



Tallgrass Sierran

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

HOI Group Meetings

WED
JAN 16

**Clean Water, CAFOs, IEPA,
and You!**

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Streams and other water sources in Illinois are at risk from Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) pollution. Heads up Illinois: Big Dairy is leaving the tough environmental regulations in California, and has plans to move here. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has specific mandates regarding CAFOs, but evidence shows the agency is failing at the task. Danielle Diamond, author of a report published in the Drake Law Journal, will discuss the facts. Karen Hudson, of F.A.R.M. and the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, will tell you what is happening, what needs to be done, and how you can help. Phone 688-0950 for more information. *Everyone is welcome! Refreshments available after the meeting.*

WED
FEB 20

**Living History at Sommer
Park**

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Tom Miller, Sommer Park manager for the Peoria Park District, will give a progress report on the district's program to develop the 320 acre area as a 1880s farmstead with a heirloom orchard, crops, and prairie woodland restoration. *Everyone is welcome! Refreshments available after the meeting.*

Paul Watson, Hero or Terrorist?

BY RALPH GINN, *Opinion Columnist*

Like today's American politics, Paul Watson's biography offers little middle ground. At age 57 he commands his own navy, a fleet of two ocean trawlers. His stated mission is to protect the planet's marine life by harassing illegal drift netters, whalers, longliners and bottom trawlers. His tactics include ramming, fowling propellers with rope, dumping net-rippers (steel I-beams) that destroy nets, scuttling, blocking, and threats. The illusive answer to what is "illegal" provides Watson a quasi haven for what he considers law enforcement on the high seas. Laws that govern international waters are vague and given to multiple interpretations. Paul Watson's view of these laws is quite different than that of many whaling and fishing nations.

Watson was born into a troubled family, with an abusive father, in Toronto, Canada in 1950. He lived with his grandfather for a time and developed a habit of running away for short periods, but at age 17 he road the rails to Vancouver and enlisted in the Canadian Coast Guard. Within a year he joined a Sierra Club protest group against nuclear testing at Amchitka Island. That group evolved into Greenpeace. In 1977 Watson founded his own group, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society. A year later Sea Shepherd bought it's first boat, a 1956 built Norwegian trawler. Watson named it the Farley Mowat, in honor of the famous Canadian writer and naturalist. Later, Sea Shepherd was able to buy a faster Scottish Fisheries Protection Vessel, which Watson named after his long time

supporter and friend, Robert Hunter. Together, the two vessels make up what Watson calls Neptune's Navy.

HERO: At age 25 Watson had an epiphany during a confrontation with a Russian trawler. A harpooned and dying sperm whale loomed over Paul's small dinghy. He saw a flicker of understanding in the dying whale's eye. Watson believes the whale recognized him as a friend, offering help. The whale heaved its body away from its path toward the dingy and died beneath the waves. That second of recognition between man and whale changed Watson's life. He vowed to become a defender of whales and other creatures of the sea.

In 1946 the world's major whaling nations formed the International Whaling Commission (I.W.C) to manage the ocean's whale fisheries. It did a deplorable job. By the 1970's several whale species were near extinction and by the early eighties the I.W.C. banned commercial whaling. Several of the leading whaling countries declined to abide by the ban. Iceland, Denmark, Norway, and Canada followed the leader, Japan, in ignoring I.W.C.'s moratorium. Watson's Neptune's Navy declared war. Although, whaling for the sake of science has always been an exception to the ban, Japan took whale science to a new level of hypocrisy. In 2005 Japanese whalers killed more than 1000 whales and the government agency that owns their fleet produced no research. The sacrificed whales were all butchered and sold to the

(See *Watson*, page 2)



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Global Warming by the Numbers

From the Environmental Defense website



- 1** Rank of 2006 as **hottest year on record** in the continental United States.
- 1** Rank of America as **top global warming polluter in the world**.
- 20%** Percent **increase of America's carbon dioxide emissions** from the burning of fossil fuels since 1990.
- 15%** Percent **increase of America's carbon dioxide emissions forecasted** by 2020 if we do not cap pollution.
- 80%** Percent **decrease in U.S. global warming pollution required** by 2050 to prevent the worst consequences of global warming.
- 78** Number of days by which the **US fire season has increased** over the past 20 years - tied closely to increased temperatures and earlier snowmelt.
- 200 million** Number of people around the world **who could be displaced** by more intense droughts, sea level rise and flooding by 2080.
- 358** Number of U.S. mayors (representing 55 million Americans) **who have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement** pledging to meet or beat
- 0** Number of **federal bills passed** to cap America's global warming pollution.
- 1** Number of **times President Bush has mentioned "climate change"** or "global warming" in his previous six State of the Union speeches.

Check out more on global warming at the Environmental Defense website at www.environmentaldefense.org/article.cfm?contentID=5816.

Driving Up the Heat: SUVs and Global Warming

Switching from driving an average car to a 13mpg SUV for one year would waste more energy than if you...

- Left your refrigerator door open for 6 years
- Left your bathroom light burning for 30 years or
- Left your color television turned on for 28 years

SUVs spew out 43 percent more global-warming pollution and 47 percent more air pollution than an average car.

For more information on SUVs and global warming, check out the Sierra Club website at www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/SUVreport/.



(Watson, from page 1)

public as meat. I.W.C. officials say that Japan is within their rules. Watson disagrees. He insists the whalers are breaking the law, and deserve ramming. Watson rammed his first ship, the notorious pirate whaler, Sierra, in a Portuguese harbor. He claims to have sunk nine others since.

Watson's financial supporters include: Patagonia, Paul Mitchell hair products, Pierce Bronson, Sean Penn, William Shatner, Uma Thurman, and Martin Sheen. Sheen says, "Watson is one to the gutsiest guys on the planet." In 2000 Time Magazine named Watson as one of its Environmental Heroes of the 20th Century. He was a co-founder of Greenpeace, a board member of Sierra Club and a friend of anarchist and writer Edward Abbey (Watson compares his Neptune's Navy to the characters in Abbey's book, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*) and *Earth First's* icon David Foreman.

TERRORIST: Paul Watson was expelled from Greenpeace in 1977 over a

disagreement in tactics. Specifically, he picked up a sealer's club and pelts and threw them in the water while protesting the annual seal hunt off the coast of Newfoundland. Greenpeace has a non-violence policy and its board was fearful that Watson's tactics would inhibit contributions. In 1983 he brought the seal hunt to a standstill by blockading the port of St. John's, and was later arrested on the seal hunt's ice field. Watson has spent jail time in both Canada and the Netherlands, and is an admitted misanthrope. He always refers to humans as "Hominids" and once said, "Earthworms are more ecologically important than people. Humans resemble a virus intent on killing its host, the planet."

In 1986 Sea Shepherd scuttled two ships belonging to Hvalur, Iceland's largest whaling company, an act of sabotage that some conservationists believe turned Iceland's public opinion against the cause of saving whales. Watson describes one of his preferred tactics as the Brer Rabbit Ploy. "If you have a moral or political

advantage, let the authorities believe that you want to be put on trial." On several occasions, he has demanded to be charged for sinking or ramming a vessel, and has even flown to the country that is seeking his arrest. Watson says it works because his adversaries fear that he will use the courts to publicize their own wrongdoing.

GO TO: Paul Watson has written the following books: *Sea Shepherd: My Fight for Whales and Seals*; *Ocean Warrior: My Battle to End the Illegal Slaughter on the High Seas*; *Seal Wars: Twenty-five Years on the Front Lines With the Harp Seal*. David Morris has written a book about Paul Watson: *Earth Warrior: Overboard With Paul Watson and the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society*. For more information log on: <http://www.seashepherd.org>. To send a contribution or receive an application to volunteer to serve as a crew member on a Sea Shepherd vessel, go to the same website.

Administrative Review Being Requested for Banner Mine Permit

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Under Illinois law (62 IL Adm. Code 1847.3), any person who has or may have an adversely affected interest can request an administrative review hearing regarding the approval of a mining permit. Numerous Banner area citizens, members of Heart of Illinois Group Sierra, other individuals, and several organizations, met the 30 day filing requirement to request an Administrative Review of the Banner strip mine permit. Heart of Illinois Sierra sends a sincere thanks and great appreciation to the Illinois Attorney General's Office, which filed a 31 page document on December

14th. Banner Mayor Ken Fuller, area citizens, and members of HOI will participate in a press conference on January 3rd in Banner to detail issues they listed in requesting the official review of the mining permit. Impacts on adjacent Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area, Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, and the village of Banner are major concerns, along with water draw-down and the grave potential for water contamination if the strip mine proceeds. Both Banner Marsh and Rice Lake are internationally recognized major migrating bird habitats.

Rock Island Trail Extension Needs Your Letters

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please write to your Peoria City Council member and to Mayor Jim Ardis, 419 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602, and let him know that you want the City of Peoria to have a hiking-bicycling trail on the Kellar Branch Line from Pioneer Park to Springdale Cemetery. This trail section is the essential link between the 26 miles of the Rock Island Trail to the north, and to the riverfront trail south, which connects to the East Peoria and the Morton bike trails. Be sure to state that you want the City of Peoria to charge full rent for any rail use of the Kellar Branch Line. The city has missed years of revenue by allowing rail companies to have use of the line for \$1 per year. The Peoria City Council is not accepting the Peoria Park District data

showing that a dual rail-trail is not feasible, and will be considering approving funds for a new study of combined use at their January 8th council meeting. The Peoria Park District has four million dollars in trail grants to build a trail, which are at risk of being lost. These funds cannot be used to build a dual rail-trail, because such a side-by-side trail does not meet the trail construction codes that are part of the Park District grants. For a tour of the complete Kellar Branch Line to see the steep grades, narrow right-of-way, and other issues why a dual rail and trail are not safe or practical, go to <http://www.ritrail.org/> and click on "Take a walk on the Kellar Branch."



Recycling Locations in the Peoria Area

With last year's closure of the Midland Davis recycling plant in Peoria, you might be wondering where you can take your recyclables. For a complete, up-to-date and downloadable list of recycling locations in the Peoria area, go to the Peoria County website at www.peoriacounty.org/recycle/locations.



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It's time for America to get smart about energy and be less dependent on dwindling oil reserves. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. Let your voice be heard.

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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Standard	<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/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

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HOI Group Calendar

January

3 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.

9 **Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Fleming & Umland Law Offices, Suite 1518, Associated Bank Building, 411 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria. It will be necessary for everyone to pool together in the lobby due to key entry only for building occupants after 6 p.m. So, please meet in the lobby and call 676-7657 or 251-4950 for entry.

16 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Danielle Diamond and Karen Hudson, Clean Water, CAFOs, IEPA, and You!* Everyone is welcome!



February

7 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.

13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Bob and Diane Jorgensen's home, 212 Sunnybrook Dr., East Peoria. Call 698-0325 for directions.

17
SUN **Newsletter Deadline**
Send articles for March/April to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct, Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@insightbb.com

20 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Tom Miller,*
Living History at Sommer Park. Every-
one is welcome!

24 Banner Marsh / Rice
SUN Lake Exploratory Hike

Join in a fun outing to Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area, and the nearby Rice Lake State Conservation Area, about 45 minutes south of Peoria. Eagles may be in view if we are lucky! Dress for the weather. Meet at the Forest Park Nature Center parking lot, south end, at 10:00 a.m. or join with the group at 10:55 a.m. at the Cracklin' Jakes restaurant parking lot in Banner (on the log cabin motel side), on Route 24, after crossing the Copperas Creek bridge coming from Peoria. Hike organized by Kiersten Sheets and Rudy Habben. For more information phone 685-5605.



25 **Newsletter Mailing, 6:30 p.m.**
MON 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

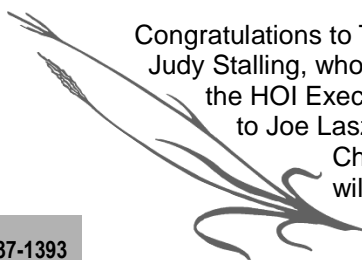
Executive Committee

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Co-Secretary/
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Co-Secretary Robert Jorgensen . . 698-0325 jestpr@aol.com
Conservation Chair . . David Pittman . . . 676-5237 DvdPttmn@aol.com
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Judy Stalling 673-4673

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Mining/Landfill Issues	Joyce Blumshine	688-0950	joblumen@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	John Wosik	243-2230	johnwosik@insightbb.com

Congratulations to Tom Edwards, Rudy Habben, and Judy Stalling, who were elected to two-year terms on the HOI Executive Committee. Special thanks to Joe Laszlo for his dedicated efforts as HOI Chair over the past year. New officers will be elected at the January 9th Excom meeting.



HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

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