the world. The Schulenberg Prairie, and an adjacent oak savanna, are more than 100 acres in size.

The Morton Arboretum has over 11 miles of roads, 12 miles of trails, plus a visitors center and restaurants. Guided tours are available. Whatever your area of interest, the Arboretum's variety offers something for just about everyone. Call John, 243-2230, by August 10 if you plan to participate, or for more information. Dress for walking, bring water, and a sack lunch if you choose not to use the Arboretum's restaurants. We will leave at 7 a.m. from a Peoria area location convenient for the group. Admission is \$7 per car. For more information on Morton Arboretum, check online at www.mortonarb.org.



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

16 Campaign 2000! Hear the Environmental Views of the Candidates, 7 p.m.

Peoria Public Library, 107 NE Monroe, basement auditorium. See front page for more information.

17 Newsletter Deadline

THU Send articles for September and October to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@home.com

23 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.)



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.



Forest Park Nature Center Book Club

July 27, 7pm - *Song of the Meadowlark* by James Egbert

Aug 24, 7pm - *Our Land, Ourselves - Readings on People and Place*

Copies of all chosen books may be purchased at the Trailhead Nature Store at a 25% discount. For more information, call Kristin Jacobson at 686-3360.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

HOTLINE: Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts (309)
• Public Contacts • Leave Messages 745-1920

Executive Committee

Chair	Rudy Habben	685-5605
Vice-Chair	Norman Ewing	686-4127
Secretary	Joseph Laszlo	637-4692
Treasurer	Grayce Haworth	246-8397
Conservation Chair	Ralph Ginn	274-3289
Outings Chair	Richard Klatt	274-3792
Newsletter Editor / Chapter Del	John Wosik	243-2230
Membership Chair	Cindy Ewing	686-4122
Alternate Chapter Delegate	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950
I-TAN	Mary Bodell	745-5479
Calendar Sales	Chris Meydam	682-0549

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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