

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2012 Volume 40 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 14

Dinner at One World Cafe
6:30 p.m.

Join in a fun and relaxing dinner out! Meet at One World Cafe, corner of Main and University Streets in Peoria, at 6:30 p.m. or whenever you can make it. For more information phone Joyce at 688-0950. *Everyone is welcome.* (This event replaces our regular November 21 Group Meeting, which has been cancelled this year since it falls on the day before Thanksgiving.)

WED
DEC 19

**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 Bird Seed Sale Order Form
- HOI Excom Ballots

Your HOI Group In Action!

We Took Some Big Steps in 2012 but We Need YOU in 2013

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Hey Thanks! Without YOU, Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club would not be here. Our group would be nothing if it was not for our dedicated volunteers, board members, and members like YOU who join Sierra Club. Thank YOU for your annual membership and renewal! Because of your concern for the environment and for this planet on which life as we know it depends, Sierra Club can continue fighting the tough fights to reduce our nation's carbon footprint, point out the dirty truths and public and health costs of coal, fight to keep the federal EPA, and

many, many other issues.

We need your help. Can you volunteer a couple hours to participate in HOI? See the listing in this newsletter, or send an email to let us know what you are interested in. Please help by making a purchase with our 2012 Bird Seed Sale fundraiser or send in a special donation to HOI Sierra, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, 61612.

There is good news for 2012:

- The Banner coal strip mine permit was officially denied by the IL DNR in July.
- Brenda Dilts, HOI member and leader of the Canton Citizens for Environmental Issues, was awarded the Prairie Rivers Network Steward of the Year

(See *HOI Group*, page 2)



Army Corps tree cutting for water ditch near the eagle roost at Rice Lake - Oct 6, 2012.
Photo: Joyce Blumenshine



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

(HOI Group, from page 1)

Award in October.

- Our efforts with the Army Corps insured an active eagle nest in the Rice Lake eagle roost area would have a buffer and would be monitored since water ditch construction is being done in the roost.
- Our volunteers were part of the City of Peoria Rain Garden initiative on the south side.
- We had fantastic information booths on fracking at the Nature Center Earth Day and at the Clean Water Celebration.
- We held two Adopt-a-Highway clean-ups.
- We completed political lobbying visits.
- We had a direct impact on removing two environmentally sensitive corridors from consideration for the Ring Road on the east side of the Illinois River.
- We helped with outreach in Havana about issues with the power plant coal ash pond and spoke at the IEPA hearing.
- We helped local property owners fighting to protect the fragile steep bluffs above the Illinois River at East Peoria.
- And a host of other things.

Make your 2013 New Year's Resolution to get to a HOI program and connect with your group! Bring your issues of interest so others can join in!

HOI Sierra Club: HELP WANTED

We are always looking for volunteers! Below are just a few of the activities we need help with. If you are interested in helping with any of these, or have other ideas on how you would like to help us, either contact any of the Executive members listed on the back of this newsletter, or email us at hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org.

- Seeking volunteer who will give approximately 3 hours a month for website development. You will work with an experienced webmaster to provide content and photographs about HOI projects.
- Seeking volunteer who will give approximately 3 hours a month to Facebook development. The job is to grow our Friends and provide regular updates and content to our existing Facebook page.
- Seeking volunteer who will give approximately 3 hours a month to blog on HOI website. You will learn how to access the blog and submit content of your choice on HOI Sierra approved topics.
- Seeking volunteer who will help plan recreational outings for HOI Sierra Club. You will work at first with an experienced outings organizer and learn of the many past hikes and trips taken by HOI members. Approximately 3 hours a month in planning, phone calls and media outreach.
- Seeking a volunteer who will help HOI Sierra organize a Spring, 2013 yard sale in north Peoria. The yard sale location is already established and will be in late April. You will work with other volunteers to gather and price items, then help sell on the day of the event. About 2 hours work in February, 5 hours work in March and 20 hours work in April.
- Seeking a volunteer who will help HOI Sierra with our Earth Day booth at Forest Park Nature Center in April, 2013. Planning and developing the exhibit may take up to 10 hours. Earth day event work shift could be two or four hours.



Make Your Vote Count for the Environment *Sierra Endorsed Candidates Need Your Help!*

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Thanks to HOI Political Chair Rob McCoy and dedicated volunteers, your group has participated in the following endorsements approved by Illinois Chapter and the National Sierra Club:

- ☒ For the 17th U.S. House of Representatives: Cheri Bustos
- ☒ For Illinois State Senate District 46: Dave Koehler
- ☒ For Peoria County Board District 6: Alan Mayer

Please support these candidates with your vote and your help in the final days of campaigning.

Sierra Club has endorsed President Obama and Vice President Biden. The environmental distinctions between the parties have never been more clear. This election year is a critical point for such issues as the continued growth of wind and solar energy, for keeping the federal Environmental Protection Agency's ability to protect our air, water, and land from mining and other polluting industries, and for making oil companies pay their fair share of taxes. Please talk with your friends and family about how President Obama and Mr. Romney are vastly different in environmental protection and the direction our nation will take regarding a lower-carbon future.

For more information, see:

- The Sierra Club website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/politics/>
- The Illinois Chapter Sierra listing at:
<http://www.illinois.sierraclub.org/vote/index.html>



As the trees become bare and morning light takes longer to brighten our day, remember: a healthy environment and a healthy planet need your help. Vote, donate, volunteer, and do whatever you can to live a greener lifestyle each day. Talk to your friends and family about what you are doing and why. If we are not part of the solution we are the problem. Thanksgiving Greetings and Happy Holidays from Heart of Illinois Sierra!





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: November 29, 2012

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 1, 2012, 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 1, 2012.

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	\$ 16.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 27.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 14.00	_____	\$ _____
	25 lbs	\$ 31.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
	25 lbs	\$ 25.00	_____	\$ _____
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 38.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 13.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 22.00	_____	\$ _____
Songbird Mix	35 lbs	\$ 24.00	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 9.00	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 19.50	_____	\$ _____
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!

2012 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

Ballots Due December 19

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than 4 candidates for a 2013-2014 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: 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. 19, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 19.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 19.

Joyce Blumenshine

HOI Sierra has tackled some major conservation work in the last two years. Our efforts have helped fight the North Canton strip mine above Canton Lake. We also got the great news that the Banner Mine permit was officially denied by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. These battles can take years and they can only be done with the support and participation of dedicated members. We also participated in major ways in the Peoria City/County municipal waste landfill issues, among numerous other things. We need to do more to engage our members if this group is to continue. We need board members who actively participate in the work of the group and understand the importance of working on Sierra Club issues and on behalf of the group. I would like to continue to be part of these endeavors on behalf of HOI, and I would appreciate your vote to be on ExCom. We need to focus our efforts and energies where we can make worthwhile impacts.

Bob Jorgensen

I have served on the HOI Sierra Club ExCom 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, and lobbying our state legislators on laws that will better preserve the environment of the state. 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.

Wendy Marquis

I believe the Sierra Club is the best possibility for people to join together to fight the forces in this country who, while claiming high moral ground, will lay waste to whatever aspect of the environment is necessary to line the pockets of those who typically are already swim-

2012 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ John Wosik

2012 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ John Wosik

ming in wealth. Time spent outdoors in the amazing beauty that still exists in this country is at times the only thing for me that can relieve the stress and frustrations of daily life. I cannot understand the disregard that many people have for our open spaces as though they are an unlimited resource. When the air, land and water have all become fouled by our greed and unbridled consumption, what will be left to sustain life on this small planet? This 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 urge those of you who have joined Sierra Club, and thereby our Heart of Illinois Group, to get out! Get out to our meetings, find out what's happening and find a way to get involved and make a difference in the place you have chosen to live. Illinois is one of the states where you can make the biggest difference because we have some of the biggest problems and greatest apathy environmentally. Don't we all know the meaning of initiative and perseverance? It's the right thing to do and sometimes that has to be enough! "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.

John Wosik

As a member of the Executive Committee, I will continue as webmaster 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.

Sand Quarry Mining Next to Starved Rock State Park Receives State Permits

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Can you imagine hiking the spectacular rock canyons on the east side of Starved Rock State Park and hearing blasting, breathing gritty air from sand mining dust, and looking down at what was the crystal clear Horseshoe Creek and observing silt and streaks of contamination from a mining industrial site next to the park? That could well be the future. The IL EPA and the IL DNR have approved permits for a sand mine quarry on the flat lands parallel to the Illinois River along Highway 71 at

the east edge of Starved Rock. Lights, equipment, backup warning beeping, blasting, and heavy truck traffic will be in operation for decades next to the park if this sand mine begins. To add insult to injury, the sand will be used for hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. Please be sure to send your email comment to Governor Quinn by using the IL Chapter Sierra Alert at:

<https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=9759>

On Sunday, October 28th, special hikes, and a "Tour de Frac" will view the canyons on the east side of the park and to walk or drive the highway perimeter of the Sand Mine. From 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. a citizen's forum will be held at Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort, 2643 IL Route 178 near North Utica, to speak out about concerns for our state's premier park.

HOI Group Calendar

November

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

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

12 MON Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Joyce Blumenshine's home, 2419 E
Reservoir Blvd, Peoria.


14 **Dinner at One World Cafe,**
WED 6:30 p.m.
Join in a fun and relaxing dinner out!
Meet at One World Cafe, corner of
Main and University Streets in Peoria.
For more information phone Joyce at
688-0950. Everyone is welcome!

December

1 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.

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

10 MON Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap.

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

January 2013

16 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center.
Chuck Buchna will give a presentation of his recent visits to India, which will consist of observations and slides from a number of Northern India Himalayan Hill Stations along with some diverse slides giving a flavor of contemporary Indian life. Everyone is welcome!

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

**Canton Area Citizens for
Environmental Issues Meeting**
Nov 3 (Sat) 10 a.m.

Meet at the Fulton County Health Dept., 700 East Oak St., Canton. Learn the latest news on the North Canton strip mine battle. For more information, visit www.savecantonlake.com.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612
Web: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi> Email: hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org

Executive Committee

Chair	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950	joblumen@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair	Chuck Buchna	693-8587	cbuchna@sbcglobal.net
Secretary /Newsletter			
Ed. / Webmaster	John Wosik	222-2519	johnwosik@comcast.net
Conservation Chair /			
Membership Chair	David Pittman	676-5237	dvdptmn@aol.com
Outings Chair	Wendy Marquis ...	645-6263	wendyjmarquis@yahoo.com
Political Chair	Robert McCoy	243-2910	robertbmccoy@msn.com
	Robert Jorgensen ...	698-0325	jestpr@aol.com

Treasurer / Calendars . . Diane Jorgensen 698-0325 jestpr@aol.com

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

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Sierra Club
P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61612

**2013 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 jestpr@aol.com. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.

