

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2006 Volume 34 No. 6

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

HOI Group Meetings

WED
Nov 15

The Emerald Isle

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Pack your rain gear and come along as Al Harkrader gives a photo tour of Ireland. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.*

WED
DEC 6

Annual Christmas Potluck & Slides Party

Forest Park Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

Bring your favorite food to share and a dozen or so slides from your latest trip, for a holiday time get-together. The Nature Center will be decked for the season, and this is a great chance to enjoy a relaxing evening during the holiday. Bring some friends! Hot and cold drinks will be provided. You will need your own table service and a good appetite! A projector will be available for showing a sampling of slides after dinner, and you will see your fellow/friend Sierrans in action!

Don't Forget . . .

patagonia presents the

Wild & Scenic ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL on tour

Hosted by HOI Sierra Club

Locally sponsored by Bushwhacker

Apollo Theatre, Downtown Peoria

Nov. 3 & 4, 7 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$4.00 - Advanced tickets recommended and can be purchased @ Bushwhacker and the Apollo Theatre

Feature Presentations

Nov. 3 - *Flying Over Everest*

Nov. 4 - *An Inconvenient Truth*

From Gas Prices to Whale Drama

BY RALPH GINN

There are many topics molding in my file so let's get to it.

Gas Prices: What you may think is good news, falling gas prices, is actually bad news. In the long term, anything that promotes more fossil fuel use is a threat to the environment and the survival of a species misnamed *Homo sapiens*.... a Latin name translated as "wise man." Oil is the number one contributor to greenhouse gases and global warming. Low gas prices also contribute to suburbia sprawl, dependency on oil-rich despots, and less pressure on weak-kneed lawmakers to pursue alternatives to fossil fuels. Be happy, the price of gas will go up after the November election.

Wetlands: In June the U.S. Supreme Court came within a whisker of rolling back one of the nation's fundamental environmental laws that protected wetlands. The broad definition of wetlands used since 1972 (from the Clean Water Act) by the Army Corps of Engineers was that a wetland is any body of water connected by a tributary to a navigable waterway. The Supremes vote was 4-4-1, four favored the Corps definition, and four favored a much stricter definition, that a wetland must have a continuous surface connection to a waterway. Justice Anthony Kennedy controlled the outcome with a separate decision that specified a wetland needs to have a "nexus" to a navigable waterway. Obviously, interpretation of "nexus" is the salient point of the decision and for now the Corps will have to

find guidelines somewhere between the two opinions. In all likelihood this question will wander through the courts and be re-visited years down the waterway.

Centrism: Paul Krugman, opinion writer for the New York Times, says that centrism is for suckers. Examples. The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the small-business lobby, is supporting a bill with a modest raise in the minimum wage and a sharp cut in taxes on large estates. From an owner's point of view, this legislation makes no sense, as neither would benefit the small businessman. However, NFIB believes its best interests are served by electing Republicans. Krugman contrasts this choice to the Sierra Club's decision to endorse Lincoln Chafee, a Republican senator from Rhode Island, for re-election. While Chafee has a good environmental voting record, Krugman says the Sierra Club is naive. Why? If the Democrats gain five Senate seats instead of six in the November election, Senator James Inhofe, who says global warming is a hoax, will remain in his powerful position as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. Krugman's point is that politics is no longer about people, as it once was, but is now about party majorities. A point, I think, well taken.

Ring Road: Ray LaHood, congressman and magician extraordinaire, has resurrected, from what was thought to be dead, the North Peoria Bypass. An interstate commonly called the "Ring Road." In

(See *Whale Drama*, page 2)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sierra Club Local Political Endorsements for 2006

BY DAVE GREBNER

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club and the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club have endorsed three local pro-environment candidates for the November election: Dave Koehler, Bill Spears, and Lisa Uphoff.

✓ **Dave Koehler (D) - Illinois Senate, 46th District**

Beginning in the primary we endorsed Dave Koehler for State Senate, 46th District. Dave has a stellar record in support of the issues that matter most to us. Dave has been a member of the Peoria City Council and executive director of the Peoria Area Labor Management Council (PALM). In the latter position he worked to foster cooperation between labor unions and management. He has worked on the Neighborhood Development Commission, as well as other local boards. He has a master's in divinity and lives in a restored historic home in the inner city. As state senator, Dave will work for our environment, including protecting children from toxic mercury pollution, safeguarding our drinking water, and protecting parks and open spaces. He has supported the Rock Island Trail and a mining-free Banner Marsh. Dave's convictions are deep and strong. He will stand up for a clean and healthy environment.

✓ **Bill Spears (D) - Illinois Representative, 92nd District**

Bill Spears is our choice for State Representative, 92nd District. Also endorsed by the new Illinois League of Conservation Voters, Spears has expressed support for protecting parks and open spaces. We believe he is committed to safeguarding worker health on the job and public health in a clean environment. A strong union supporter, he has told us that a good environment helps produce jobs.

✓ **Lisa Uphoff (D) - Peoria County Board, 11th District**

Lisa Uphoff is running for the 11th District seat on the Peoria County Board. Lisa will bring honesty and a genuine-desire-to-serve commitment to protecting people and the environment. Lisa opposes expansion of the PDC hazardous waste landfill, would favor tighter regulation of surface septic systems, believes that the city and county should cooperate on more issues such as economic development and education, opposes giving TIFs to companies that don't really need it, supports recycling and subscribes to the curbside recycling program, supports economic development but not sprawl and supports the Kellar Branch R.I.T. extension.

Congratulations Ted! Ted Tourlentes Voted Conservationist of the Year

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Noted prairie photographer and long-time environmental advocate Ted Tourlentes has been named Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Conservationist of the Year. Ted graduated from Knox College in 1980, and has worked most recently as a freelance photographer.

Ted's dedication to documenting prairie plants and in educating people about prairie is outstanding. His motivation is prairie restoration and conservation. He is concerned about biodiversity and habitat protection. Ted's photos show the precious prairie plants of our heritage, and he has worked to document and record plants on some 3,000 endangered acres of native Illinois prairie. Over 99.9 percent of the original prairie in Illinois has been lost. Ted has traveled the Midwest to record prairie plants close up. His photos have been in shows across the Chicago Area to downstate. Ted lives in Galesburg. Prior to his avocation with prairie plants, Ted was an environmental activist in the effort to keep nuclear waste out of Illinois. Ted will be presented with his award at the December 6th, Heart of Illinois Group potluck dinner.

(Whale Drama, from page 1)

1999 the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) was a day short of filing ownership options in court for the ring road properties and weeks away from moving dirt. LaHood, the money-connection, pulled the plug. He'd had an epiphany telling him the west side river route to Chicago (corridor A) was a better solution to Peoria area traffic needs. A lot of money has run under the bridge since LaHood first introduced the Peoria to Chicago highway in 1996 and all if it, estimated at \$10 million, has gone to studies. Reviving the ring road will cost 2.5 million for study starters but the route will be far more expensive now than seven years ago because of new housing and a new Wal-Mart. Corridor A opponents can sleep better tonight, but taxpayers beware.

Streamside dumping: Prairie Rivers Network is asking citizens to report open dumping along Illinois streams to the Illinois Environment Protection Agency (IEPA). Many of these sites are going undetected. Most are in rural areas and illegal. The IEPA does not have the manpower to inspect stream banks on a regular basis and must rely on farmers, hunters, fishermen and hikers to report illegal dumping.

A third wolf: DNA tests have confirmed that a wolf shot in Pike County by hunter Seth Hall of New Canton was a wild wolf, probably from the Minnesota Pack. This is only the third wolf confirmed in Illinois in the last 100 years, all were killed by hunters. Although wolves are a protected species, the Illinois Department of Natu-

ral Resources has established a "look the other way" policy for handling these near-sighted sportsmen.

Whale rescue: The San Francisco Chronicle reports a tale straight from the heart. A female Humpback Whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines a few miles outside the Golden Gate Bridge. She was struggling to stay afloat. A rescue team worked for hours with curved knives to free her. When she was free, she swam in joyous circles, coming to every diver, one at a time, to nudge them and push them gently, in a whale-thank-you. The diver who cut a rope wedged in her mouth said her eye was following him the whole time. Other divers said it was the most incredible experience of their lives.



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

Christmas Bird Seed Sale



Support your local Heart of Illinois Sierra Club and stock up on bird seed to get you through the winter! All seed is from Kelly Seed Company. All sales must be pre-paid by the order deadline. Call 688-0950 for more information.

Order Deadline: November 27, 2006

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 2, 2006, 9 to 11 a.m.

Pickup Location: Kelly Seed and Hardware Parking Lot, 202 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria

Optional Delivery: Free delivery within 15 miles of Peoria for all orders of \$40 or more. There is a delivery charge of \$10 for all orders under \$40. Delivery is on Saturday, December 2, 2006.

Reminder: I purchased _____ bags of _____ _____ bags of _____

For ☐ Pickup

_____ bags of _____ _____ bags of _____

☐ Delivery

----- Mail bottom with check ----- Keep top -----

Type of Seed	Size	Price	Number Ordered	Total
Sunflower (oil)	25 lbs	\$ 8.25	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 13.50	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 8.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 32.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 8.25	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 7.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 13.00	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 5.50	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 9.50	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 11.75	_____	\$ _____
Suet Cakes	box of 1 doz.	\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
Sub-Total				\$ _____

Check one: ☐ Pick-up

☐ Delivery (Add \$10 for purchases under \$40) \$ _____

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Mail order form and check for amount due to: Heart of Illinois Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

2006 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than 4 candidates for a 2007-2008 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: John Wosik
c/o Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614
5. Write the name of the voting member(s) on the outside of the envelope containing the ballot.
6. Ballots must arrive at the Sierra Club's mailbox by Dec. 6, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 6.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 6.

2006 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Diane Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ David Pittman

2006 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Diane Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ David Pittman

Ballots Due December 6

Heart of Illinois Executive Committee Election: Candidate Statements

Bob Jorgensen

Thank you for considering me as a member of the HOI Sierra Club committee. I originally joined Sierra Club two years ago because of my concern about our environment, and I felt a need to become more involved locally in protecting our environment. I have always been a nature lover and want future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy our parks (state and national) as I have, to have clean water and air, and to have beautiful locations to bike and hike. As this is a high priority for me, I have been a financial supporter of organizations, such as, NDRC, Nature Conservancy, and state and national parks. I participate in local environmental activities, such as, River Sweep and picking up litter along our roads.

Diane Jorgensen

I am concerned about the environment, the use of natural resources and the preservation of natural habitats. As a nature lover I want future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the sights and sounds of wildlife, waterfalls, running streams and rivers and to stand in awe of panoramic views. This is why I have always tried to be an active participant in recycling and reusing, a supportive member of organizations, such as, Sierra Club, and a participant in such activities as the River Sweep. As a first grade teacher, I taught environmental studies and led my classes in environmental activities inside and outside of our school building. Through Sierra Club I have become more educated about our environment and the need to be vigilant. It would be an honor to be considered as a member of HOI Sierra Club Committee. Thank you.

Wendy Marquis

Our Sierra Club is helping to save the world - believe it! Environmentally, I am a late bloomer. However, now awakened to the unbe-

lievable damage that man does to this planet, often for the sake of greed, power and laziness, I believe our environment is the single most important issue worth fighting for today. We are part of nature; if we lose our clean water, fresh air and fertile soil, what do people think is going to support human life? A Cree proverb states: only when the last tree has died, and the last river has been poisoned, and the last fish has been caught, will we realize that we can't eat money. I have been on the Executive Committee only a few months now and believe it is an exciting and rewarding way to create positive attitudes and behaviors toward the environment. I value being part of a group that takes an active role in lobbying our representatives, both state and federal, to support issues that protect our planet. I very much want to continue these efforts and encourage other members to participate. There is so much to do and enjoy in nature and so little time. A simple quote by Gandhi illuminates my personal philosophy and my desire to serve on the Sierra Club Executive Committee: "Be the change that you want to see in the world".

David Pittman

I am a 52-year-old RN who has lived in the Peoria area since 1991. Areas of interest activity include recycling advocacy, pollution reduction, urban/rural land conservation, smart growth, native habitat restoration and the Illinois Green Party. Past group involvement included the Peoria Park Board 1996- 2000, Lakeview Wilds Inc, Nature Conservancy Volunteer Stewardship Network, Eco-watch and the Western Avenue Greenway Project. In the future I hope to work on projects that help offset global warming and promote regional sustainable economies. I have some skill with grant writing, bookkeeping, group process, media events, newsletter publication, composition and public speaking.

Local Updates BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Further Delay in the Peoria Disposal Company Appeal

There has been another date announced for the decision of the Illinois Pollution Control Board regarding the PDC appeal. The IPCB is now expected to determine the case in early March of 2007. PDC has deposed County Board members who voted against their expansion, and thirteen community members who spoke out against the landfill are also named for depositions. PDC alleges that they did not get a fair hearing before the Peoria County Board, among other things, and that members of the public had inappropriate contact with county board members.

Hearing on Proposed Canton Strip Mine

Several groups, including Heart of Illinois Sierra, requested that a public hearing be held regarding the Capital Resources Development Company permit application to strip mine over a 1,000 acres north of Canton. This area was protected by Canton City ordinance, as it comprises the watershed for Canton Lake. Currently Canton Lake supplies water for Canton, and several surrounding communities. The Canton City Council withdrew their watershed protection ordinance in the summer of 2006. The city says it will build a pipeline bringing Illinois river water for the Canton City water supply. The hearing will be October 25th, 7 p.m. in Canton.

Weaver Archaeological Site Going Up for Auction

The famous farmland located off of Route 24 south of Banner, known as the Weaver Archaeological dig, will be auctioned off in later October. Five different Native American sites were known to be located there. The excavation work was never completed due to a shortage of state funds.

HOI Group Calendar



November

3-4 **patagonia** presents the
FRI-SAT



Hosted by HOI Sierra Club

Locally sponsored by Bushwhacker

Apollo Theatre

Downtown Peoria, 7 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$4.00 - Advanced tickets recommended and can be purchased @ Bushwhacker and the Apollo Theatre

Feature Presentations

Nov. 3 - *Flying Over Everest*

Nov. 4 - *An Inconvenient Truth*

7 **Election Day**

TUE
*The Environment
Needs Your Vote!*



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

WED
Joyce Blumenshine's home, 2419 E. Reservoir Blvd., Peoria. Call 688-0950 for directions.

15 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**

WED
Forest Park Nature Center. *Al Harkrader, The Emerald Isle*. Everyone is welcome!

December

6 **Annual Christmas Potluck & Slides Party, 6:30 p.m.**
WED
Forest Park Nature Center. *See front page for more information.*

13 **Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED
Wendy Marquis' home, 13707 N. Lucerne Dr., Dunlap. Call 243-9982 for directions.

22 **Newsletter Deadline**
FRI
Send articles for January/February to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct, Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@insightbb.com

January 2007

4 **Newsletter Mailing, 6:30 p.m.**
THU
Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect Rd., Peoria Heights

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

17 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED
Nature Conservancy Illinois River Coordinator Jason Beverlin will give an overview of the 11,000 acre Emiquon wetland restoration program. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday, January 28

Starved Rock Winter Hike

The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club will sponsor their 29th annual winter hike at Starved Rock State Park on Sunday, January 28. Everyone is invited to participate in this annual outing. Meet at the Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria Heights at 9 a.m. for the trip to Starved Rock, or meet in the Great Hall of the Starved Rock Lodge at 10:30 a.m.

The approximate 4-hour slow paced outing will explore some of the picturesque areas of the park that should also include bald eagle sightings and other photo opportunities. Dress for the weather, including waterproof footwear and pack a lunch to eat on the trail. On the return trip to Peoria, an optional dinner stop is planned at Mona's Italian Restaurant in Toluca. For additional information, contact Chuck Buchna at 368-4446.



2007 Sierra Club Calendars . . . The Perfect Christmas Gift!



Wilderness Wall Calendar (\$12.95)

Engagement Calendar (\$13.95)

To order, call Emiko Yang at 691-5213. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

Executive Committee

Chair Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950 joblumen@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair Rudy Habben 685-5605
Conservation Chair Joseph Laszlo 637-4692 laszloja@excite.com
Membership Chair Norman Ewing 686-4122
Political Chair David Grebner 688-3908 moseynme@mtco.com
Newsletter Ed./Sec. John Wosik 243-2230 johnwosik@insightbb.com
Wendy Marquis 243-9982 rockymtpoohbear@mchsi.com



Treasurer Grayce Mesner 246-8397
Outings Chair Chuck Buchna 693-8587
Calendar Sales Emiko Yang 691-5213

☐ Yes, I want to join the Sierra Club! My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Introductory ☐ \$25 Individual ☐ \$39 Joint ☐ \$47

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.

Please mail this to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder,
Colorado, 80322-2968



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HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614

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