

Tallgrass Sierran

September/October 2000 Volume 28 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 20

Landscaping Illinois Highways
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.



Cecil Crutchfield, a landscape architect with District 4 of the Illinois Department of Transportation, will discuss roadside landscaping projects in central and western Illinois. The Department in recent years has incorporated native grasses and flowers in seeding the roadsides of highway projects as well as planting trees and shrubs. He will review the Department's regulations in determining these designs. Bring your questions and suggestions. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.*

WED
OCT 18

Trees Forever - The Illinois Buffer Initiative
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Del Christensen will be visiting us from Adel, Iowa where he is program director for the Iowa Buffer Initiative. This is a program that promotes the planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses to improve water quality. The Buffer Initiative facilitates a voluntary and flexible process enabling landowners to preserve their land through stream side buffer plantings, stream bank stabilization, constructed wetlands, and planting around livestock facilities. Recent state legislation directs Illinois State agencies to work with Trees Forever in establishing an Illinois Buffer Initiative. *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 **Cindy Alexander (444-3297)**, **Mary Bodell (745-5479)** or **John Wosik (243-2230)** by October 11. The EXCOM positions will be for a 2 year period (2001-2002).

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 Joseph Laszlo (637-4692) by Oct. 11. Ballots will be mailed with the November-December newsletter and counted at the November HOI Group meeting.



Sierra Club Calls for Army Corps of Engineers to Cut Corporate Ties. Jen Hensley speaks at a press conference called by the Sierra Club, Sustain (a nonprofit environmental media organization), and Citizens for a Responsible Budget on the Peoria riverfront on August 9. Army Corps of Engineers puppets controlled by their 12 ft. corporate giants paraded in front of the Gateway Plaza Building, visually illustrating that the \$57 million navigation study has been manipulated to favor business over the recreational and ecological concerns of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois rivers. The proposed lock expansion is a corporate welfare project that would significantly aid multibillion dollar agribusiness conglomerates like Cargill, ADM, ConAgra and Citibank, while leaving family farmers, the environment and the recreational value of the rivers behind. Photo: John Wosik

Saving Trees: Winning Battles but Losing the War

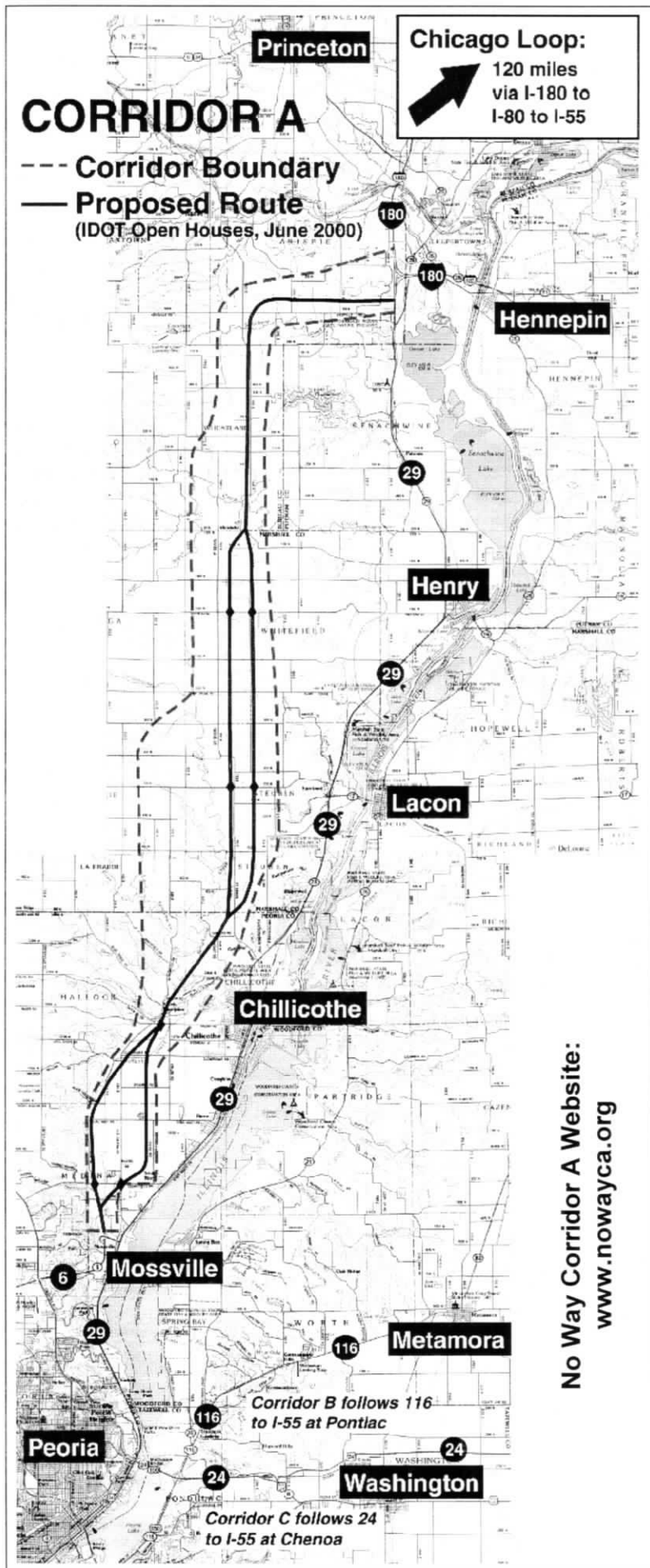


By JOSEPH LASZLO

Madison Park catalpas, win. Big Hollow white oaks, loss. There are many more such instances, but they are largely unknown or forgotten by you and me. With sufficient public outcry, we save a few individual or small stand of trees. More often trees are felled before an objection can be raised. The net loss of our trees and the canopy cover they provide may be hard to perceive, yet it is occurring at a painfully fast pace in our area. The primary cause is commercial and residential development. What is it that we are losing? Apart from their aesthetic appeal, trees and forests lower energy consumption, reduce air pollution, preserve topsoil, protect watersheds, and provide wildlife habitat.

The current Peoria Landscaping Ordinance does little to protect trees. It is designed to reduce the

■ see page 3 ■



Peoria to Chicago Highway "Corridor A" Raises Ire

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please write and/or phone Representative Ray LaHood (309-671-7027), 100 NE Monroe, Peoria, IL 61602, and Eric Therkildsen, Illinois Department of Transportation, 401 Main, Peoria, IL 61602 (309-671-3333) to let them know your opposition to the proposed Corridor A Peoria to Chicago highway.

The southern part of this proposed route will run north from Illinois Route 6, in between Route 29 and the wooded bluff to the west. This route has multitudes of negative environmental impacts, in addition to being very poorly located as a true metro Peoria-Pekin-Morton route to Chicago. The proposed Corridor A will run very close to such jewels in the area park system as Singing Woods and Camp Wokanda. The Peoria Park District Audubon Preserve, which is a seasonal wetland north of the Caterpillar Mossville Plant, will be severely impacted. Increased water run-off and added silt to the area creeks and Illinois River are major concerns. More information is available at the No Way Corridor A website www.nowayca.org and you can learn more about the issue at upcoming meetings. A Citizen's Group opposed to the proposed Corridor B, which runs approximately along Route 116 east of the river has also been formed. Corridor C is a proposed route running approximately along Route 24 to the east.

IMPORTANT MEETING! PLEASE ATTEND!
No-Way Corridor A and Citizens Opposed to the Freeway: Thursday, September 14th, 7:00 p.m. at Three Sisters Park - Located south of Chillicothe, on Route 29. For more information phone 688-0950.

Editor's Note - Thanks to Rick and Tracy Fox for the Corridor A map at the left. IDOT couldn't find the money in it's \$5 million plus budget for the Peoria-Chicago highway study to print one and make it available to the public.



■ Saving Trees, from page 1 ■ visual blight of commercial development. Yes, those little twigs and shrubs scattered around the parking lot of the neighborhood mega-superstore are there for your enjoyment because the City said so. As appreciative of these tiny offerings we might be, it is time to ask for more. Peoria needs a Tree Preservation Ordinance.

HOI Sierrans have been working with the Peoria Urban Forestry Board (PUFAB) to develop a tree preservation ordinance. We wish to have an ordinance that protects our biggest and oldest trees as well as preserves and enhances the city's total tree canopy cover. Developers should be given substantial incentives to save existing trees and substantial fines for renegeing on a site plan to saving those trees. The city needs a comprehensive tree inventory in order to manage its resources. These and many more elements are needed to create a robust and effective tree ordinance.

PUFAB will be taking to the city council, perhaps in September, a draft version of a tree preservation ordinance, along with a request to have City staff prepare the formal ordinance. Let's put an end to campaigns to save individual trees (maybe). We can win the war if the city has the tools and resources to manage its urban forest. You might mention some of this to your council representative.

Adopt-A-Highway Needs Volunteers!

By GRAYCE HAWORTH

Have you always said you wanted to do the highway pickup but never got around to it? Do you like the idea of Sierra Club being involved in this activity? WE NEED YOU! If we don't get more volunteers in the next 2 pickups we are considering cutting back to only one highway for the years 2001-2003. We presently pickup an area on Rt. 40 north of Peoria and the south end of Rt. 26. The coming dates are Sept. 23 and Nov. 18. If you want to do it and dates are consistently wrong for you -- call Grayce, 246-8397. We can try different dates next year! If you want to pickup and always forget, call Grayce -- she'll send you a reminder card!

Integrated Pest Management

By DAVID PITTMAN

Have you ever wanted to help reduce the use of dangerous chemicals in your local school? Here is your chance, in a fairly easy, highly structured fashion with little time requirements. How can you say no?

A new state law requires all public schools to begin Integrated Pest Management (IPM) this fall. IPM eliminates routine chemical pesticide spraying and instead relies on simple building maintenance, frequent pest surveys and as a last resort, site specific spraying. IPM is a proven, reliable cost-effective method that will reduce chemical exposure to children and adults in the school buildings. It is the law.

YOU CAN HELP your school implement this program and make a difference. The Living Downstream committee of the Sun Foundation has resource materials, sample letters to school administrators, and local activists who will help you get the new law put into action in your school. They will explain the process, talk to pesticide contractors and school boards if necessary, review the monitoring programs and make short presentations to school faculty. YOUR JOB will be to choose a school district, make contact with the people listed below and then meet with them to determine how to best approach the school administration. Each school district is different, and the largest, Peoria Public Schools, is probably the most difficult to implement. So join the effort and make a difference!

For More information contact either Gena Makris at 692-1200 or David Pittman at 673-6438.



Petition on Emiquon Property and Thompson Lake Area

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

A petition regarding The Nature Conservancy purchase of the Thompson Lake Area near Dickson Mounds will be available at the September Heart of Illinois Sierra Club meeting, and copies can be obtained by phoning 309-688-0950. Area conservationists were heartened when The Nature Conservancy announced earlier this summer that they would be purchasing Thompson Lake for habitat restoration. For years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working on adding acres to their Emiquon Refuge, which will restore hundreds of acres of wetlands along the western side of the Illinois River. The Thompson Lake purchase is the key to the restoration project. However, an unfortunate dispute exists between The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Nature Conservancy has announced it will reconnect the area to the Illinois River. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and long-time area conservationists believe Illinois River water will pollute the habitat and that other management steps are needed. Many individuals also hope that The Nature Conservancy will sell their entire purchase to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete the Emiquon Refuge.

☒ 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

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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:

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



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For Our Families, For Our Future


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W99901

HOI Group Calendar

September

13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Joyce Blumenshine's home, 120 W. Arcadia Ave., Peoria. Call 688-0950 for directions.

20 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Cecil Crutchfield, Landscaping Illinois Highways.* Everyone is welcome!

23 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 Haworth at 246-8397.

30 Peoria Riverfront Hike, 1 p.m.
SAT Will the Rock Island Trail ever be completed? Today's outing and the cookout on October 21 will explore the two ends of the six mile gap. Meet at the Woodruff Ball Field parking lot on Grant Street. We will explore Plum Point, a proposed land acquisition that has a great view of Lower Peoria Lake. Continuing down the riverfront to the proposed O'Brien Steel and PMP Fermentation industrial redevelopment areas, we will also check out the Rec Plex construction and end at the foot of Main Street at the site of the proposed clock tower. An ice cream stop at the end for those interested.

October

11 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap. Call 243-2230 for directions.

18 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Del Christensen, Trees Forever - The Illinois Buffer Initiative.* Everyone is welcome!

18 Newsletter Deadline
WED Send articles for November and December to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@home.com

21 Rock Island Trail Hike and Cookout, 2 p.m.
SAT Meet at the parking lot on Pioneer Parkway in Peoria and bring a day pack stuffed with your buns, brats, and favorite picnic food. We will hike down the trail for an early evening cookout at the Kickapoo Creek Recreation Area (approximately 4½ miles). A car shuttle will be available after the cookout to return to Pioneer Parkway. Call Rudy at 685-5605 if you have questions or need directions.

25 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.

Illinois River Sweep 2000 Sat. Sept. 16, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

What: An annual volunteer effort to beautify the Illinois River and its watershed by picking up trash and litter.

How: Each community uses provided materials to organize its volunteers and the Friends of the Illinois River provides free t-shirts, work gloves, and trash bags for the cleanup event.

Sign-up Deadline: September 1, 2000

Where/ Who to Contact:

Peoria Area:

Kristen Halvorson - (309) 685-5848
Cleanup Areas: Cooper Park South, Spindler Park Marina, Forest Park riverfront, Galena Marina, Gaylord Wildlife Area, Altorfer Tract

Pekin Area: Jack Shepler - (309) 346-6800 or (309) 353-4315 (days)

Woodford County Conservation Area: Dennis Schreck - (309) 376-6861

Havana Area:

Denise Steckel - (309) 543-4013 or Jenny Tremp - (309) 543-2793

What (else): You will be required to fill out a liability form. It is recommended that volunteers wear long pants, comfortable shoes, and a waterproof jacket, depending on the weather, and bring a sack lunch.

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 

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614

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