

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2007 Volume 35 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 28** The New Low Carb(on) Diet
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Just in time for the holidays! Learn all about the new "Low Carb Diet!" Low Carbon output that is, as in conserving energy in your every day actions. David Kraft, Director of NEIS, the Nuclear Energy Information Service, Chicago, will give us all a pep talk on what we each can do to make a positive difference in smart energy solutions. Kraft is leading an effort to be energy smart and reduce 1,000,000 pounds of CO₂ from the atmosphere by December 31st. At the same time, he is showing why nuclear power is not an option in the fight against global warming and adverse climate change. *Everyone is welcome!*

**WED
DEC 19** 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!

**Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
Christmas Birdseed Sale**

Order Form Inside.



Mr. Clean vs. the Tarbaby

BY RALPH GINN, *Opinion Columnist*

In the complex energy equation that is now being debated in Congress, the business sector, the media, and the public, ethanol and natural gas (methane) hold the high ground of environmental friendly energy sources, while coal and tar sands claim abundance and the dirty low road. Natural gas and coal have been principles for a very long time, but ethanol and tar sands are newcomers and are poorly understood by the public and the media.

ETHANOL: Corn ethanol will not replace gasoline as an automotive fuel....ever. If all of the corn produced in 2007, a record, bin-busting crop, were converted to ethanol it would supply 12% of our country's motor fuels. Cellulosic biofuels (wood chips, switchgrass, leaves, straw) are up to twice as efficient. Corn typically yields 2.5 gallons of ethanol per bushel, wood chips yield 4.0. Corn ethanol reduces greenhouse gases (mainly carbon dioxide) by only 15% compared with gasoline, and ethanol produced at coal fired plants averages less. KL Design Process Group, an ethanol company based in the Black Hills of South Dakota has a plant producing ethanol from wood chips, reducing greenhouse gases by 90%. The United States will never meet the dual challenges of reducing global warming and its dependency on foreign oil by increasing ethanol production. By reducing consumption (higher vehicle mileage standards) and increased ethanol production from biofuels....Yes! But, there is a swarm of "ifs" in that prophecy.

All gasoline powered vehicles will run on ethanol. The ubiquitous E10 is 10% ethanol and 90% gasoline. It has a 2% higher octane rating but gets slightly less gas mileage than pure gasoline. At a setting of 12:1 air to fuel we can expect 19,000 btus of energy from gasoline. Maximum power from ethanol requires an air to fuel ratio of 6.5 to 1 and will produce 24,000 btus. There are 6 million "flex-fuel" cars and trucks in the U.S. that run efficiently on E85 (85% ethanol, 15% gasoline). To convert your car or truck to flex-fuel costs about \$100. The bigger problem is where to buy E85 fuel? In the Peoria area there are only 6 gas stations selling E85. But, the demand is growing and E85 retailers are multiplying. The icing on the cake for the motorist is, with the federal government's subsidy of 51 cents per gallon, E85 should cost about half of what we are paying for regular gasoline today. To find the location of gas stations that offer E85, go to getting-aroundillinois.com.

TAR SANDS: Fort McMurray, Alberta sits alone in the hydrocarbon center of not just Canada, but the entire North American continent. Ten years ago Fort McMurray was a peaceful town of 36,000, today it is "home" to 64,000, half of which are itinerants that work in the open-pit mines of a tar sands region, the size of Florida, that lies beneath a boreal forest. If you want to know the age and gender of these workers, turn to the yellow pages of the Fort McMurray phone book, where you will find 10 pages of

(See Tarbaby, page 2)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

State Hearing November 6th on Exemption for PDC's Hazardous Waste Landfill

BY TOM EDWARDS

Coming Tuesday, Nov. 6 at the Peoria County Courthouse is one more attempt by Peoria Disposal Co. to avoid closing its massive and dangerously located toxic waste landfill off Rt. 8 on the city's west edge. It is a public hearing of the Illinois Pollution Control Board on PDC's request for a reclassification to exempt it from needing a Peoria County permit to expand. Citizens can testify, verbally or before and after by mail.

PDC has already lost its appeal to the Illinois Pollution Control Board to overturn the county board's denial last year of a new permit for continued operation of its hazardous waste landfill, the only one still operating in Illinois and one of just 16 left in the nation.

Now PDC is trying to get around those decisions by claiming that, because it gives some of what it calls "treatment" of the hazardous waste it takes in from 15 states, PDC itself therefore becomes the "generator" of the waste, rather than the many places that actually produce it and deliver it to PDC. As "generator", PDC would then be exempt from needing a county permit to operate its "landfill."

The Illinois EPA turned down PDC's request for such a classification, holding that the actual generators are the many industries and cities that ship their hazard-

ous waste to Peoria. That ruling is the subject of the Nov. 6 hearing.

In parallel action, PDC is also asking the 3rd District Illinois Appeals Court for a hearing to overturn IPCB's ruling upholding the county board's denial of a new permit to expand its dump. But the need for that permit would be voided if PDC wins its Nov. 6 appeal.

PDC's present extended EPA permit, which allows 843 of the nation's most hazardous chemicals to be put in the landfill, is to expire in 2009. But state law gives the county authority to say "no" to a new permit.

Remember: PDC's toxic waste landfill sits atop the aquifer from which most of the Peoria area's water is pumped, and is directly upwind of the air Peorians must breathe! It is the only one still operating in such a hazardous-to-people location in the nation.

According to the EPA's "Toxic Release Inventory," Peoria County has the highest TRI in the state, 4 times higher than Chicago's, 16th highest nationally, and PDC's own TRI is 21 times greater than any other local pollution source.

Rises in debilitating health problems have been documented in the vicinity of landfills elsewhere. And the Peoria medi-

You Are Needed! Illinois Pollution Control Board Hearing November 6th !

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please attend the Illinois Pollution Control Board hearing, Tuesday, November 6th, 9 a.m. at the Peoria County Courthouse Building, 324 Main Street, in the County Boardroom, #403.

Peoria Disposal Company appealed to the Illinois Pollution Control Board, regarding the PDC attempt to expand their hazardous waste landfill in spite of the Peoria County Board vote against the expansion. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) denied PDC a request for a permit modification that would let them expand. This hearing will

focus on the IEPA denial of the PDC request. Comments will be allowed, but must only address the issue of whether the PDC expansion request to the IEPA is in statutory terminology a new pollution control facility. PDC is claiming that the expansion they want should have been approved because PDC treats the wastes that would go in the expansion and that they are thus the generators of the waste and exempt from regulations requiring the County Board vote on an expansion of the landfill. For more information phone 688-0950.

(Tarbaby, from page 1)

advertising for "escort services." The Fort McMurray environs may soon become the planet's largest source of new oil. With proven reserves of 175 billion barrels, Alberta tar sands represent the biggest deposit of oil outside of Saudi Arabia. Many experts think the total could be eight times that much. Sixteen percent of U.S. oil imports now come from northern Alberta.

Tar sands do not contain just oil but instead are a thick, sloppy mess of oil, water, clay, sulfur, and sand, collectively, called bitumen. Petroleum engineers call it the world's dirtiest fuel. To capture one barrel of oil from this pudding requires two tons of tar sands, which must then be washed in hot water. The production cost is ten times that of a barrel of Saudi light crude, but at \$70-80 a barrel the profit is substantial. The entire process is fueled by natural gas and the amount of energy consumed is enormous. Every day an

amount of natural gas is used that would otherwise heat four million American homes. The Canadian government estimates it will eventually take up to 20 nuclear reactors to replace the natural gas as fuel. Companies are already submitting plans to build them.

The shallowest of the tar sands are mined using 400 ton 797B Caterpillar trucks. The deeper majority of tar sands (80%) must be steamed out of the ground with pipes and pumps and this process burns twice as much natural gas as open-pit mining. Most of the water for processing comes from the Athabasca River. Post mining, the waste is dumped into dammed lakes on both sides of the river. If this toxic soup were dumped into a dry Lake Erie, it would create a pool 10 inches deep. When migratory birds land on one of these lakes, they promptly drown in oil. The Syncrude lake (Syncrude is the largest company mining tar sands) is the world's largest, by

volume, dammed body of "water". Next year it will be surpassed when China opens the Three Gorges Dam.

Tar sand mining in Alberta now represents Canada's largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions. The open-pit mines spew out as much greenhouse gas in a day as 1.35 million cars. By 2020 this source alone will amount to 15% of Canada's total emissions, and Canada will miss its Kyoto target by 270 megatons or 30%. Are Canadians willing to create an environmental disaster in order to provide the U.S. market with the most expensive oil in the world? The answer seems to be a resounding, "Yes." Utah Republicans, Senator Orrin Hatch and Governor Jon Huntsman lament that two large deposits, one in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and one in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, of tar sands in Utah remain undeveloped. Al Gore calls the whole enterprise "truly nuts."



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 26, 2007

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 1, 2007, 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 1, 2007.

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	\$ 10.75	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 19.25	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 10.25	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 44.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 11.75	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 48.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 8.75	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 15.00	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 6.00	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 9.75	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.25	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 12.50	_____	\$ _____
Suet Cakes	box of 1 doz.	\$ 13.00	_____	\$ _____
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

PRICE INCREASE NOTICE: Some birdseed costs from Kelly's to HOI Sierra Club have increased substantially this year. For sunflower seed, the increase is because farmers are growing more corn (for ethanol) and less sunflower. Also, demand for sunflower oil by fast food chains and snack food producers has increased in an effort to reduce the trans fats in their products.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

2007 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than **3** candidates for a 2008-2009 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: Diane Jorgensen
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. 19, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 19.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 19.

2007 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Tom Edwards
_____ Rudy Habben
_____ Judy Stalling
_____ John Wosik

2007 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Tom Edwards
_____ Rudy Habben
_____ Judy Stalling
_____ John Wosik

Ballots Due December 19

Heart of Illinois Executive Committee Election: Candidate Statements

Tom Edwards (Petition Candidate)

HOI Sierra must make a difference in our ever warming, and increasingly toxic world. I am, with Bill Rutherford, a founder of HOI Sierra, and in many campaigns. Some memorable ones I led are:

- The "Save Peoria Lake" campaign, HOI's first, prevented East Peoria from filling in nearly half of Lower Peoria Lake for development. It resulted in the first denial of a river fill permit in Illinois history.
- When Pekin's Council approved allowing a mass burn incinerator to include Chicago area waste, as then HOI conservation chair I researched the danger – and Pekin reversed its decision.
- Currently, under River Rescue's banner, I launched in 2003 the to-date successful campaign to deny PDC a new permit for its toxic waste landfill in Peoria and over our aquifer. Starting with Sierra, 7,100 signed our info flyer-petition. Hardly a person even knew of PDC's landfill, in which EPA allows 843 hazardous chemicals from 15 states.

Rudy Habben (Nominating Committee Candidate)

I am interested in continuing on the HOI Executive Committee because of my interest in trail development and restoration plans for the Illinois River. The next two years should see the building of trails in Peoria and East Peoria. Restoration work has begun on the Emiquon site. I have been a Club member since 1970 and, now retired, can represent the Club on local committees such as the Illinois Bluffs Ecosystems project and Tri-County Planning Commission work groups.

Judy Stalling (Nominating Committee Candidate)

My interests in the environment go way back. In the '60s I worked to ban atmospheric testing of atomic bombs. Since moving to Peoria and living in the Moss Bradley area some of my efforts have included working to save the ancient oak on High Street, setting up the Moss Avenue Street Sale to purchase trees for our neighborhood and the Western Ave. Greenway Project to create a green buffer between our homes and the traffic along Western Ave. Most recently I have worked to stop the expansion of Peoria Disposal Company's hazardous landfill.

My experiences have impressed upon me the importance of strong citizen groups who can help monitor environmental conditions, address environmental problems and offer people the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and wonder of their surroundings. Consequently I would like to share the work of the HOI Sierra Club as a member of its Executive Committee.

John Wosik (Nominating Committee Candidate)

As a member of the Executive Committee, I will continue as newsletter editor and focus my efforts on encouraging our members to participate in Club activities and to work together with other club members in educating the public on environmental issues. We need to make all our members feel that it is of value to be a part of our Group, and that their participation is needed and welcome. Whether one's area of interest is conservation, outings, or politics, we all share an enjoyment of nature, and a desire to see it preserved and protected.

2008 Sierra Club Calendars . . . The Perfect Christmas Gift!



Wilderness Wall Calendar (\$12.95)

Engagement Calendar (\$13.95)

To order, call Diane Jorgensen at 698-0325. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.



Thanks to all those who contributed to the HOI aluminum can drive!
We raised \$197.35 in support of the HOI Sierra Club!

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

Name

Address

City State Zip

Special Offer ☐ \$25 Individual ☐ \$39 Joint ☐ \$49

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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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

HOI Group Calendar

November

**1 THU Global Warming Solutions
Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
Peoria Public Library, 2nd floor conference room, downtown Peoria. Check out <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ciglobalwarming> for more information.

2-3 patagonia® presents the
FRI-SAT



Hosted by HOI Sierra Club

Apollo Theatre Downtown Peoria

Tickets for each show are \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12.

Door prizes given at each show.

Friday, Nov. 2 **7 p.m.**

- *Amsterdam: The Bicycling Capital of Europe*
- *Discover Hetch Hetchy*
- *America's Lost Landscape: Tallgrass Prairie (Feature Presentation)*

Saturday, Nov. 3 **2 p.m.**

- *The Fallz*
- *The True Cost of Food*
- *Ride of the Mergansers*
- *Birdsong & Coffee: A Wake Up Call*
(Feature Presentation)

Saturday, Nov. 3 **7 p.m.**

- *Who Killed the Electric Car?*
(Feature Presentation)

□ □ □ □ □

For more information, call the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club at (309) 637-1393.

10 SAT **HOI Group Hosts State Excom at Chillicothe Public Library**
Your local Sierra Group is hosting the bimonthly Illinois Sierra Club state board meeting at the Chillicothe Public Library, 430 Bradley Avenue, in Chillicothe. Stop by from 9:30 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m. to listen to your state EXCOM in action. Topics for the meeting include political endorsements and major state conservation issue updates. It's not too late to donate baked goods for the event. Phone 688-0950.

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

28 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *David Kraft,*
The New Low Carb(on) Diet. Everyone
is welcome!



 As we turn to
the end of year
2007, Heart of Illinois
Sierra wishes everyone hope,
inspiration, and dedication
for a new energy future and
a healthier environment!



Happy Holidays!




December

1 SAT

HOI Birdseed Sale Pickup, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Pickup your HOI Birdseed orders at Kelly Seed and Hardware parking lot, 202 Hamilton Blvd., downtown Peoria. Deliveries are also available for orders over \$40. Use the order form in this newsletter to place your orders.

A small, black and white bird with a yellow beak is perched on a thin, brown branch. The bird is facing right, with its head slightly turned towards the viewer. It has a white breast and belly, with black wings and back. The branch is horizontal and has a few small, brown, leafless twigs attached to it.

6 THU Global Warming Solutions Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Peoria Public Library, 2nd floor conference room, downtown Peoria. Check out <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ciglobalwarming> for more information.

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

19
WED **Annual Christmas Potluck
& Slides Party, 6:30 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center. *See front
page for more information.*



28 Newsletter Deadline
FRI Send articles for Nov/Dec to: John
Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct,
Dunlap, IL 61525, or
johnwosik@insightbb.com

January 2008

7 MON Newsletter Mailing, 6:30 p.m.
Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect
Rd., Peoria Heights

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

Executive Committee

Chair	Joseph Laszlo	637-4692	laszloja@excite.com
Vice-Chair	Rudy Habben	685-5605	
Co-Secretary/ Calendar Sales	Diane Jorgensen ..	698-0325	jestpr@aol.com
Co-Secretary	Robert Jorgensen ..	698-0325	jestpr@aol.com
Conservation Chair ...	David Pittman	676-5237	DvdPttnn@aol.com
Political Chair	Wendy Marquis ..	243-9982	Rockymtpoohbear @mchsi.com
Newsletter Editor	John Wosik	243-2230	johnwosik@insightbb.com

Treasurer Chris Golden . . . 579-2967
Membership Chair . . Norman Ewing . . 686-4122
Outings Chair Chuck Buchna . . . 693-8587
Mining/Landfill Issues Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950 joblumen@yahoo.com

Website Volunteer Wanted

Interested in helping to build and support the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club website? This is a great volunteer opportunity to exercise your creativity and help our local Sierra Group become more visible in the Central Illinois community. Call 309-637-1393 for more information.

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614

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