



Tallgrass Sierran

Fourth Quarter 2010 Volume 38 No. 3

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 ♦ <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi>

HOI Group Meetings

WED
OCT 20

Aconcagua, Sentinel of Stone
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Noted area mountain climber and world traveler, Barb Gurtler, will take you on a journey to the highest mountain peak in the Americas, the 22,841 foot Aconcagua Mountain, Argentina. You will see life in the high Andes and get breath-taking views of natural beauty, along with a great adventure, as Barb narrates her photo story of the journey.

WED
NOV 17

Confined Animal Feeding Operations

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Karen Hudson, president of F.A.R.M. (Families Against Rural Messes) and staff with the GRACE Factory Farm Project, will give an update on efforts to call federal Environmental Protection Agency attention to the lack of inspections, enforcement, and proper permitting of huge animal feeding operations in Illinois. Karen will display a recently published book, *The CAFO Reader: The Tragedy of Industrial Animal Factories*, by Daniel Imhoff, and share her experiences in fighting for clean air and water and for true family farms.

WED
DEC 15

Annual Christmas Potluck & Slides Party

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

Bring your favorite food to share and some slides from your latest trip, for a holiday time get-together. This is a great chance to enjoy a relaxing evening during the holiday. 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 Sierrans in action!

Year in Review.....

HOI Group Accomplishments During 2010

BY DAVID PITTMAN, HOI CHAIR

Hello from your local central Illinois Sierra Club group. More than 700 households just like you actively support the goals of Sierra Club here in central and western Illinois. There are about 900 Groups in the country, nearly a million Sierra Club members total. Sierra Club is involved in many national and international issues, but this letter is designed to tell you what your local Sierra Club group has chosen to be involved with in the past year.

Communication Changes

We now have an active website and frequently updated calendar at www.illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi. We no longer mail out our newsletter. An updated, electronic version will soon be available on the website. You can also contact any of the ExCom members on the website. The phone number of ExCom chair Dave Pittman is 309-676-5237. His email is dvdptm@aol.com.

The state Chapter has also discontinued their printed newsletter. Their website is www.illinois.sierraclub.org. Their mailing address is Illinois Chapter Sierra Club, 70 East Lake Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60601. Their telephone number at the Chicago office is 312-251-1680.

What We Did This Year

This brief report of HOI Group Sierra Club activities should begin with mentioning club outings this year that included hiking at the Hennepin Canal and Singing Woods Nature Preserve, biking

on the Rock Island Trail, a tour of the St. Mary's Cemetery hill prairies, and a car tour of local toxic coal ash sites. We also organized the very well attended fourth annual Environmental Film Festival (November 2009). HOI Sierra went to dozens of community meetings and environmental events, offering workshops and information tables.

We participated in a demonstration in protest of the Gulf BP oil disaster. We gave testimony at public hearings and remained involved with litigation against pollution waste practices. Appellate Court oral arguments on our appeal of the Peoria Disposal Company delisting of Electric Arc Furnace Dust Waste decision secured our standing in court.

HOI volunteers attended the U.S. Army Corps Rice Lake public meeting and sent in written comments to protest habitat destruction at the site and natural area. We worked with Sierrans and citizens in Canton to protest the potential pollution of Canton Lake by a proposed coal mine and continued legal efforts for

Inside.....

- HOI Sierra Club Christmas Birdseed Sale Order Form
- HOI Excom Ballots

(See Year in Review, page 2)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

(Year in Review, from page 1)

Administrative Review of the North Canton Mine permit.

We opposed the inappropriate location of proposed coal mining at Banner Marsh, the toxic waste legacy at Depue and the multiple coal mining safety violations at the Industry coal mine near Macomb. We held press conferences in Canton regarding over 300 water permit violations at the Industry Mine.

HOI Group Sierra was active promoting the Cool Cities program and supporting actual work on local solutions to global warming. Regionally we worked on landfill siting, hazardous waste disposal and air quality issues regarding ozone and other pollutants. In State legislation this year we helped lobby and pass a law that requires state utilities to purchase more alternative energy.

We hosted environmental author Jeff Biggers at a special program and Group fund-raiser event. Jeff signed copies of his new book, "Reckoning at Eagle Creek," which details the history of coal mining in southern Illinois. We worked with local citizens groups in Peoria, Canton, Banner and Macomb to support their issues and help protect the environment. We worked with other environmental groups to promote recycling, preserve habitat, and maintain the moratorium on nuclear power plant construction in Illinois.

Endorsements for the November State and County Elections

Four candidates for public office in our Group area have been endorsed. In the Illinois House of Representatives we are pleased to endorse Earl Godt, from Macomb, in the 94th District and Jehan Gordon, in the 92nd District. Godt is a Sierra Club member now serving on the McDonough County Board with active political experience who knows how to win. Jehan Gordon is running for her second term and has given solid support for environmental issues on the Sierra Club agenda. In the Peoria County Board contested races, Randy Stevens in the 13th District and Lynn Scott Pearson in the 3rd District are endorsed. Pearson has steadily supported Sierra Club priorities in the past while Stevens, running for his first term, showed both a sympathy for the environment and a good understanding of the issues. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 2.

Environmental Film Festival

Please join us at the Environmental

Film Festival in Peoria on Friday and Saturday, November 5 & 6. Show times will be 7 p.m. at the beautiful restored remnant of the Vaudeville era, the Apollo Theatre on 311 Main Street in Peoria. Tickets are \$5 each. In addition to several short movies there will be local vendors and information about how to live a greener life style.

Fundraising

HOI Sierra Club operated on a budget of \$10,000 last year. Most of our expenses were legal fees, professional expert testimony and court filing fees. For example, HOI Sierra Club is appealing to the Illinois Supreme Court to review an Appellate Court ruling regarding hazardous waste classification. We are fundraising in many areas and could use your support. Your annual dues are primarily used for the National and State Chapter Sierra Club, which certainly does very important work. Our local work is almost entirely paid for by our own fundraising efforts. This year we sold aluminum cans, worked concession stands at Peoria's minor league baseball stadium, and picked aronia berries to earn money. Please consider purchasing several 2011 calendars and date books through HOI Sierra. We will also be selling birdseed for distribution in December. An order form is included in this newsletter and can be found on our website. We could use your support and hope you can help by buying some of these products. You can also give us a direct donation, any amount is very welcome. Please mail your check to Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612.

Conclusion

In the coming year Sierra Club will continue our efforts to reduce air pollution, protect our water and improve wildlife habitat. HOI Sierra Club is fighting for the end of coal power plants in Illinois. We believe that can be achieved by increased use of renewal energy sources such as wind and solar and dramatic improvements in energy efficiency. HOI Sierra



Earth Day 2010: Sierra Club member Kiersten Sheets encourages an Earth Day visitor at Forest Park Nature Center to pedal faster in a hands-on demonstration of the energy use of incandescent versus compact fluorescent lighting. The Earth Day event was just one of many tabling events the HOI Sierra Club participated in during 2010. Photo: Joyce Blumenshine

Club has faith that if households, businesses and government all make a commitment, we can reduce the impact of climate change as well as create tens of thousands of green jobs in Illinois. We will fight long wall mining practices because it is so destructive to the topsoil and drainage systems of the land. We promote the comprehensive Cool Cities program and other sustainable green practices by all public governments. We agree with the national Sierra Club vision for America's energy future that sees a gradual phase out of all coal and nuclear power stations. Our country's energy future is in renewable and aggressive energy efficiency, not in large polluting power plants.

Please visit our website at www.illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi and sign up for periodic notices of events and editorials at our Blog page <http://hoisierraclub.wordpress.com/> where the "Subscribe" box is located on the right. You can also contact us by mail or phone with your ideas or your questions. We have monthly meetings in Peoria Heights at the Forest Park Nature Center, 5809 Forest Park Drive, with interesting topics and speakers. Look on the website calendar to confirm the exact date, but we usually meet every third Wednesday of the month, at 7 p.m.

Thank you for your continued involvement with Sierra Club. Please continue to stay active and contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

We have one planet, one lifetime, to make a difference for environmental good. Protect the environment, for our families and for our future.

2010 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures Ballots Due December 15

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than 4 candidates for a 2011-2012 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: Chuck Buchna
c/o Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61612
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. 15, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 15.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 15.

Joyce Blumenshine - Thanks to the many members of Heart of Illinois Group who have pitched in to assist at events, attended hearings, written letters, ordered bird seed or purchased Sierra Calendars from the group, we have a great core of support. Our group needs to expand that base if we are to be a healthy organization. We also need to succeed in ways to reach out to you with our transition to electronic communications. I would like to be part of these endeavors on behalf of HOI, and I would appreciate your vote to be on ExCom. I think we need to focus our efforts and energies where we can make worthwhile impacts. HOI is needed as a voice for the environment in Central Illinois. Your membership dues are a testimony to your belief in Sierra Club and I believe we can do better locally with establishing annual goals, a publicity plan, better delegation of duties, and more advance planning of events.

Bob Jorgensen - I have served on the HOI Sierra Club Ex-Com for the past few years holding different offices at different times. I have always been concerned about environmental issues because of my love of the outdoors and all the natural beauty and diversity it contains. I have been involved in a variety of local Sierra activities such as: tabling events, speaking out against polluting industries, working on clean up projects, lobbying our state legislators on laws that will better preserve the environment of the state, and working at a concession stand at Peoria Chiefs' Games to raise money for HOI Sierra. As an offshoot of HOI Sierra I have helped East Peoria to declare itself a COOL CITY and am a member of the East Peoria Green Team. I would like to continue to serve the HOI members as a part of the Executive Committee. Thanks for your support.

Andy Marquis - Hello, everyone. I recently moved back to the Peoria area after completing a Master of Science degree in Halifax, Nova Scotia. If elected, I will work to put the "club" back in Sierra Club. Meeting and activity attendance is dismal. While there are per-

2010 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Andy Marquis
_____ Wendy Marquis

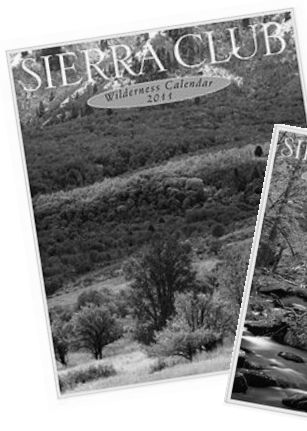
2010 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Andy Marquis
_____ Wendy Marquis

haps many factors contributing to this, I believe the club should first and foremost narrow its agenda to a few crucial items. We must also reconsider our activities program, preferably with candid input from you, the membership. The HOI Sierra Club is creeping toward irrelevancy. We must arrest our fall and reassert ourselves as the involved, inspired, and enjoyable club we are. Thank you for your consideration.

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 is to stop the rape of our natural environment and raise public & political consciousness to a level that allows it to 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. This was my belief two years ago and stands today as my primary reason for being part of Sierra Club and wanting to have a say in its running. But I must also add that I feel our local group needs to refocus on the most important issues facing our area to both increase our effectiveness as a club as well as minimize the feeling of being overwhelmed by those willing to volunteer their time and effort. I would also like to express tremendous gratitude to every person who has served on the Ex Com for the time, effort and resources they have poured into making Sierra Club's voice heard both locally and statewide on so many vital issues - we really do make a difference. "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.

2011 Sierra Club Calendars . . . The Perfect Christmas Gift!



Wilderness Wall Calendar (\$12.95)

Engagement Calendar (\$13.95)

To order, call Diane Jorgensen at 698-0325 or email hi-whatsup@illinois.sierraclub.org. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.



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 222-2519 for more information.

Order Deadline: December 1, 2010

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 4, 2010, 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 4, 2010.

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	\$ 10.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 19.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 43.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 10.50	_____	\$ _____
	25 lbs	\$ 22.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 16.00	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.00	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 9.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 16.00	_____	\$ _____
Suet Cakes	box of 1 doz.	\$ 16.00	_____	\$ _____

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 61612

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

Thank you for supporting the
Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!



ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL

**At the APOLLO THEATRE,
Downtown Peoria
Nov. 5 (Fri.) &
Nov. 6 (Sat.) 7 to 9 p.m.**

Prices for Tickets for each night are
\$5.00 for ages 12 and up;
\$3.00 for younger than 12
Door prizes from local merchants.

Presented by:



**SIERRA
CLUB**
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Heart of Illinois Group



Check the HOI Group website at
<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi>
for an up-to-date list of films.



Fighting to Protect the Environment from Toxic Waste in 2010:

Sierra 2009 Chair Bob Jorgenson and his wife Diane are to the left of Sierra attorney David Wentworth, with Hasselberg, Williams, Grebe, et al Attorneys, Peoria, after our court case challenging the delisting of Electric Arc Furnace Dust Waste in Ottawa on April 13, 2010. Photo: Joyce Blumenshine



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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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.

**Add your voice to protect the planet.
Join Sierra Club.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Email _____

**Join today and receive
a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



☐ Check enclosed. Please make payable to Sierra Club.

Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ AMEX

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Exp. Date ____/____/____

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

Contributions, gifts and dues to 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 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968
or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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HOI Group Calendar

October

13 Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
WED Wendy Marquis' home, 13707 N. Lucerne Dr., Dunlap. Call 645-6263 for directions.

20 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Barb Gurtler, Aconcagua, Sentinel of Stone.*
 Everyone is welcome!



*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.

November

2 Election Day
TUE *The Environment
Needs Your Vote!*



**4 THU Global Warming Solutions
Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
Peoria Public Library Lakeview Branch.
Check <http://gwsolutionsgroup.com> for
more information.

5-6
FRI-SAT *HOI Environmental
Film Festival, 7 p.m.*

Apollo Theatre, Downtown Peoria

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

Check the HOI Group website at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi> for an up-to-date list of films.

10 **Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
WED David Pittman's home, 2422 W Moss
 Ave, West Peoria. Call 676-5237 for
 directions.


17 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Karen Hudson*
Confined Animal Feeding Operations.
Everyone is welcome!

December

**2 THU Global Warming Solutions
Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
Peoria Public Library Lakeview Branch.
Check <http://gwsolutionsgroup.com> for
more information.

4 SAT **HOI Birdseed Sale Pickup,
9 to 11 a.m.**
Pick up your birdseed order at the Kelly
Seed and Hardware parking lot, 202
Hamilton Blvd., Peoria.


8 WED Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap. Call 222-2519 for directions.

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

- 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.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 Hotline: (309) 243-2591
Web: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi>

Executive Committee

Chair /			
Membership Chair	.. David Pittman . . .	676-5237	dvdptmn@aol.com
Vice-Chair	..... Kiersten Sheets . . .	249-2095	wtigerme@yahoo.com
Secretary	..... Chuck Buchna . . .	693-8587	
Treasurer	..... Robert Jorgensen .	698-0325	jestpr@yahoo.com
Outings Chair /			
Chapter Delegate	... Wendy Marquis . . .	645-6263	wendyjmarquis@yahoo.com
Political Chair	..... Robert McCoy . . .	243-2910	
	Jim Thomas	673-0083	
	♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦		
Conservation Chair	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950	joblumen@yahoo.com
Calendars	..... Diane Jorgensen . . .	698-0325	jestpr@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor /			
Webmaster John Wosik	222-2519	johnwosik@comcast.net

HEART OF ILLINOIS
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61612

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... To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth ...