

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

#### HOI Group Meetings



**Ecological Issues & Experiences in Bulgaria** Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Michael Brown, Executive Director of the Ecology Action Center in Normal, will talk about Bulgaria's ecological issues and his experiences in that country as a Peace Corps volunteer at Pirin National Park. He currently serves as Chair of the McLean County Greenways Committee, Co-Chair of Stewardship for the Parklands Foundation, and sits on the Lake Bloomington and Evergreen Lake Watershed Plans Oversight Committee. Everyone is welcome.



**Annual Christmas** DEC 17 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 holidaze. 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!

Take Joy! Embrace Hope! This earth is a beautiful place and needs our care and compassion. Happy Holidays Ahead to All from HOI Sierra!



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

2014 A Year of Firsts! New Initiatives for Clean Air, Energy, Water and Habitat Protection

#### BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Some new initiatives highlight the last year and we have some amazing "Firsts" for 2014. This is just a sampling of events and efforts by Heart of Illinois Sierra Group. If you see an issue or activity that interests you, please email us at hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org or phone any of our board members to let us know your interests. We need your help and continued support for our work. Here is a short list of some amazing "Firsts" that HOI accomplished in the last year:

Clean Air - HOI volunteers were part of the first legal challenge on air pollution from the Dynegy Edwards power plant. A delegation of HOI volunteers spoke in Springfield at the Illinois Pollution Control Board hearing on power plant coal ash regulations.

**Clean Energy** - Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance (CIHCA) HOI volunteers were part of first and on-going labor and environmental forums chaired by Senator Dave Koehler and Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth. The HOI Group raised unpaid bond issues resulting in the Industry coal strip permit 16 renewal being denied by IDNR. In February, the HOI Group hosted the Beehive Art Cooperative's dramatic art presentation on the true costs of coal.

Clean Water - At a federal EPA hearing, HOI volunteers supported protection of the Mahomet Aquifer from Peoria Disposal Company's chemical waste dump at

(See 2014 Firsts, page 2)



HOI Sierra Club member Bob Jorgensen helps a young girl look through a microscope in the dropin science class during "Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators Day" on May 24.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



# *Triple Divide* Film Presents Devastation of High Volume Horizontal Fracking

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



# Blowing in the Wind

It's time for America to get smart about energy and become less dependent on fossil fuels. We need to increase our use of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

#### Giving's a Breeze. JOIN Sierra Club.

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone		
Email		
Join today and receiv a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag !	ve	

Check enclosed.	Please mak	e payable to Sierra	Club
Please charge my:	🔲 Visa	Mastercard	
Cardholder Name			
Card Number		Exp. Date	/
Signature			

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	\$ 15	N/A
Standard	🗖 \$ 39	<b>\$</b> 49
Supporting	<b>\$</b> 75	\$ 100
Contributing		\$ 175
Life	\$ 1000	\$ 1250
Senior	\$ 25	\$ 35
Student	\$ 25	\$ 35
Limited Income	<b>\$</b> 25	\$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy & lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine & \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club, PO Box 421041 Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041 or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org LaSalle County Resident Speaks on Frac Sand Mining Destruction

#### BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Nearly 100 Peoria area residents attended the documentary film "Triple Divide" at Illinois Central College October 28th, which was sponsored by Global Village, Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste, Illinois Central College student environmental group and HOI Sierra. CI-HCA, and other groups participated in tabling at the event. The movie detailed air and water pollution from fracking in Pennsylvania and told the stories of numerous families whose water, health and lives were ruined by nearby fracking.

LaSalle County resident Rick Coleman spoke as part of a panel after the film. He talked about the huge expansion of sand mines in LaSalle County and how the dust, noise, and land destruction are changing the very nature of the area. He is fighting to protect his farm and water resources. Many of his neighbors have lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in property values and many have moved away. There are ongoing risks to the local groundwater, area health, potential harm to Starved Rock State Park east canyons, and to the Illinois River. Much of LaSalle County is in the HOI Group area.

Typical fracking wells can use over 4 million gallons of fresh water per day. Fracking can use over 10,000 tons of the highest quality silica sand per well. This special sand is found in northern Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. Sand mining expansion is part of the environmental harm from the fracking boom. The huge quarry type pits dug to remove the sand remain after mining and are part of the land devastation from fracking.



Chris Golden circulated petitions and set up tabling for HOI at the "Triple Divide" film on fracking.

#### (2014 Firsts, from page 1)

Clinton. Volunteers displayed the impact of toxic coal ash in our water on Earth Day and at the Peoria Clean Water Celebration.

**Habitat Protection** - The Peoria Riverfront Museum and the HOI Sierra Group hosted "Monarch Butterflies and other Pollinators Day" May 24th at the Riverfront Museum. Table displays from the HOI Group and other organizations offered close looks at honeybee keeping, moths, monarchs and other butterflies, insects, hummingbirds and native bees.

HOI volunteers participated in a reduced roadside mowing program in Peoria County for enhancing native plants.



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 3, 2014
Pickup Day:	Saturday, December 6, 2014, 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 6, 2014.

Reminder: I purchased \_\_\_\_\_bags of \_\_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_\_ For Dickup

\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_

X----- Mail bottom with check ----- Keep top ------

Type of Seed	Size	Price	Quantity	Total Price
Sunflower (oil)	25 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 28.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 55.00		
Thistle (Niger) Seed	10 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 23.00		
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 8.50		
	50 lbs	\$ 35.00		
Premium Mix	25 lbs	\$ 12.50		
	50 lbs	\$ 19.00		
Songbird Mix	35 lbs	\$ 21.00		
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.00		
Peanuts (no shell)	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
Peanuts (in the shell)	25 lbs	\$ 34.00		
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 19.00		
Suet Cakes	box of 1 doz.	\$ 15.00		

**Check one:** Pick-up Delivery

**Total Amount Due** 

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L Delivery

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Mail order form and check for amount due to:	NAME
Heart of Illinois Sierra Club P.O. Box 3593	ADDRESS
Peoria, IL 61612	CITY, ZIP
Thank you for supporting the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!	TELEPHONE
	Optional: Send me an email reminder on December 4 to pick up my birdseed
	EMAIL

#### 2014 HOI Excom Election: Ballots Due December 17 **Rules and Procedures**

- You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote. 1.
- Vote for up to 4 candidates for a 2015-2016 term to the Heart of 2. Illinois Executive Committee.
- Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2. 3. 4
  - Mail ballot(s) to: Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593

Peoria, IL 61612

- Write the name of the voting member(s) on the outside of the 5. envelope containing the ballot. Ballots must arrive at the Sierra Club's mailbox by Dec. 17, or 6.
- can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 17.
- 7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 17.

#### **Joyce Blumenshine**

HOI Group has some major challenges ahead with ongoing work on clean air and energy efforts in our local area, monitoring the city county landfill expansion, and a host of other issues. We are often so busy with environmental demands that we don't reach out enough to our membership. My hopes are to find ways to connect better with our members and increase participation in our group. HOI is an essential voice for the environment in Illinois. We are part of the important Sierra Club state and national work to address climate change by focusing on the worst carbon dioxide polluters: coal fired power plants. We need to continue this work locally and regionally and your support and continued membership is needed to do this. I would appreciate your vote for the HOI Board and will make every effort to continue the best work I can on behalf of HOI and our families and our future.

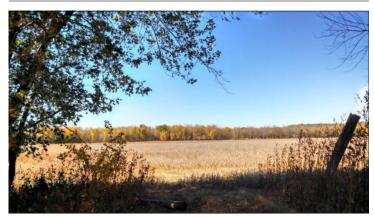
#### **Dave Grebner**

As a Heart of Illinois Sierra Club member since 1976, I have participated in numerous efforts to protect and improve the health of our land, air and water, and the integrity of our natural areas. Ultimately, I believe that environmental protection is about protecting ourselves, because our well-being is woven in with that of the environment around us. I have served several terms on the executive committee in the past, and would welcome the chance to do so again as a way to help the club and serve our larger community. The only thing more important that enjoying nature is working to protect it. Thank you.

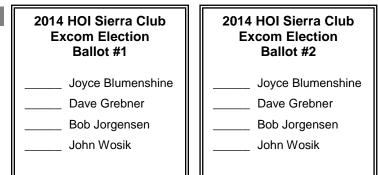




Rumor has it progress continues for protection of 565 acres near Banner, including Illinois river floodplain lands and some upland forest and potential Indiana Bat habitat. Be sure to watch for the January-February 2015 Tallgrass Sierran eNewsletter for the full story!



Banner flood plain lands viewed from what is left of the historic Prairie Lane Road off of the Banner Dike Road.

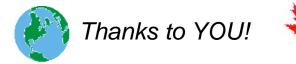


#### Bob Jorgensen

There are always opportunities and challenges in the environmental arena. After serving on the HOI ex-com for 10 years I'm proud of all the club has done. I have been only a small part of these accomplishments, but I have been thrilled to be a help to those more environmentally savvy than myself. The Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign has been making some significant strides. We now have an offshoot called CIHCA working with other groups in the community, including labor, to improve our air quality. I would encourage you all to get involved with HOI or other groups to help preserve our planet for the seventh generation coming after you. I appreciate your support in continuing to work with this great ex-com group of environmentalists.

#### 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.



Greatest thanks to all of you Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club members! It is your annual membership donations to Sierra Club that enable so much of Sierra Club's ongoing essential work to protect our environment for our families and for our future. We hope as autumn moves to winter that you find moments to pause and enjoy a brisk breeze, rays of sunshine, or a bit of outdoors beauty. Take heart and be encouraged that as a group our efforts add up and are making progress for the environment and for us all.

#### Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 Web: http://illinois.sierraclub.org/hoi Email: hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org				
web: http://iiinois.sier	raciub.org/noi Email: noi@	innois.sierraciub.org		
Chair / Cons. Co-Chair	Joyce Blumenshine 688-0950	joblumen@yahoo.com		
Vice-Chair	Robert Jorgensen 453-5431	jestpr@aol.com		
Secretary / Outings Chair	Wendy Marquis			
Cons. Co-Chair/Mbrship	David Pittman 676-5237	dvdpttmn@aol.com		
Newsletter Ed. / Website	John Wosik 222-2519	johnwosik@comcast.net		
Political Chair	Robert McCoy 243-2910	robertbmccoy@msn.com		
Membership Chair	Chris Golden			
Treasurer	Diane Jorgensen 966-2223	mdjorg@comcast.net		

## -HOI Group Calendar

### November

- 5 WED Global Warming Solutions Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Oliver's Pizza & Pub, 1231 East Samuel Avenue, Peoria Heights.
- 11<br/>TUECentral IL Healthy Community<br/>Alliance Meeting, 7 p.m.<br/>Universalist Unitarian Church, 3000 W<br/>Richwoods Blvd, Peoria6<br/>SAT
- **12** WED Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Joyce Blumenshine's home, 2419 E. 9 Reservoir Blvd, Peoria
- HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m. Michael Brown, *Ecological Issues & Experiences in Bulgaria*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!





- 3 WED Global Warming Solutions Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Oliver's Pizza & Pub, 1231 East Samuel Avenue, Peoria Heights.
  - 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.

- Central IL Healthy Community Alliance Meeting, 7 p.m. Universalist Unitarian Church, 3000 W Richwoods Blvd, Peoria
- Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
  John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap.

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

### January 2015

17 Starved Rock Winter Hike



Everyone is invited to participate in our annual winter hike at Starved Rock State Park. Meet at Forest Park Nature Center in Peoria Heights at 9 a.m. for the trip to Starved Rock, or meet at the Starved Rock Lodge fireplace by 10:30 a.m. Hiking will last approximately 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.

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

#### **Transportation Open House**

Nov. 18 5-7:30 p.m. - Five Points Washington Nov. 20 5-7:30 p.m. - Gateway Building, Peoria

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is hosting 2 open houses to help develop a Long Range Transportation Plan for the Peoria area. The open houses are designed to gather your thoughts on how our regional transportation system can be improved in the future.

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