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

### HOI Group Meetings

### A Hot Wind is Blowing



The Pimiteoui Trail MAY 19 Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Mike Friberg with the Peoria Park District Planning Department will present the plan to extend the Pimiteoui Trail from Robinson Park to Camp Wokanda. He will highlight the environmental factors being taken into consideration in selecting the route and a program to use volunteer labor to help in construction. All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.

WED

**Annual Potluck Picnic &** JUNE 16 White Elephant Auction 🥙

Detweiller Park - Moose Shelter, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for our annual summer potluck picnic and fundraising auction of unusual, useful, and tasty items donated by our members. Bring a main dish or other food to share, plus your own table service. Iced tea and lemonade will be provided.

This year's picnic will be held at the Moose Shelter at the south end of Detweiller Park, Peoria. Enter the park from Rt. 29 and follow Detweiller Drive toward the bluff. Turn left before ascending the bluff and follow the park road to the far south end of the park. Turn right at the Moose shelter sign. Or, from Knoxville Ave. (Rt. 40) take Detweiller Drive east, turn right at the park entrance sign, and then turn right twice immediately after descending the bluff. If you'd like, don't forget an item to donate to the auction. And bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!

W/M

BY RALPH GINN

I recently returned from northern Montana/southeastern British Columbia. It was a ski trip, or was suppose to be, but record high temperatures from the bottom to the top of the Rocky Mountain West had turned ski snow into ice in the morning and slush in the afternoon. This Peoria Ski Club early April trip enjoyed timely air flights, excellent hotel accommodations, good food and beverages... everything but skiing. Lakes, normally ice covered in May, were blue-green aqua. From the top of Big Mountain we looked across at Glacier National Park. A park in need of a new name...not a glacier remains. If the November election goes badly, it could aptly be called Bush's Folly... just a suggestion! Frank, our gregarious local bus driver, said he had been seeing wild turkeys along the road this year for the first time in his life. Is this all an aberration? Climatologists say "No, it's a worldwide pattern." They call it global warming. Bush does too, but he doesn't want to do anything about it for fear remediation might harm industry.

The global warming peril to our planet and its inhabitants is representative of the fundamental dilemma between environmentalists, like Sierra Club, and anthropocentric ideologies, like the Bush administration's and religious fundamentalism. With humans and their welfare at the center of the universe, the latter groups will always view dangers to the planet subordinately to real and perceived human needs. No other threats to Earth have greater potential for disaster than global warming.

John Firor, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research from 1970 to 1982 says, "It is estimated that by 2050 a third of wild animal and plant species will have vanished because of climate changes. Man is changing the planet in a severe way. Greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide) are causing the world's temperature to rise. As a result, glaciers are retreating, sea ice is thinning, and sea levels are rising." Firor goes on to explain that even if we were to quit emitting all greenhouse gases today, the Earth would continue to warm for two decades and sea levels would rise for two centuries.

Recent measurements of carbon dioxide at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii indicate the build up of the primary greenhouse gas is accelerating. Before the industrial age the concentration of carbon dioxide was about 280 parts per million. Now the density is 379, with a steep climb occurring in only the last 20 years. Although the U.S. contributes twenty five percent of the world's greenhouse gases, China's and India's industrial growth is a likely cause of the steepness of the 20 year increase.

NASA scientists James Hansen and Larissa Nazarenko have studied the effects of diesel soot on snow and ice and have found it is an under-appreciated "bad actor" in the melting of glaciers and sea ice. Their findings about snow and ice albedos (their power to reflect light falling on the surface) raise a new threat in the global warming equation.

At home, in America, the Environmental Protection Agency confirms that auto and truck fuel economy keeps get-

(See **Hot Wind**, page 2)



#### (Hot Wind, from page 1)

ting worse. In 2003 average fuel economy was six percent lower than in 1988. The West is gripped in a six-year drought that has reduced Lake Mead (think golf courses and fountains of Las Vegas) by forty percent and Lake Powell by fifty percent. Bush used the drought fueled fires to push his "Healthy Forests Initiative" through a flaccid Congress.

And just when we were sure Bush wouldn't do anything about global warming, he did. He changed the EPA rules for factories and oil refiners to ease their burden of having to install clean air controls when replacing aging equipment. He even ordered the EPA to delete, from a pending report, concerns about health and environmental effects of climate change. This former oilman will protect industry at all costs, even if it risks the health and survival of his country and his own progeny.

### National Sierra Club Election Results

MI

#### By Joyce Blumenshine

This year 22.67% of Sierra Club members voted in the national election for board members. A total of 757,058 ballots were mailed to national Sierra Club members. A total of 171,616 ballots were voted. Of the votes cast, 45,559 were done via the Internet, 41 via fax, and 126,016 votes by mailed ballot. The top five candidates (all Nominating Committee candidates) in the election are:

Lisa Renstrom - 141,407 votes Jan O'Connell - 132,262 votes Nick Aumen - 123,662 votes Sanjay Ranchod - 123,332 votes David Karpf - 110,756 votes

### Some Global Warming Facts\*

- A warming trend of about 1°F has been recorded since the late 19th century.
- The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) projects further global warming of 2.2-10°F by the year 2100. Even the low end of this warming projection "would probably be greater than any seen in the last 10,000 years...".
- In the United States, approximately 6.6 tons of greenhouse gases (almost 15,000 pounds carbon equivalent) are emitted per person every year. Emissions per person have increased about 3.4% between 1990 and 1997.
- 82% of greenhouse gas emissions are from burning fossil fuels to generate electricity and power our cars.
- The climate of Greenland may warm enough during the next few centuries to eventually eliminate the Greenland ice sheet, according to a report in the journal Nature (vol. 428, p. 616). The ice sheet contains enough frozen water to raise the world's sea level by 7 meters (23 feet) if all of it were to melt.
  - from the EPA website on global warming, http://yosemite.epa.gov/oar/globalwarming.nsf/content/index.html

# Army Corps of Engineers Pushing Expansion of Locks and Dams

### By Joyce Blumenshine

On April 20<sup>th,</sup> the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released its recommendations for immediate development of engineering and design work for expansion of locks and dams along the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. They are also requesting immediate authorization of a 50 -year plan for the lock expansion and rehabilitation, while asking for only a 15-year river ecosystem restoration plan. Billions of dollars of tax payer money

will be needed for the lock and dam expansion, although commercial traffic levels on the rivers do not justify the expense, as levels have not increased in nearly 10 years. Please write to your U.S. Representatives and Senators, and urge that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended lock expansion on the Upper Mississippi River system be denied.

### Volunteer Does Mapping for Fondulac Park District

Special Thanks to Bob Bartelt

#### By Joyce Blumenshine

One source of delight and encouragement is the amazing volunteer work being done by quiet heroes in every day life. One example of this is the work of Bob Bartelt of Washington, who has mapped Fondulac Park District properties. Bob has given untold volunteer hours in tracking down Fondulac Park District property records and has made a master map showing park district holdings. Bob has hiked areas and checked boundaries with his GPS equipment, supplying important information for the park district that had been lacking. Bob is a member of the Fondulac Park District Conservation Committee.

### Where There's A Will . . . . . .

#### BY RALPH GINN

Three and a half years of swimming upstream is a realistic review of conservation/environmental progress. Yep, and "progress" is probably an overly kind word, because backward has been the true direction much of this Republican/ Bush dominated 21st century. Sierra Club and all conservation groups in the U.S. find themselves with little political clout at the national level. Why? Money. Environmentalists can't dream of competing with corporate America for political influence. George Bush has already attracted more than \$150 million for his campaign fund. I didn't do a scientifically constructed survey, but would make a confident guess that less than \$10 of that came from environmental organizations.

Does a lopsided campaign fund ensure victory? No, but it is a better predictor than a democracy should tolerate. Sad but true, there are millions of voters who are heavily influenced by political advertising. And how crazy is a recent poll that found more than 15% of likely voters rely on comedy TV (Leno, Letterman, Saturday Night Live) for their political education?

As pessimistic as all of this may be, environmental groups can tap into a majority public sentiment for a healthy environment. With resourceful use of

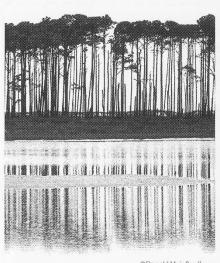
volunteer time and meager funds, groups like Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters have been able to influence carefully selected elections at both the state and national levels. And, where the environmental vote tips the balance, good PR has ensured notice by the pols. The Sierra Club has a wonderful product...a clean environment. If we had even a minute fraction of the dollars that industry spends on lobbying and contributions, there is no limit to what could be accomplished for Mother Earth.

SUGGESTION: Put an environmental group in your will. If only two percent of environmental organization members bequeathed \$2,000, a big difference it would make. My Picks: If you like a local organization which produces "can see" physical results, The Wetlands Initiative; The Nature Conservancy buys and restores quality habitat nationally; For local politics and issue action our own Heart of Illinois Sierra Club is a good choice; At the state level, Illinois Chapter Sierra Club lobbies in Springfield and works state conservation projects; Nationally, Sierra Club is an excellent selection and League of Conservation Voters is the best politically focused organization.

### conservationist of the Year Nominations Sought

The HOI Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the Heart of Illinois Conservationist of the Year. The nominee does not have to be a Sierra Club member.

This individual's conservation efforts should have been pursued on a volunteer basis, not for pay. Your nomination should include a brief explanation of why you feel this person should be considered. The deadline for nominations is August 1st. The winner will be announced at our September Group meeting. Send nominations to Joyce Blumenshine, c/o HOI Sierra Club, 120 W. Arcadia Ave., Peoria, IL 61604; or call 688-0950.



### Turn inspiration into preservation.

Like Ansel Adams before him, the work of Donald Muir Bradburn is intensely honest, reflecting the passion of his childhood memories of the Mississippi Barrier Islands, which his photography helped save. For millions of people, the Sierra Club turns that same passion for nature into something just as moving—successful protection of our natural treasures. Insure tomorrow is filled with scenes that inspire. Join us. You'll be in good company.

Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

My Name
Address
City
StateZip
email
$\square$ Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club Please charge my $\square$ Mastercard $\square$ Visa $\square$ Amex
Exp. Date/
Cardholder Name
Card Number
Membership Categories INDIVIDUAL JOINT
INTRODUCTORY   \$25
REGULAR □ \$39 □ \$47
Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective,

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

### -HOI Group Calendar-

### May

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

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

### 19 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.

Forest Park Nature Center. *Mike Friberg, The Pimiteoui Trail.* See front page for more details. Everyone is welcome!

**22** SAT



Meet at the Robinson Park parking lot at the top of the bluff on Mossville Road. With use of a map provided by Mike Friberg from the Peoria Park District Planning Department, we will bushwhack the proposed extension of the Pimiteoui Trail from Robinson Park to Camp Wokanda. Bring water and be prepared for some steep slopes and fording a creek. We should be done by noon. Call 685-5605 for more information.

### June

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

John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Black-hawk Ct., Dunlap. Call 243-2230 for directions.

## 16 Annual Potluck Picnic & White Elephant Auction, 6:30 p.m.

Detweiller Park, Moose picnic shelter. See front page for more details.

#### 25 Newsletter Deadline

Send articles for July/August to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@insightbb.com.

### Newsletter Mailing, 6:30 p.m. WED Paoria Pizza Works 3021 N. Prosp

Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights





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

#### **Prairie Dawgs Work Crew**

The Prairie Dawgs meet the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month at Jubilee State Park. Work includes prairie burns, brush cutting, eradicating alien plants, native plant seeding, and planting root stock. Call Doug Franks at 691-7993 for more information.



### Early Morning Hike at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods Land and Water Reserve, Pekin, IL

Sat. June 12 - 7 a.m.

Reservations are required for persons planning to participate in this early morning hike when birds are most active in this 800 acre woodland and water reserve. Call (309-543-2749) or e-mail (tvincl@theramp.net) Tom Lerczak by Friday, June 11 if you plan to participate. The meeting place will be given during the registration. Participants should expect mosquitoes, heavy morning dew, and poison ivy. An optional brunch may follow the field trip, the place to be determined by the participants.

### Pimiteoui Trail Association Hiking Club

The Pimiteoui Trail Association leads hikes most weekends. A schedule is posted on the bulletin board at the Forest Park Nature Center. Trips for May and June include:

May 8 (Sat.) - Robert Allerton Park, 8 a.m.

Call Jay Meinrich, 688-7679. May 23 (Sun.) – East Peoria River Trail, 1:30 p.m.

Call Chris Golden, 579-2967.

June 5 (Sat.) – Jubilee State Park, 9 a.m.

Call Cindy Alexander, 444-3297.

June 27 (Sun.) – Sommer Park, 1:30 p.m. Call Jay Meinrich, 688-7679.

#### **Heart of Illinois Sierra Club**

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

### **Executive Committee**

 Chair
 Norman Ewing
 686-4122

 Vice-Chair
 Rudy Habben
 685-5605

**Secretary** . . . . . . Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950 joblumen@yahoo.com **Conservation Chair** Joseph Laszlo . . . . 637-4692 laszloja@excite.com

**Membership Chair** Cindy Ewing . . . . 686-4122

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PEORIA, ILLINOIS PERMIT NO. 104

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

