



Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2008 Volume 36 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 19

Storm Water Management In Peoria

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

The Clean Water Act requires the Federal EPA to develop programs to clean the surface waters of the nation from bacteria and chemical contamination. Cities around the country with combined sanitary and storm water systems are required to develop plans that limit overflows during peak storm events. In Peoria, a plan has been developed by the city engineering department. Jane Gerdes, an engineer with the City of Peoria, will give an overview of the 20 year plan that will meet Federal EPA requirements. *All are welcome!*

WED
DEC 17

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.



The Call to "Save Peoria Lake" Again Comes to the Fore

BY TOM EDWARDS

"Save Peoria Lake!" That was the cry and Sierra Club motto of the local all out campaign in 1972 to do just that. The words, on an image of the widespread wings of a seagull, were carried on Sierra produced bumper stickers throughout the Peoria area. The call to save the Illinois River's Peoria Lake, formed by glaciers 10,000 years ago, was also adopted by the Journal Star and became a community wide effort.

The reason was that the East Peoria City Council was proposing diking off and filling in for commercial development over 1,000 acres, all of the east side of Lower Peoria Lake, leaving just the main river channel. "The lake is going to fill in anyway," contended East Peoria's then mayor, James Spinder. Over 300 people attended a state sponsored public hearing on the issue at East Peoria High. (That outcry followed successful citizen efforts to stop former dumping along the City of Peoria's side of the lake, which has since become the city's now extensively used riverfront park.)

Former Gov. Richard Ogilvie, after a tour of the lake, nixed East Peoria's fill permit request. According to John Gullou, then head of the former Illinois Water Resources Division, it was the first ever denial of a fill permit request in Illinois for either the Mississippi or Illinois Rivers.

Now, 36 years later, the same words, "The lake is going to fill in anyway," are being used by Peoria's economic development director Craig Hullinger to justify his plan for turning over part of the city's riverfront park to allow building a row of privately owned condominiums between

the RecPlex and Detweiller Marina. The selling point for the condos would be a view of the river and the remaining green of the park. Hullinger said the public can be compensated for this loss of park space by filling more of the lake, either as shore extension or several acres of islands.

Also, Hullinger envisions the access roadway for the condos to be continued into a major multi-million dollar riverfront highway the five miles between downtown and the McCluggage Bridge at War Memorial Dr., paralleling the five-lane widths of Adams and Jefferson Avenues but closer to the river. It would cross over a levee, and replace the riverfront's one remaining woodland near the bridge. The goal would be to provide a more scenic, though longer, drive for commuters from and to the bridge, Hullinger said.

The housing development he proposes would, in his words, be a "higher class development" for the north side, though physically discontinuous from it. He also has in mind filling in other areas of the lake, as the cove below the Corps of Engineer's harbor.

Filling on the Peoria side of the river was once extensive, as still is evident. In fact there are at least three dirt filled river barges sunk for past use as a coal dock just below where the RecPlex building now stands, which is also on fill.

But under public pressure, plus some caring officials, the City of Peoria halted dumping along its riverfront in 1969. That gave rise to current ongoing park development there. The city now must get a permit from the Corps if it wants to do any more filling of the lake, and Hullinger is (See *Lake*, page 2)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Peoria County Board Candidate Forum

BY BOB JORGENSEN

HOI Sierra invited candidates running for Peoria County Board in contested races to a political forum held September 17th. Allen Mayer is running for re-election in District 6 against Republican Jeff Lickiss. District 16 was represented by Republican Brad Harding who is running against Democrat Eldon Polhemus, who was unable to attend. District 18 candidates, Republican Lyn Smith and Democrat Patricia Harding did not attend this forum.

Allen Mayer is an attorney for State Comptroller Dan Hynes. Mr. Mayer was a vocal opponent of the Peoria Disposal Company's proposed expansion of its hazardous waste landfill, who asked the hard questions of PDC. He helped attract Globe Energy to Peoria, which hopes to create 600 new jobs over the next 5 years. At the forefront of Mr. Mayer's agenda are 1) fiscal responsibility, 2) jobs and economic development, and 3) environmental preservation.

Jeff Lickiss was on the Peoria County Board from 1996 to 2004. Mr. Lickiss said he would have voted against the original PDC expansion proposal, and would have pushed for a superfund paid by PDC to take care of any future problems. He supported the Firefly Energy grant request that brought high-paying jobs to the Peoria area. Mr. Lickiss' top priorities are 1) financial solvency of Peoria County, 2) the sustaining of Bel-Wood nursing Home, and 3) city recycling.

Brad Harding is a farmer in Trivoli. He said he would have voted to allow PDC to expand its hazardous waste landfill because businesses that are open and running will take responsibility for monitoring and cleaning up any pollution. It is Mr. Harding's view that someday, the PDC landfill will be a valuable commodity as an energy source. Mr. Harding's agenda is to 1) get elected, 2) listen and learn by attending all meetings and "getting his hands dirty", and 3) work with the soil and water district for clean water and limiting of soil erosion from farms.

Eldon Polhemus was not in attendance but it should be noted that Mr. Polhemus has supported HOI's agenda to close PDC's hazardous waste landfill and voted against the expansion in 2006.

A large discussion topic of the evening was promoting curbside recycling in the City of Peoria. Both Mr. Mayer and Mr. Lickiss would like to see a better program in place and will work to achieve that goal while serving on the Peoria County Board.



Dedication of Bench in Memory of Larry Johnson

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Larry Johnson was fondly remembered at the dedication of a bench placed at the Alpha Park Public Library in his honor. On September 14th, members of Heart of Illinois Group Sierra, Friends of the Rock Island Trail, and the Alpha Park Public Library Board and Director, gathered with members of Larry's family to give tribute to the leadership and years of dedication Larry gave to these groups. Shown sitting on the memorial bench are Larry's widow, Phyllis Johnson (shown center), son Perry (standing), daughter Denise (on right), and Perry's daughter on the left. HOI members Al and Mary Harkrader shared several special memories of Larry, with comments from Shirley and John O'Connell. Larry's famous Sierra outings, undaunted efforts for the Rock Island Trail, and key role on the Peoria County Board were some of the recollections. George Burrier spoke on behalf of Friends of the Rock Island Trail. The Alpha Park Library Board Chairman and Director also spoke. Larry was on the library board for many years, and was chairman of the board for construction of the new building. Memorial donations in honor of Larry made purchase of the bench possible.

(Lake, from page 1)

seeking one. But granting one would set a huge legal precedent for more, and another is already in the offing.

Caterpillar took heed of the original public concern over Peoria Lake, and in 1973 built a silt retention lake on Ten Mile Creek to catch soil washed from its East Peoria proving grounds (and beyond). It periodically scoops out accumulated silt and reapplies it to its hillsides, which has been vital to preserving the lower lake. This facility is also used for demonstrations of Caterpillar equipment.

Since the East Peoria decision and a state legal study that said the lake is public domain, the Army Corps of Engineers has guarded the lake from further shore-

side filling, rolling back several attempts, including at Peoria's Detweiller Marina and East Peoria's gambling boat location.

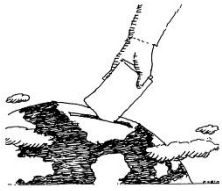
As to the demise of the lake, since the 1972 campaign the lower lake's shoreline is still as it was then, Detweiller Marina never has had to be dredged, and a little low island off the end of Ten Mile Creek is still there and a rendezvous site for migrating ducks.

Resurrection of defeatist predictions of the lake's doom are much less credible now than they were in 1972 when erosion and siltation were rampant. As has been shown since, we can do a whale of a lot to preserve Nature's gift of the lake by simply better coping with farmland erosion

and water pollution. Now certainly isn't a time to backslide.

Peoria Lake is an invaluable resource. It is why Peoria and East Peoria are where they are. Why not explore expanding the lake rather than plotting its demise? Sierra's board position remains as it was in 1972, preserve the lake and adjoining park land.

Mr. Hullinger's ample talents need to instead be applied to the crucial task of revitalizing the North Side neighborhood rather than putting an elite housing development in its public park on the river. There are many originally elegant old houses on the North Side, and State Sen. Dave Koehler is one who chose to remodel and raise his family in one.



Sierra Club Political Endorsements: 2008



☒ **Barack Obama (D) - President**

Sierra Club leaders who have worked with Obama during his time in the Illinois Senate, and as our U.S. Senator, know that he will make the right choices for our country, because we have seen him make those choices for many years here in Illinois. "When he first ran for the Illinois Senate, I took Barack to lunch to get to know him," says Rand Sparling, who was Chair of the Chicago Group of the Sierra Club in 1995. "We recognized that he saw and spoke clearly about the same issues we cared about, and we supported and worked with him in that election and from that time on. He has a strong identification with the Sierra Club and the environmental movement."

Simply put, we believe Obama shares our concerns, values and vision for a clean energy future. He agrees with us that it's not time for half steps; that what America needs is bold, transformational action that will break the chokehold Big Oil has on our economy and Washington politics, provide short-term relief for American families and long-term solutions for our energy and economic problems.

Highlights of Obama's energy strategy include:

- Providing Relief for families struggling to pay their energy bills. His plan is to provide families with a \$1,000 tax credit and stimulus checks paid for by taxing the oil companies' record profits.
- Investing \$150 billion over the next ten years in alternative sources of energy -- wind and solar power, and advanced biofuels, in the commercialization of plug-in hybrid cars, and development of a new digital electricity grid. This investment will create up to 5,000,000 good-paying jobs that cannot be outsourced and will create the billions in new economic activity that will get America back on the path to prosperity.
- Requiring 25% of U.S. electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025 and increasing energy efficiency in the U.S. 50% by 2030.
- Attacking global warming. Obama has presented a bold and comprehensive plan for addressing global warming which includes a "cap and auction" system that would cut our carbon dioxide emissions 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.
- Rejecting drilling as the answer to our energy woes. Obama knows that drilling off of our beaches and destroying our last special places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to pad Big Oil's bottom line won't do anything to lower gas prices today, tomorrow, or even a decade from now.

For more information, visit Barack Obama's website at <http://www.barackobama.com>.

☒ **Dick Durbin (D) - U.S. Senator, Illinois**

Dick Durbin has been a consistent friend of the environment and Sierra Club. With his leadership position in the US Senate he is able to lead on a wide range of energy, land protection, and transportation matters that concern us all. For more information, visit Dick Durbin's website at <http://www.dickdurbin.com>.

☒ **Colleen Callahan (D) - U.S. Rep., 18th District**

Colleen Callahan is endorsed by Sierra Club for her concerns for environmental protection and her abilities to work in support of changes needed in government. Callahan is an advocate for moving toward a sustainable and cleaner energy base for the country, and taking action to protect air and water resources.

Callahan has clearly stated the need for a national long-term energy policy that will guide the nation to a clean and secure energy future. She will work to bring green jobs, based on sustainable and cleaner energy sources including wind, solar, and other alternatives. She is a proponent of research and planning to bring cellulosic ethanol to the forefront, which will assist farmers and move to crop fuel sources that require less costs and impacts in growing. Callahan has clearly stated the need to work internationally to address global climate change issues.

Callahan states that she is not a career politician, in contrast to her opponent Aaron Schock. Callahan completed decades of work and a career in agriculture news reporting. She has traveled to Afghanistan and Iraq, among other foreign countries. Her husband and daughter and she live on a working farm near Elmhurst. Learn more about her issues at www.colleencallahanforcongress.com



☒ **Jehan Gordon (D) - IL Rep., 92nd District**

Jehan Gordon respects environmental concerns and wants to help protect our air and water. She is passionate about environmental justice issues, having seen the effects of pollution in the Peoria area. Jehan is interested in better mass transit and supports bicycling trails. She is eager to be part of a new Illinois legislature to get to work on education, health and environmental issues. Jehan has served as an AmeriCorp VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America) worker at Illinois Central College (ICC). She worked with a variety of faith-based and community-based organizations where she developed relationships and identified funding opportunities for programs benefiting local residents. Her work included out-reach to youth, and she currently directs the Illinois Central College student retention program and developed and directs their Emerging Leaders initiative. This program inspires college students to pursue their goals by connecting them with mentors in various professional fields. She is graduate of U.S. Senator Barack Obama's Campaign and Leadership Training program. Jehan grew up in Peoria and has a degree from the U. of I. in speech and communications. She proudly notes that she commuted by bus for some time, and she was instrumental in a local recycling effort. Gordon's website is www.jhangordon.com

2008 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures Ballots Due December 17

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than 4 candidates for a 2009-2010 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. 17, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 17.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 17.

Bob Jorgensen - Thank you for considering me as a member of the HOI Sierra Club committee. I originally joined Sierra Club because of my concern about our environment, and I still feel a need to be 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, NRDC, Nature Conservancy, and state and national parks. I have served on the HOI Sierra ExCom for two years as secretary and as chairperson this past year. I participate in local environmental activities, such as River Sweep and picking up litter along our roads. I have been involved in the city of East Peoria's signing onto the Cool Cities initiative and am a member of the East Peoria Green Team.

Wendy Marquis - Ghandi's "Be the change you want to see in the world" has a new version in Barack Obama's "We are the ones we have been waiting for." This is the most basic call to stop waiting for someone else to do what needs to be done. Initiative. Perseverance. When you see something that needs doing, get busy and stop only when the goal is realized. I believe today the most important job that needs doing is to stop the rape of our natural environment and create an atmosphere in which it can heal. I also believe that on a local basis, the Sierra Club allows people to join together and accomplish more than individuals can accomplish on their own, with the focus of the club, of course, being the environment. This is why I wish to continue as a member of the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Executive Committee. "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." (Muir) Thank you.

David Pittman - After two years serving on HOI EXCOM I seek re-election because I continue to believe our group has great potential for effective change in our area, and that I can help make a difference in this critical time. I will work to encourage every Sierra Club member to become even more active in 2009 and 2010. My focus continues to be global warming solutions, habitat protection and outreach to the community.

2008 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ David Pittman
_____ Kiersten Sheets
_____ James Thomas

2008 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ David Pittman
_____ Kiersten Sheets
_____ James Thomas

Kiersten Sheets - Hello, my name is Kiersten Sheets and I would like to serve on the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee. I have been an active member of HOI Sierra for a few years now. I have been attending ExCom meetings for approximately four years, not as a voting member but as an interested member in HOI Sierra activities. I have also coordinated the environmental film festival since its beginning in 2006. Although I am very proud of everything this group does, it is often left to the too few people that serve on ExCom to do almost everything. Most members don't even know what the ExCom does. I would like to see that change. If elected to the executive committee, I will champion an effort to inform members of the activities handled by ExCom. I believe this effort will lead to more opportunities for HOI Sierra members to volunteer and for those that donate to our group, an opportunity to know what happens to their money. Heart of Illinois Group covers 15 counties and yet we only have membership meetings in Peoria and only print activities occurring in our close vicinity in our newsletter. I will try to extend lines of communication with other Sierra members in other counties to get a sense of what environmental concerns may be going on in their backyard. This effort may help to increase membership. These goals will be my focus during my term on ExCom, if given the opportunity. Thank you.

James Thomas - My interests include the improvement of the Peoria River Basin - sediment and bacterial control, and a satisfactory resolution of the PDC toxic waste problem. I am also concerned in the preservation of green space and farm land in our county, and the control of urban sprawl, which includes a greater emphasis on alternative means of transportation.

B.A. University of Illinois
M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison
Retired from Illinois Central College - Professor of Political Science and History, 1971-2006
Peoria County Board 1988-2008 - Chmn. Management Services Committee, Served on: Health & Environment, Judicial, Land Use, Rules
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 1992? to present
Past Chairman
Other memberships: Peoria Housing Commission, Greenway Committee, West Bluff NHA, Uplands Neighborhood Assn., Precinct Committeeman since 1976, delegate to national conventions, 1976, 1980

☐ 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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Global Warming Solutions Group News

Bob & Diane Jorgensen graciously donated three load testers to the Fondulac District Library in East Peoria. A load tester is a device used to measure the amount of watts and/or amps drawn by an appliance or other electronic item in your home. It's a great way to find out what energy hogs you have in your household. Believe it or not, there is a waiting list to check out a load tester from the library! Thank you citizens of East Peoria for taking the first step to reducing household energy use and thereby reducing CO2!



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: December 2, 2008

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 6, 2008, 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. Delivery is on Saturday, December 6, 2008.

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

For ☐ Pickup

☐ Delivery

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

Type of Seed	Size	Price	Number Ordered	Total
Sunflower (oil)	25 lbs	\$ 13.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 22.50	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 11.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 50.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 13.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 57.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 18.50	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.50	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 9.25	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 17.00	_____	\$ _____
Suet Cakes	box of 1 doz.	\$ 14.50	_____	\$ _____

Check one: ☐ Pick-up

☐ Delivery

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 _____

Thank you for supporting the
Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!

An Improbable Pair

BY RALPH GINN, *Opinion Columnist*

T. Boone and Pope: Born lately environmentalist T. Boone Pickens, Texas billionaire (\$4 billion claimed, \$3 billion, according to *Fortune*), believer in climate change, oil tycoon, and fund raiser for the 2004 Swift Boat adds that helped sink John Kerry, wants to invest \$10 billion in his Texas wind farm. Enter Carl Pope, Executive Director of Sierra Club, riding T. Boone's private jet, publicly lauding him and posting endorsements on Pickens's web site. "I want him to make more money in wind than he did in oil, it has a huge impact on conservation" says Pope. It is a fragile alliance, given Pickens' "drill everywhere" lust and his plan to use eminent domain for a water pipeline, that the Texas Legislature rubber stamped, to sell water from the ever diminishing Ogallala Aquifer to cities, including 65 million gallons a year to Dallas. Pickens claims he has abandoned the water plan but will use the water corridors for transmission lines from his wind farm. Pickens says rebuilding the American energy system is the most important work he's ever done. "I'm 80 years old and I want to die recognizing that I've done something for my country rather than make a lot of money for myself."

Carl Pope believes him, but is this hook-up right for Sierra Club? Joe Laszlo, past three-time chairman of HOI, has this to say, "Pope is taking a bold step. I support his courageous move. Time is short for making the energy infrastructure changes this country and the world need. Putting aside differences and letting go of bygone issues is a necessary step to form the needed alliances." I agree with Joe.

Amtrak's fight for life: With high gas prices, a greenhouse gas conscience nation, and demand for reducing Amer-

ica's oil dependency, one might think increasing rail services of Amtrak would be a win-win for the public, Congress and the President. Think again. Although a full train is 10 times thrifter than a new hybrid, a diesel locomotive can move a ton of weight 436 miles on one gallon of fuel, George Bush and most Republicans in Congress think that privatization of Amtrak is the way to revitalize rail travel. This would seem improbable, as Amtrak currently operates in the red even with a \$2 billion annual government subsidy. But, ridership has increased 17 percent since gas prices began to rise last year and is projected to continue rising, especially in the Northwest and major city connections in the Midwest and South. Amtrak CEO Alex Kummant advocates for a \$15 billion capital-funding bill for new cars, signals, and tracks. Such a bill awaits agreement between both houses of Congress. Similar bills have passed separately in both houses of Congress by veto-proof margins. That was in July, but with the economic implosion and \$700 billion for the Wall Street and bank bailout, a piddling \$17 billion for Amtrak is in doubt. The non-frugal Congress and President were hard pressed to find several billion for pork add-ons to the bailout, that included a few million each for wooden arrow makers and Puerto Rico's rum producers.

Wolf extermination rescinded: In an emergency reprieve for the Northern Rockies' gray wolf, U.S. district judge, Donald Molloy, granted an injunction to restore protection under the Endangered Species Act. In response to a lawsuit from 13 environmental groups, Judge Molloy said that The Fish and Wildlife Service had failed to meet its own standards for

delisting the wolves and the Bush Administration's arguments were "disingenuous."

Wolverines desperate for protection: Although the wolf is probably our country's best known symbol of true wilderness, a better candidate maybe the wolverine. Perhaps 500 remain in the Northern Rockies, and many wildlife biologists believe that number is an overestimate. A coalition of conservation groups plan to sue The Fish and Wildlife Service if it does not reverse its recent decision to leave the wolverine to its fate. The agency's decision was based on the fact that there is a large population of wolverines in Canada and that the two countries are contiguous. This argument is geography, not animal science, there is no evidence the two populations interbreed. The U.S. wolverine is facing two powerful foes: climate change, which has reduced the snow cover they need for winter gestation dens; increased winter recreation (primarily skiing and snowmobiling) which tends to drive the wolverine, an animal that is highly reclusive, out of its habitat.

Not again! Just when we thought the Bush years of environmental abuse were coming to a whimpering end, the possibility of a Vice President, someone who could, sooner or later, become the President, flies over the horizon from the extreme Northwest in her governor's helicopter, looking for wolves with high-powered rifle at the ready, and spouting mangled syntax amid cries of "Drill, baby, drill."

Send comments to Ralph Ginn at randdginn@bwsys.net.

IDNR Approves North Canton Mine Permit

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Another Fulton County coal strip mine permit has been approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Office of Mines and Minerals. The IDNR issued findings approving the North Canton mine, which will impact over 1,000 acres in the Canton Lake watershed, about a mile north of the lake. While a new pipeline is under construction to bring Illinois River water nine miles from near Copperas Creek landing to Canton, this project is nowhere near completion. The city and surrounding communities depend on Canton Lake for their water. The new ethanol plant at Canton is also to use Canton city water. Heart of Illinois Sierra has been coordinating with Canton area citizens

Citizens Requesting Administrative Review

concerned about this mine permit. Planning meetings took place in August and September, and are continuing in preparation for an Administrative Review of the mine permit. Issues related to the mine are concerns about private water wells; mine discharge impacts on Canton Lake and Copperas Creek; coal trucks going through Canton, loss of prime farmland; and other issues. Donations are needed to help with a legal effort in the challenge to the mine permit. Send your check made out to Heart of Illinois Sierra and note on it "N. Canton Mine Fund" and mail to HOI Sierra at P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614. For more information phone 309-688-0950.

HOI Group Calendar

November

4 TUE Election Day
The Environment Needs Your Vote!



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.
Wendy Marquis' home, 13707 N. Lucerne Dr., Dunlap. Call 645-6263 for directions.

19 WED Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
Forest Park Nature Center. *Jane Gerdes, Storm Water Management in Peoria.* Everyone is welcome!



December

4 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.

6 SAT HOI Birdseed Pickup, 9-11 a.m.
Pick up your birdseed at Kelly Seed & Hardware parking lot, 202 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria.



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

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



27 SAT Newsletter Deadline
Send articles for Jan/Feb to: John Wosik, 12409 N Blackhawk Ct, Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@comcast.net

January 2009



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



Thanks to every member of Heart of Illinois Sierra. Your support is needed and appreciated.

Holiday Greetings and Hope for the New Year ahead. May you see the beauty of nature in every day.



Hosted by HOI Sierra Club

Apollo Theatre, Downtown Peoria
Nov. 7 (Fri.), 7 to 9 p.m.
Nov. 8 (Sat.), 7 to 9 p.m.

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

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

Friday, Nov. 7 7 p.m.

Mountaintop Removal
Director Mike O'Connell points a sharp lens at the harsh coal-mining practice called mountaintop removal, a process that involves clear cutting and then the removal of up to 1,000 vertical feet of mountain by explosives. He is there when citizens, students and evangelical environmentalists confront the nation's fourth largest coal company.

Saturday, Nov. 8 7 p.m.

Gimme Green - Lawns are undeniably an American symbol. But what do they really symbolize? Gimme Green is a humorous look at the American obsession with the residential lawn and the effects it has on our environment, our wallets and our outlook on life. (Replaces the originally scheduled movie *Save Our Snow*.)

Hybrid.Pedal - Environmentalists and road bikers make a thousand-mile ride from Portland to Salt Lake City. Along the way, riders travel through seven threatened areas and discuss the issues of each place with representatives from grassroots groups seeking to keep them wild.

Oil & Water Project - Two kayakers embark on an endless summer-style 35,000 km road trip from Alaska to Argentina in a retro-outfitted Japanese fire truck without a single drop of petroleum.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 Hotline: (309) 637-1393

Executive Committee

Chair Robert Jorgensen . . 698-0325 jestpr@aol.com
Vice Co-Chair Rudy Habben . . . 685-5605
Vice Co-Chair Judy Stalling 673-4673
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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

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