



# Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2011 Volume 39 No. 1

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  
NOV 16

**Shawnee National Forest**  
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Terri Treacy, Illinois Sierra Club Chapter Conservation Field Representative, will provide an update on current efforts to preserve and protect the Shawnee National Forest and nearby areas in southern Illinois. *Everyone is welcome.*

WED  
DEC 21

**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!

## Inside.....

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

## Major Conservation Cases Year in Review

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE, *Conservation Chair*

Thank You Each and Every HOI Member. Your membership and support has made it possible for HOI to continue our environmental advocacy in court and significant public hearings! Please be sure to renew your Sierra membership for 2012 and consider a year-end financial donation small or large directly to HOI to help with our ongoing efforts. If we do not take care of our local environment and fight for it, who will?

### Delisting of Toxic Waste Case Heard at the Illinois Supreme Court:

In coalition with Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste, our appeal of the Peoria Disposal Company delisting of Electric Arc Furnace Dust (EPA listed hazardous waste K061) was taken up by the Illinois Supreme Court. Our case was one of just 12 cases selected out of 300 reviewed by the court for a decision in the session. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to our Attorney David Wentworth, with the Peoria firm Hasselberg, Grebe, Snodgrass & Birdsall, who lead this case and presented oral arguments in Springfield at the court on May 17, 2011. While we lost in the decision posted by the court on October 27th, our participation did result in bringing awareness of this issue to the public and we did get improvements in conditions at the Illinois Pollution Control Board level.

### Peoria Municipal Waste Landfill Expansion:

In coalition with Peoria Families

Against Toxic Waste, HOI Sierra was a key participant in efforts to reduce the mega-dump, and put recycling into consideration with the landfill expansion. Efforts to defeat the proposed 18 million ton design were successful, but the 10 million ton design received approval by the Landfill Siting Committee on October 13th. PDC did agree to our request to guarantee they would not attempt to site a chemical waste landfill in this expansion and they did provide a mine subsidence plan.

### Banner Strip Mine, Fulton County:

Not one shovel of ground to develop this mine has been taken. Our years of coalition efforts with the Citizens for the Preservation of Banner Township and the Illinois Attorney General are just waiting for the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to sign the final denial of this mine permit.

### Industry Strip Mine, McDonough County:

Sierra Club in coalition with Prairie Rivers Network and Environmental Law & Policy Center have continued contesting the over 300 water permit violations at this mine at the Illinois Pollution Control Board level. This mine is so bad it still has not stopped its water permit violations since legal action was taken and continues exceeding pollution limits.

### North Canton Strip Mine, Fulton County:

Our work in coalition with the Canton  
(See *Year in Review*, page 2)



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

*(Year in Review, from page 1)*

Area Citizens for Environmental Issues has been part of key efforts to contest this mine permit. The Administrative Review with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hearing Office is now scheduled for February, 2012. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of our attorney David Wentworth, with Hasselberg, Grebe, Snodgrass, Attorneys, Peoria, we have been able to respond to very challenging and troubling tactics IDNR has used in this case.

**Rice Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area  
Army Corps Project:**

We sent in repeated comments and spoke at several meetings regarding protections needed for the historic eagle roost and other species at this site. The Army Corps did make some adjustments in their levee and other plans for the site based on public comments.



**At the Illinois Supreme Court:** HOI Sierra and Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste members with Attorney David Wentworth, center, from the Peoria firm Hasselberg, Williams, Grebe, Snodgrass & Birdsall, at the Illinois Supreme Court, May 17, 2011, after he presented oral arguments on our behalf opposing the Peoria Disposal Company delisting of toxic electric arc furnace dust waste. Our case was one of only 12 selected for hearing out of 300 referred to the court for the session. Photo: Joyce Blumenshine



## 2011 Annual Report, HOI Sierra Club Group BY DAVID PITTMAN, Chair

A summary of our efforts in 2011 should begin with offering our gratitude for the many hundreds of volunteer hours that were donated by dozens of people to help HOI Sierra Club this past year. Thank you to everyone who volunteered. Your activism is the heart of HOI Sierra Club.

HOI Sierra Group has been very active again this year with hikes, politics and activism. In 2011 our monthly Executive Committee agenda covered these action issues:

- Peoria County landfill development
- Peoria Lake island building
- Coal mine location in Canton
- Swift slaughterhouse in Pekin
- Depue Superfund cleanup
- State Supreme Court ruling on our appeal
- Protection for natural areas Rice Lake & Springdale Savanna
- Political legislation and candidate interviews
- Peoria City & County green efforts

- Developing booths at local events
- Obtaining a variety of speakers at our monthly meetings
- Organizing hikes and outings.

Volunteers are welcome at any time. Your help will be much appreciated, for as much or as little time as you choose to give. Every volunteer effort counts. One job we need is a volunteer Facebook Coordinator, who would help HOI Sierra use this communication tool. We continue to work on expanding our membership to all age levels and appreciate your help.

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP** in Sierra Club strengthens the voice of concern for the environment in central Illinois, across the state and nationally. There are nearly 1,500 Sierra Groups all over the country, volunteer groups just like us. Please come to one of our monthly meetings at the Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria Heights, where we often have speakers or slide shows. Please visit our website and subscribe to the electronic newsletter. The website calendar includes details on regu-

lar outdoor hikes and has electronic links to other area activities.

**CALENDARS AND DATEBOOKS** are on sale through the next few months. Please look over the bird seed order enclosed with this letter and place an order for December, if it interests you. We appreciate whatever support you can give.

**IT IS THE ANNUAL ELECTION** for four members of the Executive Committee. Please look over the attached ballot and mail in your vote. Ballots must be mailed, no electronic voting.

**IN THE COMING YEAR** our efforts will be challenged by the human ostriches and faceless corporations who deny climate change even as they exploit and pollute the natural world. Green energy solutions are essential to reduce CO2 emissions and thus begin to solve global warming. HOI Sierra Group will be active again this year to make this vision a reality, a practical, new direction for alternative energy



# 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, 2011

**Pickup Day:** Saturday, December 3, 2011, 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 3, 2011.

**Reminder: I purchased** \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ **For** ☐ Pickup  
\_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Delivery

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

Type of Seed	Size	Price	Number Ordered	Total
Sunflower (oil)	25 lbs	\$ 17.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 31.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 14.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 60.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
	25 lbs	\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 12.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 22.00	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 9.00	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 18.00	_____	\$ _____
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**

Thank you for supporting the  
Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## 2011 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures Ballots Due December 21

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than 4 candidates for a 2012-2013 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: Bob Jorgensen  
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. 21, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 21.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 21.

### Chuck Buchna

I am a long time member of the Sierra Club and I believe the Heart of Illinois Group has hardworking, passionate members that are making a difference in Central Illinois. Safeguarding our natural places and encouraging youth involvement are important priorities for the future of our local area and the world - working together is crucial to our success.

### Robert McCoy

I am seeking reelection to the HOI Executive Committee. I have been involved with Sierra for approximately seven years, the last two serving on the HOI Executive Committee serving as its political chair. I bring seventeen years of experience as a lawyer and forty-six years experience as a lover of nature. I hope to continue to promote the club's advocacy efforts, and I am interested in attracting new (and some younger) club members, and increasing the number of local outings.

### David Pittman

HOI Sierra Club is the biggest and most active environmental group in our region. You as members have been involved in dozens of events this past year, from outings to trash clean-ups, film showings, information booths, demonstrations, labor rallies, letter writing and court battles. You as the HOI Group of Sierra Club have held meetings with officials about local and state legislation, landfill siting, coal mining

### 2011 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Buchna  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robert McCoy  
\_\_\_\_\_ David Pittman  
\_\_\_\_\_ John Wosik

### 2011 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Buchna  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robert McCoy  
\_\_\_\_\_ David Pittman  
\_\_\_\_\_ John Wosik

permits, habitat changes at Rice Lake, opposing coal and nuclear power plants. Your ExCom has been very busy and I am honored to have been a part of that effort.

If re-elected I will continue to help ExCom make efficient use of every volunteer's time and limited money to stop the destruction of our planet's ecosystems. I support coalition work with all groups that support our basic mission to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the natural world. We need to continue our efforts to bring in youth, to use Facebook and expand our website. If elected I will do my best to bring more people into our HOI family. I will continue with my personal focus on global warming solutions, protection of native plant communities and increasing environmental awareness at my workplace.

### John Wosik

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



*Heart of Illinois  
Sierra Club would  
like to thank all  
of those members  
who have so gen-  
erously donated to HOI. As you  
know most of our funds are col-  
lected from our local members like  
you. These donations are our  
main source of funding and are  
used in support of local environ-  
mental issues and efforts that are of  
high concern to HOI members.*

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



**Clean Water Celebration:** HOI volunteers talk about rain barrels and demonstrate pervious (porous) concrete at this year's Clean Water Celebration at the Peoria Civic Center. We also had tables at Forest Park Nature Center on Earth Day, the Central Illinois Green Expo at ICC, and the Tazewell County Environmental Education Day. HOI Group is always looking for creative and enthusiastic volunteers to help design and man our tables at various environmental events throughout the year. Photo: John Wosik

## HOI Group Calendar

*November*

**3 THU Global Warming Solutions**  
**Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Rhythm Kitchen., 305 SW Water Street,  
Peoria. Check  
<http://gwsolutionsgroup.com> for more  
information.

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

**16 Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *Terri Treacy*, **Shawnee National Forest**.  
Everyone is welcome!



**2012 Sierra Club Calendars . . . The Perfect Christmas Gift!**



*Wilderness Wall Calendar* (\$12.95)

To order, call Diane Jorgensen at 698-0325 or email [jestpr@hotmail.com](mailto:jestpr@hotmail.com). Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.

*Engagement Calendar* (\$13.95)


*December*



**1 THU Global Warming Solutions  
Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Rhythm Kitchen., 305 SW Water Street,  
Peoria. Check  
<http://gwsolutionsgroup.com> for more  
information.

**3 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.

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

**21 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.)

**Nov 16, 7 p.m. - Bradley University**  
**Hillel 1532 Fredonia Ave, Peoria.**

*Discovering the Future of Food and Energy with Dr. Peter Schwartzman: what this means, how it will affect our lives, and what we can do to support a positive change in energy and food production.*


Dr. Peter Schwartzman, Alderman in Galesburg's 5th Ward, is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Environmental Studies at Knox College. He is a trained climatologist with interests in a wide variety of environmental areas. His most recent publication is entitled; A solar transition is possible, which was published by the Institute for Policy Research & Development. Program sponsored by Congregation Anshai Emeth and the Jewish Federation of Peoria. For information call 309-689-0063.

**Hike to Rocky Glen,**  
**Nov 12 (Sat) 9-11:30 a.m.**  
**Dec 10 (Sat) 9-11:30 a.m.**

The Friends of Rocky Glen will lead a hike to a box canyon with two waterfalls, rock outcroppings, fascinating plants and human history. This is a moderate difficulty hike. Meet at Jimmy's Tavern on Farmington Road, West Peoria to carpool to the site. Great pics and more info at [www.friendsofrockyglen.org](http://www.friendsofrockyglen.org).

## Prairie Dawqs 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**  
**Web: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi>**

## Executive Committee

**Chair /**

**Membership Chair ..** David Pittman . . . 676-5237 dvpdtmn@aol.com

**Vice-Chair /**

**Outings Chair .....** Wendy Marquis . . 645-6263 wendyjmarquis@yahoo.com

**Secretary .....** Chuck Buchna . . . 693-8587

**Treasurer .....** Robert Jorgensen . . 698-0325 jestpr@yahoo.com

**Conservation Chair .** Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950 joblumen@yahoo.com

**Political Chair .....** Robert McCoy . . . 243-2910

**Newsletter Editor /**

**Webmaster .....** John Wosik . . . . . 222-2519 johnwosik@comcast.net

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**Calendars .....** Diane Jorgensen . . .698-0325 jestpr@yahoo.com

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 ...