

# Tallgrass Sierran

July/August 2001 Volume 29 No. 4

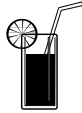
THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 ☎ (309) 637-1393

## HOI GROUP MEETINGS

WED  
JULY 18

### Riverfront Walk & Refreshments

Gateway Building, 6:30 p.m.



Join us for a leisurely walk along Peoria's riverfront. We'll meet at the Gateway Building in downtown Peoria. From there we'll walk just north of Detweiller Marina to Woodruff Park and Plum Point. Afterward, we will stop for refreshments at a location determined by the group. *All are welcome! Call 243-2230 for more information.*

## Thanks

Thanks to everyone who donated auction items and came to the annual Heart of Illinois Sierra Club potluck picnic and white elephant auction. With the help of auctioneers Mary Harkrader and Larry Johnson, and Treasurer Grayce Haworth who kept track of the winning bids, we raised a record-breaking \$200 this year.



**Joyce Blumenshine and Dick Barthel gather water samples along the Illinois River.** Heart of Illinois Sierra Club members have begun a yearlong program of monitoring the Illinois River for chemical pollutants. Levels of oxygen, nitrate, nitrite, chlorine, and phosphorus are being measured. The data will be used to help convince the Illinois EPA to include the Illinois River in its list of rivers needing cleanup plans. *The HOI Group needs more volunteers for this effort!* Call Joe Laszlo at 637-4692 to volunteer or for more information. Photo: John Wosik

## Searching for Balance in the Bush Energy Plan

BY RALPH GINN

If you look under the thin, transparent shellac of conservationism that coats the proposed Bush Energy Plan, you have only a short search before butting heads with architect Dick Cheney's philosophy. "Conservation may be a sign of personal virtue, but it is not a basis for a sound energy policy." Yep, them are his very words.

But, if you were a favored oil and gas businessman, you were invited to a private downtown Washington, D.C. meeting in January 2001. A meeting that conservation groups could only dream of. At this meeting the oil and gas wish list was heard, passed on to Cheney's Energy Task Force and in May arose as gospel in the Bush Energy Plan. Some specifics: increase supplies of virtually all fuels by easing federal regulations; reward exploration for fossil fuels; encourage construction of more and better energy-delivery systems, such as pipelines, power lines and refineries; rejuvenation of the nuclear power industry; a directive to the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency to "review" (interpret as desist) ongoing law-enforcement actions under

the Clean Air Act against several of the nations biggest utility and oil refinery polluters.

The conservation shellac in the Bush Plan increases federal assistance for home energy efficiency. It boosts research into clean-coal technology. There is a tax credit for developers and purchasers of cars that run on both electricity and gas and it continues the ethanol excise tax exemption... farm groups were expecting large increases. Probe under the veneer, and you find that it cuts \$160 million from alternative fuel research, and it holds up \$1.2 billion for alternative energy research as a condition for opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration. It cuts funding for geothermal, wind and solar energy. The Bush Plan virtually ignores the pure-lock winner...fuel economy standards, which could, with do-able increases in fuel efficiency for SUV's, pickups and vans, reduce America's reliance on foreign oil by half.

Looking for balance in this plan? Coconut palms in Antarctica will be easier to find, and there are a googol of reasons for a conservationist to name the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan "loser."



## Wet-Dry Recycling



BY MEREDITH CURREN

Most residents who participate in a recycling program are familiar with the two stream recycling system, in which household garbage and recyclable materials are collected in separate containers. The garbage is then disposed of at a landfill site and the recyclables are processed at a recycling plant. A large drawback to this approach is that compostable material is unnecessarily lost at the landfill site while the conservation of landfill space is so important. In addition, the inclusion of wet material in landfill results in the production of excess methane gas and can also result in the leaching of contaminants to natural water systems.

The "wet-dry" recycling system is one method that can confront these difficulties. This approach was adopted by many European communities in the early 1980's and has more recently been utilized by the city of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. Residents in participating communities are required to separate household waste into wet and dry streams. Wet waste includes food, sanitary items, and other wastes that can be composted. The wet waste is then further processed and converted into useable compost. All waste that is not wet waste is placed into the dry stream. A processing plant separates the recyclables from the dry waste. Unfortunately, several operational problems can exist with the wet-dry method. For example, dry recyclables can become contaminated while in the dry stream. It is also necessary to ensure that the compost produced from the wet stream meets quality standards.

A three-stream approach might provide the best solution for the recovery of materials that can be reused or recycled. In this common-sense approach, residents are required to separate their household waste into dry recyclables, wet compostable material, and garbage. In this case,

garbage is defined as everything that is neither recyclable nor compostable. For residents of Peoria and surrounding counties, this approach is achievable, but will require individual initiative.

The fees charged for waste pick-up must usually be met by the resident and additional efforts are often required for dropping off recyclable materials. Residents are also encouraged to set up and maintain household composters, participate in municipal yard waste programs, or deliver compostable material to the Peoria City/County Compost Facility. These stewardship efforts are surely rewarded by the benefits that arise from the proper disposal of waste and waste reduction.

Residents of Peoria, West Peoria, Washington, and Chillicothe can subscribe to municipal curbside programs that are operated by Waste Management (Peoria, West Peoria, & Washington) and Wigand Disposal (Chillicothe). The cities of Pekin and East Peoria also provide pick-up of recyclable materials. For those who reside in communities that do not participate in recycling programs, Peoria County supports three drop-off sites for recyclables at Northpoint Shopping Center, Sterling Bazaar, and Bartonville Square. Each site accepts newspaper, cans (aluminum, steel, and tin), and glass jars and bottles (brown, green, and clear). The Peoria City/County Landfill in Edwards, Illinois, has a drop-off site for plastics (#'s 1 & 2), aluminum cans, clear and green glass, and newspaper. In addition, individuals may drop off recyclable materials at I. Erlichman Co. Inc.

### **Contact numbers:**

Waste Management of Peoria:	694-6246
Wigand Disposal:	274-4589
Peoria City/County Landfill:	565-4281
Peoria City/County Compost Facility:	565-4281
I. Erlichman Co. Inc.:	637-4491

Please visit the website for the Peoria County Solid Waste Management Department at [www.co.peoria.il.us/recycling/](http://www.co.peoria.il.us/recycling/) for more information on how to recycle in Peoria and where to drop off specialty items

### **Drop-off sites:**

Northpoint Shopping Center, 8721 N. Knoxville, Peoria, Behind Festival Foods  
Sterling Bazaar, 3311 N. Sterling Avenue, Peoria, Behind Krogers  
Bartonville Square, 1405 W. Garfield Avenue, Bartonville, Behind Pizza Hut



## Karen Hudson HOI Conservationist of the Year

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Factory Farming Activist Karen Hudson is the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Conservationist of the Year. This award is the group's highest honor. A presentation of the award will be made at the September 19<sup>th</sup> Heart of Illinois Group meeting.

In 1995, Karen Hudson organized F.A.R.M. (Families Against Rural Messes) and she has been the group's tireless leader and president. F.A.R.M. has made constant efforts to fight mega-livestock facilities in Illinois and has given their expertise to other state efforts. Karen Hudson is respected for her extensive research into the environmental and health affects of factory farms. She has written a book, numerous articles, and has shared her expertise at countless workshops and presentations across the U.S. and most recently, in Poland.

Nominations for HOI Conservationist of the Year are solicited from the group's membership, and the HOI Executive Committee votes on the nominations. The award is given for individuals who have made exceptional volunteer efforts on behalf of a better environment. While Karen Hudson currently works on factory farm issues for the GRACE Foundation, her years of exceptional volunteer activism are being honored. Karen lives on a farm in rural Elmwood.

## Route 24 Hillside and Wetland Threatened

BY MARY BODELL

If you have ever driven Route 24 east up the bluff toward Illinois Central College, you know the thick green forest and beautiful fall colors of the wooded bluff to your right.

This bluff and the wetland at its base are scheduled for development by Dennis LaHood. Mr. LaHood is a contractor who wants to put condominiums and exclusive homes on this hillside and businesses at the base. 92 acres of land are proposed for development.

The East Peoria City Council approved a necessary zoning change at their June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Now Mr. LaHood is asking Illinois Central College for approval of an intersection on their campus. Subdivision dwellers and ICC students would be converging on the same intersection, making the ICC entrance more hazardous.

Your letters to the President and Members of the Illinois Central College Board are needed to oppose the LaHood request. Please write to Dr. John S. Erwin, President, Illinois Central College, and President Mary Heller and Members of the ICC Board of Trustees, One College Drive, East Peoria, IL 61611.

Part of the LaHood subdivision is to be in a farm field at the top of the hill. While houses there would not destroy the bluff, erosion and pollution impacts on the bluff and wetland are concerns. A safe intersection and the issue of using the ICC roadway for private subdivision access are also problems.

The focus is preservation of the wooded river bluffs and the wetland below. Please also write your concerns in opposition to the LaHood development to the Permit Officer, Army Corps of Engineers, 257 Grant, Peoria, IL 61603. Because of the wetland at the base of the bluffs, the Army Corps will have to issue a permit for the development.

### Please Help Save the Wooded Bluffs On the ICC Hillside!

Do you want the corner of Routes 24 and 116 to look like the intersection at the Paradise gambling corner? Do you want to see trophy homes and condominiums instead of trees? East Peoria has sacrificed enough of the river bluff!

For more information contact Mary Bodell 745-5479 and Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950.

## Fitzgerald/ANWAR

BY RALPH GINN

In a recent postcard mailing, Heart of Illinois Sierra Group members were asked to write and phone Illinois Republican Senator Peter Fitzgerald requesting that he oppose drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Apparently, our efforts and those of other environmentalists statewide have paid off. Fitzgerald recently reaffirmed a commitment, to oppose drilling, he made almost two years ago. In light of pressure from the President and his party leaders to support drilling, this is an important victory for the ANWR.

Thank you HOI members who lobbied for the Arctic Refuge and thank you Senator Fitzgerald.

BY TOM EDWARDS

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and The Nature Conservancy have not reached an agreement regarding 2,300 acres of valuable wildlife habitat in Fulton County. The Nature Conservancy plans to auction off the land June 30<sup>th</sup>. Your letters to Director Brent Manning, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and to Governor George Ryan are needed to urge that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) purchase this land.

The land is upland terrestrial habitat dotted with strip mine lakes. This type of habitat was used in the 1960's to bring the giant Canada goose back from extinction and is critically important today. Acquisition of this upland habitat will help IDNR expand its migratory bird ranges. Right now the quilt work of state conservation holdings on either side of the Illinois River in Fulton and Mason Counties includes mostly water areas such as Rice Lake, Banner Marsh, Anderson Lake, and Spring Lake. These lakes have a dearth of aquatic vegetation due to river pollution, and do not provide as good waterfowl breeding habitat as the better water quality strip mine lakes. More of the upland refuges such as the Fulton County land owned by the Nature Conservancy are needed, and they also provide excellent habitat for non-aquatic wildlife.

Please write to Brent Manning, Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701 and to Governor George Ryan, State House, Springfield, IL 62706, and urge that the Illinois Department of Conservation purchase 2,300 acres of Fulton County strip mine lakes and upland habitat being offered by the Nature Conservancy. For more information phone Tom Edwards at 681-9069.



## SAVE FULTON COUNTY HABITAT

Please Write to IDNR Director and Governor

### Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions, gifts and 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
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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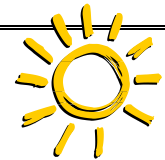
**Sierra Club**



**SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

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

# HOI Group Calendar



## July

### 11 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

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

### 14 HOI Group Hosts State Sierra Board Meeting, 9 a.m.

SAT The HOI Group will host the Illinois Sierra Club Executive Board meeting at the Congregational Church, located at the corner of Prospect Avenue and Glen Avenue in Peoria Heights. A Membership Training session will be held concurrently with the Board meeting. Visitors are welcome at the meetings, and this is a great time to listen in on what your state Sierra leaders are doing. Local volunteers are needed to provide a welcoming coffee and lunch. Please phone 688-0950 for more information, or if you can help or would just like to drop off something to eat.

### 18 Riverfront Walk & Refreshments, 6:30 p.m.

WED Join us for a leisurely walk along Peoria's riverfront. We'll meet at the Gateway Building in downtown Peoria. From there we'll walk just north of Detweiller Marina to Woodruff Park and Plum Point. Afterward, we will stop for refreshments at a location determined by the group. *All are welcome! Call 243-2230 for more information.*

### 21 Day trip to Chapungu-Zimbabwe Stone Sculptures, 6:30 a.m.

SAT Day trip to see the Chapungu-Zimbabwe Stone Sculptures on special exhibit at the the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis. Take a look at the Botanical Garden website at [www.mobot.org](http://www.mobot.org) for a preview of these amazing outdoor figures, which include birds and other animals of native legends. Carpool will leave at 6:30 a.m. Reservations a must! Phone 688-0950.

### 29 Black Partridge Park Hike, 2 p.m.

SUN Meet at 2 p.m. at the Forest Park Nature Center to carpool to Metamora. A stop for ice cream or other refreshments is planned after the hike, which will be about 2 hours. Dress for the weather, but consider poison ivy probability. Contact Joyce at 688-0950.



## August

### 8 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

WED Ralph Ginn's home, 20822 N. Blue Ridge Rd., Chillicothe. Call 274-3289 for directions.

### 24 Newsletter Deadline

FRI Send articles for September and October to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525, or [johnwosik@home.com](mailto:johnwosik@home.com).

### 29 Newsletter Mailing

WED Peoria Pizza Works; *Everyone welcome*

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



### Forest Park Nature Center Book Club

Aug. 23, 7 pm – *Reason for Hope*, by Jane Goodall

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.

### Prairie Dawgs Work Crew



We need volunteers! 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 more information.

### THE Interplanetary Bicycle Ride



August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>: For the 7<sup>th</sup> year, riders will follow the routes of Interplanetary Explorers, through the World's Largest Model of the Solar System. This ride is for all ages and is great fun. Stop by Lakeview Museum to pick up a registration form or register online at [www.lakeview-museum.org](http://www.lakeview-museum.org)

### Illinois River Valley Orienteering Club

For information on the Illinois River Valley Orienteering Club, call Gary Schopp at 243-8258 or Mike Duncan at 243-9564. Or e-mail [IRVOC@usa.net](mailto:IRVOC@usa.net).



### Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

**Hotline:** Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts (309) 637-1393  
• Public Contacts • Leave Messages

#### Executive Committee

Chair ..... Joseph Laszlo ..... 637-4692  
Vice-Chair ..... Rudy Habben ..... 685-5605  
Secretary ..... Joyce Blumenshine ..... 688-0950  
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 ..... Norman Ewing ..... 686-4122  
Calendar Sales ..... Emiko Yang ..... 691-5213

### HEART OF ILLINOIS

*Sierra Club*

P.O. Box 3593  
Peoria, IL 61614

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... To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth ...