

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2013 Volume 41 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 20

**Environmental Update
from the U of I Extension**
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Jason Haupt, Energy and Environmental Stewardship Educator, Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit, University of Illinois Extension, will discuss his work as a naturalist and educator. He will include updates on state issues of concern including fracking and other energy topics. This will be a great opportunity to discuss local county and state issues. *Everyone is welcome.*

WED
DEC 18

**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!

WED
JAN 15

**Silt, the Illinois River, and
Mud to Parks**
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

John Marlin, the "Doctor of Mud to Parks" and expert on brownfield reclamation with river silt, will speak about the mud to parks projects and prospects regarding Illinois River islands. Mr. Marlin's years of experience with mud to parks projects and his perspectives will give us important information on the status of Illinois River silt reclamation. *Everyone is welcome.*



**Inside . . .
Bird Seed Order Form**

Sulfur Dioxide Plume Modeling Shows Families at Risk

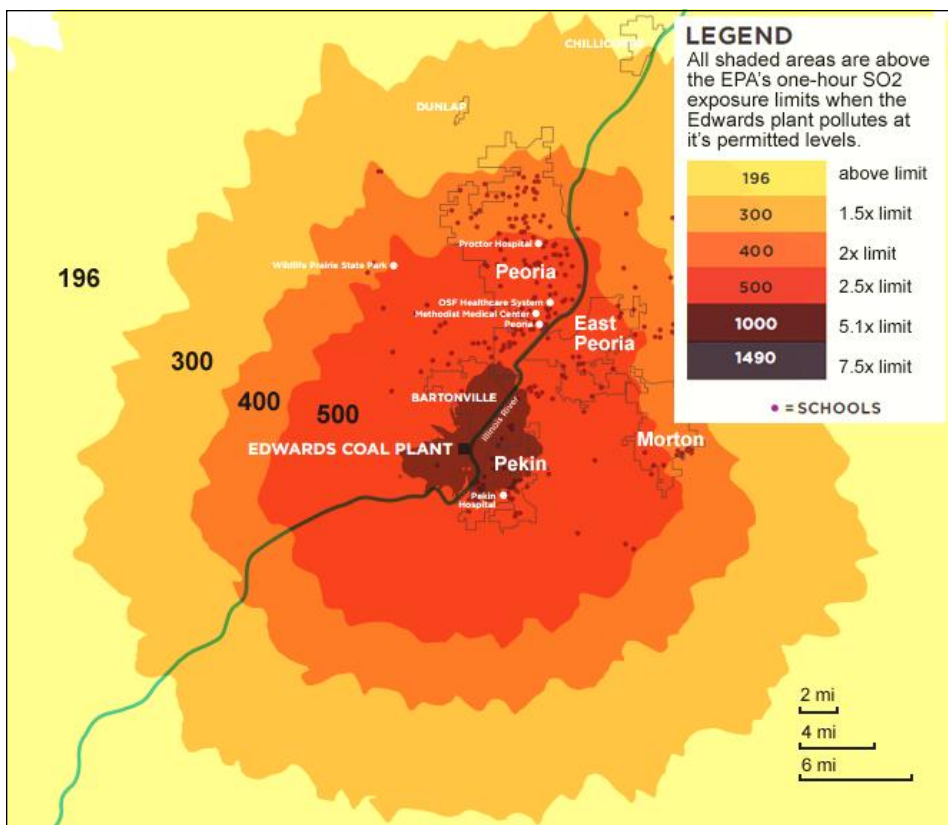
BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Thanks to the Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign, 2013 has been a year of action for Heart of Illinois Group on the Edwards coal-fired power plant at Bartonville, just south of Peoria. For all of you who have responded to an email alert, attended a press conference, or in other ways helped in this essential local effort to confront climate change pollution and ACT LOCALLY, our greatest THANKS to you.

Since January, we have had the tre-

mendous help of Beyond Coal organizer Kady McFadden to move this issue forward. With the formation of the Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance, a strong coalition of local groups is taking Edwards power plant issues to the public, agencies, local leaders and the local news. This issue is not over. The future of the Edwards power plant remains unknown. Ameren, the current owner, has stated publicly that the plant is not profitable.

(See *Edwards*, page 2)



The E.D. Edwards coal plant's toxic SO₂ plume puts Peoria families at risk.



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

(Edwards, from page 1)

The Texas based company Dynegy has offered to buy a fleet of Ameren plants including Edwards, but Dynegy wants sulfur dioxide air pollution rules delayed for five years more to do so.

Take a look at the sulfur dioxide air pollution plume affecting our Peoria region on the modeling map. This is health-threatening pollution that can cause asthma attacks and other health problems. Sulfur dioxide air pollution is not good for any of us. One hour pollution spikes can cause lung scarring and incremental health damage. The Edwards power plant has not upgraded its sulfur dioxide controls and is also a major carbon dioxide pollution source.

If we are to confront climate change pollution we must take action locally in addition to making changes in our personal habits to cut greenhouse gas pollution. Thank you for your support and membership in Sierra Club that helps in all these efforts. Please look for ways to continue your support in the New Year and to participate in upcoming events. Take a look at the Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance on FACEBOOK at <https://www.facebook.com/CentralIllinoisHealthyCommunityAlliance>.



Ernestine Jackson of the NAACP Peoria Branch speaking at the CIHCA press conference on November 29th about the pollution impact zone from the Edwards coal plant.



Thanks to YOU!

*From your Heart of Illinois Group
Sierra Club*

As darker mornings and evenings mark the days toward solstice, please know there is a warm and bright ray of thanks to you for your membership and support of Heart of Illinois Group. "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world" is the famous quote from Margaret Mead.

You are part of that committed citizenry who sees environmental protection as essential. Your Sierra Club membership and donations make it possible for ongoing work that has made, and will make, essential changes for the better for our lives, our health, and this planet.

We look forward to the new year ahead and wish for you health and happiness. We need your continued support in Sierra Club for the essential work to cut climate change pollution and to protect our environment. No other group is conducting a Beyond Coal Campaign as your Sierra Club is doing. No other group has stopped the global climate disruption gasses from 150 coal-fired power plants, which are the largest single entity spewing CO2 into our atmosphere. There is a lot of work to be done and we can do it with your help and support.

Onward,

Joyce Blumenshine, HOI Group Chair



Moving Beyond 2013

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Don't miss recent news updates and eNewsletters from HOI Group! Go to our wonderful web page at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi/> and sign up for eNewsletter and Action Network in the green box in the upper left corner of our homepage. You can also sign up for our local Blogs by clicking on the "Blog" tab in the menu bar on our home page. Scroll down to "Email Subscription Sign Me Up" and enter your email address.

Please attend a local Sierra program or email us with your concerns at hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org. We are a team of environmentally concerned individuals that includes YOU! Without your input and participation with your membership renewal, responding to email alerts, or other help, our group cannot accomplish the essential work that must be done to address environmental issues.

State agencies are understaffed and underfunded. Change on a federal level takes a very long time if issues can get past political gridlock. Let's move beyond 2013 to take a fresh breath and good energy for the new year. Be invigorated that good things can happen. Get out for some time in the sun or find things in nature to give you beauty and joy. This planet is a gift. We have to protect it.

We can do it. Find some new thing in your daily lifestyle to "green-up" in 2014. Be the change you want to be and take a new energy conservation habit in the new year!



A big thanks to the people who showed up for our Adopt-A-Highway cleanup along Rt. 40 on November 26th. Your help on our twice a year pickup is greatly appreciated.



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

Holiday 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 309-222-2519 for more information.

Order Deadline: December 5, 2013

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 7, 2013, 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. Delivery is on Saturday, December 7, 2013.

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	\$ 14.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 22.00	_____	\$ _____
Sunflower hearts	10 lbs	\$ 13.50	_____	\$ _____
	25 lbs	\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 55.00	_____	\$ _____
Thistle (Niger) seed	10 lbs	\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
	25 lbs	\$ 24.00	_____	\$ _____
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 10.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 38.00	_____	\$ _____
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 12.50	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Songbird Mix	35 lbs	\$ 23.00	_____	\$ _____
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 8.50	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 12.00	_____	\$ _____
Peanuts (in the shell)	25 lbs	\$ 34.00	_____	\$ _____
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 11.00	_____	\$ _____
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
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!

2013 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

Ballots Due December 18

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than **3** candidates for a 2014-2015 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. 18, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 18.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 18.

Jacob Leibel

Thank you for this significant opportunity. My name is Jacob Leibel and I have been a resident of Central Illinois for most of my life, enjoying the wonderful array of outdoor activities provided by the community. Walks through Forest Park, Rocky Glen, Jubilee and along the Rock Island Trail are a few of my favorites. I received my Bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University--Carbondale in 2009 and began a career in resort management. During those years, I was able to travel and experience some of the most beautiful parks and nature preserves our country embraces. My current environmental interests include transitioning communities to renewable energy and sustainable farming. As of now, I volunteer with the Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance, Emiquon Nature Preserve projects, and University of Illinois Extension's Master Naturalist program. As well as attending as many HOI Sierra Club events that are possible. Each season and landscape holds a significant place in my heart, and I hope to give back in stewardship what the land and people have given me through inspiration. I would appreciate your vote so that I can be a new member for the group ExCom board and further help our local environment.

2013 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Jacob Leibel
_____ Robert McCoy
_____ David Pittman

2013 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Jacob Leibel
_____ Robert McCoy
_____ David Pittman

Robert McCoy

I appreciate your support for reelection to the HOI Executive Committee. I have been involved with Sierra for approximately nine years, the last four serving on the HOI Executive Committee as its political chair. I bring nineteen years of experience as a lawyer, focusing in the areas of local government and litigation, and forty-eight years of experience as a lover of nature. I hope to use my legal training and knowledge of the operation of local government to promote the club's environmental advocacy and watchdog efforts here in Central Illinois.

David Pittman

I would like to serve another term on ExCom because the HOI Sierra Club Group is the most powerful force for sustainability and wildlife in our area. The need for unified and effective environmental action in central Illinois has never been greater. Global solutions to challenges of social justice, economic opportunity and sustainability must have local roots. Sierra Club members provide the power with their emails and membership and active involvement to make the world a better place for all living creatures. I am proud to belong to Sierra Club and if re-elected will work very hard to win every battle, meet every challenge and bring more people into activism.

Sierra and Canton Area Citizens Save a Tributary from Strip Mining

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Let's give a big round of applause to the amazing efforts since 2006 by your HOI Group and the Canton Area Citizens for Environmental Issues, organized in 2009, that contested the North Canton strip mine proposal, resulting this year in saving 163.2 acres and an important stream tributary from coal strip mining. Efforts to contest the North Canton Mine Permit took years of work but resulted in the February, 2013, Administrative Review decision denying the mining permit for a tributary stream and its watershed. On June 19, 2013, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), officially signed off on the withdrawal of the 163.2 acres from the mine permit. The tributary that is saved feeds into the West Branch Copperas Creek, which is a key feeder stream to Canton Lake.

HOI and the Canton Citizens continue to press for justice and more protections for Canton Lake, the public water supply

for over half of Fulton County. Currently the part of the mine permit that was continued is being contested in Fulton County Court. A state permit review hearing is also in progress to contest the IDNR renewal of the remaining part of the North Canton Mine permit. It is difficult to understand why the heart of a watershed for a public water supply lake would be considered as a suitable location for a coal strip mine. Strip mining removes topsoil and ground layers down to the coal seam. While top soil is bulldozed back when mining is done, the underground layers are never replaced as nature made them. Critical issues in the North Canton mine proposal are water contamination and pollution levels of several constituents of concern at higher than drinking water quality standards. The mine would also withhold millions of gallons of water that would normally flow to Canton Lake. With weather changes that cen-

tral Illinois is experiencing, including more extended drought, the emphasis should be maximum protections for public water supplies.

The company behind the North Canton Mine is Springfield Coal Company LLC, which has over 600 water permit violations at the Industry strip mine in McDonough County, south of Macomb. This company has a very bad track record regarding permit compliance and we will continue to contest their efforts to strip mine in a public water supply watershed.

Donations to the North Canton Mine legal expense fund are greatly needed. Please send a check to Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 and be sure to note on your check that the donation is for this effort.

HOI Group Calendar

November

**7 THU Global Warming Solutions
Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Rhythm Kitchen, 305 SW Water Street,
Peoria.

11 MON Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Wendy Marquis' home, 13707 N.
Lucerne Dr., Dunlap


20 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Jason Haupt, *Environmental Update from the U of I Extension*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!

December

5 THU Global Warming Solutions
Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
 Rhythm Kitchen, 305 SW Water Street,
 Peoria.


7 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.

9 MON Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Bob and Diane Jorgensen's home, 212
Sunnybrook Dr., East Peoria.

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

January 2014

15 **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center.
 John Marlin, *Silt, the Illinois River, and Mud to Parks*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!

18 SAT **Starved Rock Winter Hike** 

Everyone is invited to participate in our annual winter hike at Starved Rock State Park. We will meet at Forest Park Nature Center at 9 a.m. or meet at the Starved Rock Lodge fireplace by 10:30 a.m. Hiking to last 3+/- hours depending on conditions and weather. Afterwards, we will have lunch at the Lodge if possible or elsewhere according to group input. For more information, call Wendy at 645-6263.

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

Treasurer / Calendars . . Diane Jorgensen 966-2223 mdjorg@comcast.net

2014 Sierra Club Calendars . . .

The Perfect Holiday Gift!

Wilderness Wall Calendar (\$12.95)



Engagement Calendar (\$13.95)

To order, call Diane Jorgensen at 309-966-2223 or email mdjorg@comcast.net. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO. 839

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