

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB + P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 7 (309) 637-1393

### HOI Group Meetings

WED

WED

Pennvcress SEPT 16 Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Pennycress was considered an invasive weed until it was discovered it's seed produces twice the number of gallons of biodiesel per acre as soybeans. It also has the advantage of being planted in the fall and maturing in spring, enabling a farmer to plant a late maturing crop of soybeans, thus providing additional cash flow to the farmer and protecting soil from winter erosion. Terry Isbell, a research scientist at the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, will give a report on this year's field trials. Everyone is welcome!

### The Air We Breathe OCT 21 Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

In the past year the American Lung Association gave Peoria and Bloomington an F on air quality. In 2008 USA Today with Johns Hopkins University did a study using U.S. EPA data of environmental indicators to evaluate the air around the nation's schools. Peoria area schools ranked in the top 5 percent for poor air. Local agencies dispute the study and ranking. What gives? Tonight a panel will evaluate the studies and rankings and what course of action needs to be taken locally. Everyone is welcome!



## Talking Trash with the City of Peoria

#### **BY KIERSTEN SHEETS**

The city of Peoria is looking for a new residential waste hauling contract. The Request for Proposals has just gone out and city staff are eagerly awaiting the new bids. The city spends millions a year to Waste Management for the current residential waste hauling contract. With a \$10 million dollar budget deficit, the city is looking for a waste contract that won't add more fuel to the fire.

Currently, the citizens of Peoria have unlimited trash hauling and unlimited landscape waste at no extra charge. The only recycling program available comes with a \$36.00 per year fee. Less than 10% of Peoria households pay that extra fee. Of the 8 largest cities in Illinois, all but Peoria offer universal curbside recycling - those cities have also signed the Cool Cities agreement (Chicago, Aurora, Rockford, Joliet, Naperville, Springfield, Elgin). In other words, citizens don't have to subscribe to a recycling program or pay a separate fee to place recyclables out for their trash hauler to take away. Will a universal recycling program come to Peoria?

It seems odd to have this discussion in the year 2009, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Recycling is mainstream for communities across the United States and has been for decades. Why is a city that used to be hailed a test market for the rest of America, whose motto once was "Will it Play in Peoria?" suddenly the last to provide the basic service of curbside recycling? The new trash contract is the perfect example of what Peoria has become; no longer a pioneer but bringing up the rear instead. Keep in mind that the waste hauling contract is not bid for short one to three year terms. It's bid with longevity in mind. This is the first time Peoria has requested new bids for waste hauling since the early nineties. Will Peorians be ok with no curbside recycling in the year 2027? What will people moving to Peoria think when they have to subscribe to a recycling program when they came from a town that offered it for free? Will Peoria be the most wasteful, landfilling city in Illinois? We already wear the crown for the most lead in Illinois and we are quickly approaching the worst air quality in the U.S. Can we eventually win the crown of the worst environmental city in the U.S.!!!!

No matter how ludicrous these ideas may seem to you, please take heed to this warning: If elected city officials do not hear from their constituents on this issue, the city deficit and politics will push out the possibility of universal curbside/ alleyway recycling in the new waste contract. It will not happen. Citizens will continue to have the hassle of a subscription recycling program. We will continue to be a city facing problems with landfills and other trash linked problems.

The only way universal curbside/ alleyway recycling will come to Peoria is if its citizens speak up. It will take a phone call, letter and/or e-mail from every HOI Sierra member to Mayor Ardis and a member of City Council asking for recycling in the new waste hauling contract.

Here are their phone numbers, e-mails and address for mail:

(See Talking Trash, page 2)



#### BY KASSY KILLEY OF THE GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS GROUP

In addition to the possibility of having a universal curbside/ alleyway recycling program, there is the possibility of the city of Peoria instituting a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) waste model.

#### What Is Pay-as-you-throw?

PAYT can also be called variable pricing or unit pricing and is a program where residents pay for the amount of garbage they send to the landfill. Just like with electricity, water and other utilities, PAYT lets residents control their costs by paying for how much they use. Its goal is to provide an equitable and affordable system and to create an economic incentive to recycle more and generate less waste. When residents pay for waste through their property taxes and have unlimited disposal capabilities, they don't see the relationship to their actions and the city's costs (aka taxpayer money).

#### There are several ways that cities structure PAYT fees:

- **Tags/stickers** the garbage haulers will only take bags/ containers that have a sticker on it. Stickers are often purchased at local grocery and hardware stores.
- **Bags** the garbage haulers will only take garbage that's in a special city bag, also sold by local retailers.
- **Cans/carts** households would sign up for a specific level of garbage service and receive a certain number or specific size of garbage can/cart. The garbage haulers will take only what fits in the garbage cart/can provided.
- **Hybrid system** combines the cans/carts model with stickers or bags for extra waste.

There are pros and cons to each system and Peoria will need to decide what system will work best for it. The most important part is providing *universal curbside recycling* to all residents and for the recycling program to accept as many items as possible. This way, most of the "garbage" can actually be diverted into the recycling stream instead of the landfill.

#### What about illegal dumping?

Many people immediately assume that everyone will start illegally dumping their garbage all over the city. Over 7,200 cities in the U.S., and 170 communities in Illinois, use some form of PAYT and most of them don't have any problem with illegal dumping. Those that do are able to get it under control with

#### (Talking Trash, from page 1)

| Peoria Mayor & Councilmen Address: Peoria City Hall, 419 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Mayor Jim Ardis:<br>1 <sup>st</sup> Dist Clyde Gulley:                                | jimard3@sbcglobal.net<br>cgulley@ci.peoria.il.us | 494-8558<br>Home: 673-9868, Cell: 253-0827                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dist Barbara Van Auken:<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Dist Tim Riggenbach:       |  | Home: 688-3039<br>Home: 688-5149, Cell: 369-5233,<br>Voicemail: 494-8991 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Dist Bill Spears:<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Dist Dan Irving:                 | wspears@ci.peoria.il.us                          | Home: 688-0960<br>Cell: 369-8391   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| At Large - George Jacob:  | gjacob@ci.peoria.il.us                           | 692-2883   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| At Large - Jim Montelongo:  | jmontelongo@ci.peoria.il.us                      | Cell: 258-9610   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| At Large - Gary Sandberg:   | gsandberg@ci.peoria.il.us                        | Home: 682-2564   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| At Large - Ryan Spain:  | rspain@ci.peoria.il.us                           | Home: 550-5071, Cell: 256-2414,<br>Work: 495-5977, Voice: 494-8691       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| At Large - W. Eric Turner:  | weturner@ci.peoria.il.us                         | Home: 686-8615,<br>Work: 675-4405. Cell: 253-2489                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Please call or e-mail your elected officials. Then, go knock on your neighbor's door and ask them to contact them, too! With your help, the city of Peoria can be a "Greener" community.

strong enforcement and education during the first few months. Concerns about illegal dumping seem more fear than reality. Problems arise in fewer than 1 in 5 communities, and usually last less than 3 months. (Source<sup>1</sup>)

#### What are some good economical points to PAYT?

- "PAYT is fairer than tax-based systems and after implementation more than 95-98% of households prefer the new system."
- "PAYT reduces residential trash disposal by one-sixth (about 17%). Analysis shows about one-third (6%) shows up as increased recycling, about one-third (5%) as increased composting, and one-third (6%) is "source reduced" or avoided generation (buying in bulk, etc.)"
- PAYT encourages not only recycling, but also composting, source reduction, reuse, and the host of responsible methods of dealing with waste.
- "Ultimately, it is anticipated that using PAYT to reduce the burden on the disposal system will lead to more efficient use of services, reduced burden on the disposal system, improved environmental and resource use, and lower long-run solid waste system management costs." (Source<sup>1</sup>)

# What are the environmental reasons to reduce landfill waste through implementation of PAYT?

- Decomposition of waste in landfills produces methane (which should not be viewed as a renewable energy source, just a fix for existing landfills).
- Disposal of raw materials means more must be mined/ harvested/produced causing a number of environmental hazards depending on the processes involved.
- There is limited land space that can be used for landfills.
- Organic matter put into the landfill means more nutrients from the land are being lost and more chemical/synthetic treatments will be needed to amend the soil.
- Recycling uses fewer resources, reduces water pollution and protects wildlife. (source: National Recycling Coalition)
- Recycling offers significant energy savings over manufacturing with virgin materials, for example, manufacturing with recycled aluminum cans uses 95% less energy. (source: National Recycling Coalition)

• Climate change and obtaining new raw materials often hurts the poor and 3<sup>rd</sup> world communities the most.

Remember that pay-as-you-throw programs come in as many shapes and sizes as there are cities that have implemented them. You can provide input to City Council and the Mayor on what you want to see included in what they propose for Peoria. Nothing has been decided yet but *they need to hear from you before October when they will discuss the city of Peoria residential waste hauling agreement again.* 

#### Have ideas/concerns?

Send an e-mail to <u>kiersten@gwsolutionsgroup.com</u> or call her at (309) 251-4950.

#### Sources:

 $1.\ http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/payt/pdf/sera06.pdf$ 

Heart of Illinois Sierra Group member Joyce Blumenshine of Peoria has won the 2009 Sierra Club Special Service Award for her three decades of conservation efforts in Illinois. Joyce will be honored Sept. 26 in San Francisco at the Sierra Club Honors and Awards Banquet.

Joyce chairs the Mines Committee of the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club and is also chair of the Illinois Chapter's Conservation Committee. In these roles, she has been a leader in addressing the onslaught of new coal mines proposed in Illinois and in stopping pollution of rivers, streams and wetlands from coal mine runoff. She has also worked to prevent the destruction of wetlands, rivers and prime farmland from land subsidence due to underground longwall mining activities.

Joyce has worked with citizen groups throughout Illinois to oppose coal mines that will impact streams and wetlands. Her recent efforts have focused on mines that would affect streams and wetlands of the Shoal Creek watershed, the Coffeen Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area, streams and wetlands in the Middle Fork Big Muddy River watershed and streams tributary to the Kaskaskia River State Fish & Wildlife Areas.

Joyce has spearheaded efforts to challenge the IDNR permit to allow Capital Resources to strip mine over 600 acres of land located between Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area, and Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, along Illinois Route 24, which is a federally designated Scenic Byway. Both state conservation areas are listed as Globally Important Migrating Bird Habitat. The Illinois Attorney General's office and the town of Banner are working together with Joyce and the Sierra Club's local Heart of Illinois Group to oppose this mine proposal in Fulton County.

Joyce has also been active in opposing the expansion of the Peoria Disposal Company (PDC) hazardous waste landfill in Peoria County and the proposal to send electric arc furnace dust, currently classified as a hazardous material, to the PDCowned Indian Creek Landfill in Tazewell County which lies over a major aquifer.

"In each of these campaigns, Joyce plays a unifying role," said Becki Clayborn, the Sierra Club Regional Representative in Chicago. "She brings together Sierra Club and non-Sierra Club groups of concerned citizens to join forces in challenging a new mine or landfill."

Congratulations Joyce from all your fellow Sierrans in the Heart of Illinois Group!

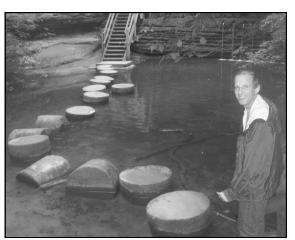
## HOI Summer Outings . . . .



July 18 - Ron & Ted Gilles share their conservation philosophy "take care of the land and the land will take care of you" with Sierra Club members and others on the Gilles Farm Tour, located along the Spoon River. It was fun, educational and the fields of prairie flowers were breathtaking! Photo: Wendy Marquis

August 1 - The drizzly day made hiking the canyons of Matthiesson Park cool & enjoyable and the thick canopy kept hikers mostly dry! The streams & waterfalls were amazing!

Photo: Wendy Marquis



### Administrative Review Decision Remands Banner Mine Permit Back to Agency

#### BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

At least for a few days, the Banner Mine Permit Number 355 for the proposed coal strip mine at Banner, is not valid. Don't break out the bubbly drinks to celebrate, though, as the remand basically allows the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to "fix" the permit. IDNR Hearing Officer Michael O'Hara issued a 161 page decision the first week of August, and followed up on August 11th, with an additional page that was missed due to computer error. On August 21st, both the attorneys for the coal company and for IDNR filed documents contesting the Hearing Officer's decision. Many of the most serious concerns about the permit, such as water pollution to Rice Lake, impacts of the blasting and mining on osprey, eagles, and other wildlife; loss of farm land; and mining impacts on the village of Banner; were not things the IDNR Hearing Officer found of concern. The Hearing Officer decision culminates the Administrative Review of the mining permit, which began in 2008. The Illinois Attorney General's Office, Sierra Club, and the Eagle Nature Foundation opposed the coal company and IDNR regarding the mine permit. The Attorney General's Office lead the legal work through the Review. Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club extends great appreciation to the Illinois Attorney General's Office for their work on behalf of protection of the Illinois environment, and the people of Banner. The next step in this issue will likely be a circuit court appeal.

#### BY TOM EDWARDS

The Army Corps of Engineers has started a 2-year project to build a 21-acre longitudinal island across the front of the cove in the northeast corner of Lower Peoria Lake, i.e., just above the McClugage Bridge over the Illinois River. It is easily the most pristine corner left of the 18 miles of Upper and Lower Peoria Lake, even though a 1900 river topo map shows that this cove was always a relatively shallow water area. (I and others have waded across it with only hip boots.) Over the last 20 years wind-wave action has made it a little deeper, and it is a stopping place for migrating waterfowl.

The total cost estimate to build the island is \$7.6 million, said project engineer Marshall Plumley of the Corps' Rock Island office. The 21-acre area is to be surrounded by rows of silt-filled 200-foot long "geotectile" tubes to provide an 80foot wide, 12-foot high barrier to make a corral necessary to keep the silt to be pumped in to make the island from washing away. The silt will be pumped from around the island site, adding about 4 feet of additional water depth there for several years before it silts in again.

Purpose justification, Plumley said, is to provide some deeper water for "winter fish habitat." (Four more such island projects are also proposed, two in Lower Peoria Lake just below the McClugage Bridge and two in Pekin Lake, totaling \$32 million.)

But for the winter fish habitat, there are already similar, but permanent, deep water habitats on the lower lake at such facilities as East Port Marina, Wharf Marina, and Detweiller Marina, and likewise on the upper lake. And the 9-foot deep barge navigation channel through the entire lake is the widest in the Illinois River.

However, the island itself will forever subtract from this key lake acreage, and likely increase the siltation rate of the part of the cove behind the island.

Since 1970 when the state denied East Peoria a permit to fill 1,000 acres of the lake, its whole east side, the Corps of Engineers has militantly prevented any clumping and filling of the lake. Due to this, hardly a foot of the lake's shoreline has been lost since, and several attempts to fill out into it were stopped. And the Corps' data shows the lower lake has even gained a little depth.



The Army Corps of Engineers has started work on a 21-acre island in the Illinois River just north of the McClugage Bridge. Photo: Tom Edwards

But the Corps' own island project could reopen the door for others to seek permission to fill — to the dismay of some in the Corps.

It has been 10,000 years since glaciers formed Peoria Lake. Now we could lose its backwaters via manmade erosion and siltation — and fill projects.

#### Solutions:

1 - Take the silt out! Make it available for topsoil and fill as was done with 155,000 cubic yards of the silt in the last decade to make way for and maintain East Peoria's East Port Marina. Also, one contractor stockpiled the 70,000 yards he was paid by East Peoria to remove, then sold it for topsoil and fill. Similar arrangements could be made for this Corps project. The State of Illinois owns most of this backwater cove, and there is a public road access straight to it.

2 - Also, this island project is at the wrong end of Peoria Lake. Such projects belong at the top of Upper Peoria Lake across from Chillicothe where siltation is hugely worse, recently converting to land 200 to 300 acres of the lake. Trap the silt up there. Huge volumes of silt pour through Peoria Lake via the Illinois River plus its tributaries, including the Fox, Ver-

once carrying silt into Lower Peoria Lake no longer do: 1) Ten Mile Creek, which once discharged into the top of the lower lake, has changed course and now flows into the upper lake. It also has an 11-acre silt retention reservoir managed by Caterpillar; 2) And the outlet of Farm Creek, at the bottom of the lower lake, directly flows into the Illinois River's main channel, not the lake. Also, a massive storm water detention dam built in 1950 on Farm Creek in East Peoria's Farmdale Park, catches most of that creek's silt.

Ten Mile and Farm Creeks are the *only* Illinois River tributaries with silt retention reservoirs. And the barge channel of the lower lake has never had to be dredged. Lower Peoria Lake, in time, could be relieved of most of its silt burden

Piling up silt whether as islands, peninsulas -- or as extensions of the shoreline, as proposed by East Peoria and denied by former Gov. Richard Ogilvie in 1970, would eventually obliterate much or most of our backwater lakes.

Soil erosion prevention and silt removal are the only ways out of this river dilemma. They are the reasons Peoria Lake is still here.

milion, and Kankakee Rivers. Only a fraction stays in the five miles of Lower Peoria Lake — but enough to pose problems and quickly fill excavations in the river's bottom.

Moreover, the only two creeks

| Yes, I want to join the Name Address   | Sierra Club! My check is  | enclosed.  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| City   | State   | Zip  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Special Offer □ \$25 Inc<br>Contributions, gifts and dues to the<br>advocacy and lobbying efforts. Yo<br>Chapter newsletter.<br>Please mail this to Sierr.<br>P.O. Box 52968, Boulder,<br>Colorado, 80322-2968 | he Sierra Club are not tax dedu<br>our dues include \$7.50 for a su | ctible; they support our<br>oscription to Sierra maga<br><b>F94Q</b> |  |  |  |  |  |
| Explore, enjoy and protect the planet  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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#### BY RALPH GINN, Opinion Columnist

A man of principle, intelligence, and talent retired from the Peoria Park District's Supervisor of Environmental and Interpretive Services in May. After 33 years, Dale Goodner called it a career. A career of diverse duties, and innovations. He will continue to volunteer as a driver of a team of Percheron draft horses, Rock and Pride, at W.H. Sommer Park. Percherons came to Illinois in the early 1800s from Europe. They were prized by the early pioneers not only for their stamina and power but became a necessity, as only draft horses could pull a plow through the deep prairie soil. Belgians were not available in Illinois at that time, and mules and oxen were not strong enough. Dale agreed to an interview for the Tallgrass Sierran and we met at Childer's in Peoria for breakfast and two hours of talk (the pancakes with strawberries are recommended).

**HOI:** What was your training for driving a team of Percherons?

**DALE:** I grew up in Wisconsin riding horses and later, as Peoria Park District naturalist, Elroy Limmer (Park District and city of Peoria arborist) and I learned first to drive a team of mules and later the Percherons. We had help from members of Midstate Teamsters (a draft horse club). To give you a feel for the way the Teamsters regard a Percheron, I saw an oldtimer put his hands on the animal and say, "You just can't feel the same about a tractor." Tears were streaming down his face. **HOI:** How big is a Percheron?

**DALE:** They are 17 hands high at the withers (about 6 feet) and it's an 8 foot reach to put on the bridle, although we have them trained to duck their head for us. They can weigh from 1500 pounds to 2500 pounds. Rock and Pride are about 2000 pounds each. A well trained team horse could sell for upwards of \$10,000.

**HOI:** Why did the park district buy a team of Percherons?

**DALE:** We got them for educational purposes. The theme of Sommer Park is 1855 life in Illinois, and the Percherons were an important part of that period. And too, the kids and adults can get a "kick" out of standing next to one of these amazing draft horses.

**HOI:** Dale never met a pun he didn't like. Changing the subject, you have been an advocate for leaving snag (dead) trees standing in our woodlands. What are the benefits of snags?

**DALE**: Standing dead trees and live trees with dead limbs provide nesting habitat for 80 percent of our insect eating bird species in Illinois. They are also home to climbing and flying mammals. When a tree or limb falls, it furnishes habitat for other animals and nutrients to the soil.

**HOI**: When I was dumb, I once cut down a snag and as it began to fall, a dozen flying squirrels glided out in all directions. I instantly realized my mistake.

**DALE**: Not to excuse you, but the squirrels probably had a second condo nearby. **HOI**: Good! Tell me about the Bunkhouse

Buckaroos. DALE: When Elroy and I were learning to plow with the mules, we started singing Western songs. Not Country Western, but

genuine Western, like "Cool Water" and "Home on the Range." Later, we heard that Lou Carter, the park district golf pro could sing good harmony and play the guitar. We signed him up. After some practice we started playing in nursing homes and coffee houses and later sang at the HOI and State Fairs. Elroy sang bass, Lou harmony, and I sang lead, and did the yodeling. We had to turn down our chance for the big time because the group split-up when Elroy retired and moved to New Mexico. It was an invitation to sing on the Ellen DeGeneres Show.

**HOI**: The three of you did a program for our HOI monthly meeting a few years ago. I bought your CD that night and have enjoyed it ever since. You have been an environmental activist and Sierra Club member for many years. How did that start? **DALE:** Forty years ago I joined a group of Sierrans engaged in an act of civil disobedience. Some members buried survey stakes for a road planned to go though a stand of virgin hemlocks in the UP of Michigan. Eventually, the area was designated a Wilderness. We were young and thought of ourselves as eco-savers and the developers and Forest Service as vandals.

**HOI:** What environmental issues do you believe to be most urgent?

**DALE:** Runaway population, species loss, and climate change. They're interconnected. We may have passed the tipping-point with climate change. Nothing good can come from that. Where will it lead? We can't know for sure. Most scientists believe global warming will be the result, but some are fearful that disruption of the Gulf Stream could send Europe and parts of Asia into an Ice Age.

**HOI:** Environmentally, how will history judge the Bush Presidency?

**DALE:** Bush acted more like a corporate employee than a public servant. He wasted eight years that could be critical in slowing the rise in greenhouse gases.

**HOI:** How is Obama doing?

**DALE**: I was thrilled with his win, but he has a hard road ahead with environmental problems and the Congress. When the Republicans were in the majority, it was like the fox guarding the hen house, the Democrats are slightly better.

Dale and his wife, Mary, have a daughter and a son and live in a quiet central Peoria neighborhood. Since retirement, they have done some traveling and camping and plan to do much more.

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

#### Trail Event Celebrates 50 Years for the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club

#### BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Folks had fun on the Rock Island Trail, July 26th, at the HOI Group Illinois Sierra Club 50 Years Celebration. Hikers and bicyclists went from Alta to the Trail shelter near the Kickapoo Creek for a picnic supper. The event was to raise donations for the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club for its 50th year anniversary. Funds are also needed to help the Chapter face huge budget cuts from national Sierra. It's not to late to send in your special donation! Please help the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club celebrate 50 years of representing us in issues across the state. Checks can be made out to the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club and mailed to the Chapter at 70 East Lake Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60601. The Illinois Chapter helped save the Rock Island Trail and has been an essential part of HOI issues over the years, from Illinois River water quality monitoring to legislation regarding CAFOs, and many, many, other environmental issues that affect us in our daily lives locally.

# **HOI Group Calendar**

## September

## Global Warming Solutions Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Peoria Public Library, 2nd floor conference room, downtown Peoria. Check <u>http://gwsolutionsgroup.com</u> for more information.

**9** Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
 James Thomas' home, 1303 N. Glenwood Ave., Peoria. Call 673-0083 for directions.

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

WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Terry Isbell, Pennycress.* Everyone is welcome!



## Nominations Needed for HOI Excom

Nominations for the HOI EXCOM Board are needed by October 14th. Three board positions will be up for election this year. Board members have a range of opportunities from organizing programs for the general meetings, representing HOI at various meetings and events, or being active by contributing ideas. Nominate yourself or send in a nomination for someone that would like to be on the Board. Meetings are held once a month, and are a great way to participate in your local Sierra Group. Send nominations to Kiersten Sheets, c/o HOI Sierra Club, 500 County Road 550 E, Sparland, IL 61565, or call 249-2095.

## October

1 Global Warming Solutions Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Peoria Public Library, 2nd floor conference room, downtown Peoria. Check <u>http://gwsolutionsgroup.com</u> for more information.

# Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, 9 a.m.

Meet at the Fry Farm at Rt. 40 and Singing Woods Road. Gloves and hard-soled shoes are recommended. Sorry, no helpers under 10 years due to safety concerns. For more information, call Rudy Habben at 685-5605.

## 14 Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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

## 21 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.

ED Forest Park Nature Center. *The Air We Breathe, a panel discussion on local air quality.* Everyone is welcome!

## 19 Newsletter Deadline

Send articles for November/December to: John Wosik, 12409 N Blackhawk Ct, Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@comcast.net

26 Newsletter Mailing, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

#### Prairie Dawgs Work Crew

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

### Save the Date! Sierra Club Illinois Chapter 50th Anniversary Dinner November 7th

Join with friends from across the state to celebrate two special events! The 50th Anniversary of the Illinois Chapter and the 20th Anniversary year of service with Sierra Club for Illinois Sierra Chapter Director Jack Darin will be recognized November 7th. Plan to join in this festive evening with a special Reception and Dinner at the Cook County Forest Preserve District Volunteer Resource Center, 6100 N Central Ave., Chicago, IL. 60646. A Reception begins at 6:30 and Dinner at 7:30 p.m., with the event ending about 9:30 p.m. This Chapter dinner is the first of its kind in a very long time. Given the Chapter's 50th anniversary & Jack's 20 years of service, it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate, have fun, and raise needed funds for the chapter. Yes, of course, dinner proceeds will be a fundraiser. Tickets are \$100. for one; two for \$150. or Special Host (donation) for four seats at \$500. Volunteers are planning a photo board with events from past Illinois Sierra efforts. If you have photos or wish to reserve a ticket, check the Chapter website, <u>http:// illinois.sierraclub.org/</u> and click on the "Events" tab.

# Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

| F.O. BOX 5595,               | reona, 12 01014       | Houme             | . (309) 037-1393        |   |                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Executive Committee          |                       | HEART OF ILLINOIS | NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION |   |                                    |
| Chair                        | . Robert Jorgensen 69 | 98-0325           | jestpr@yahoo.com        | Sierra Club   | U.S. POSTAGE PAID                  |
| Vice Chair                   | Rudy Habben 68        | 35-5605           |                         | P.O. Box 3593   | PEORIA, ILLINOIS<br>PERMIT NO. 104 |
| Secretary                    |                       |                   | wtigerme@yahoo.com      |   | FERMIT NO. 104                     |
| <b>Conservation Co-Chair</b> | Tom Edwards 63        | 37-1979           |                         |   |                                    |
| Outings Chair                | Wendy Marquis 64      | 45-6263           | wendyjmarquis           | ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED                               |                                    |
|                              | Judy Stalling 67      | 73-4673           |                         |   |                                    |
|                              | Jim Thomas 67         | 73-0083           |                         |   |                                    |
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