

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2014 Volume 42 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 19

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.*

WED
DEC 17

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!

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 drop-in science class during "Monarch Butterflies and Other Pollinators Day" on May 24.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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 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 ____ / ____

Signature _____

Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15	N/A
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
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"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 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

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or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

Triple Divide Film Presents Devastation of High Volume Horizontal Fracking

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.



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 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 _____
_____ bags of _____ _____ bags of _____

For ☐ Pickup
☐ Delivery

✂----- 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 \$ _____

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!

Optional: Send me an email reminder on December 4 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL _____

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

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 4 candidates for a 2015-2016 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. 17, or 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 than enjoying nature is working to protect it. Thank you.

2014 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Dave Grebner
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ John Wosik

2014 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Dave Grebner
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ John Wosik

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.



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.



Thanks to YOU!



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

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	...	dvdptmn@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 TUE** **Central IL Healthy Community Alliance Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Universalist Unitarian Church, 3000 W Richwoods Blvd, Peoria
- 12 WED** **Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
Joyce Blumenshine's home, 2419 E. Reservoir Blvd, Peoria
- 19 WED** **HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Michael Brown, *Ecological Issues & Experiences in Bulgaria*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!



December

- 3 WED** **Global Warming Solutions Group Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
Oliver's Pizza & Pub, 1231 East Samuel Avenue, Peoria Heights.
- 6 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 TUE** **Central IL Healthy Community Alliance Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Universalist Unitarian Church, 3000 W Richwoods Blvd, Peoria
- 10 WED** **Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap.
- 17 WED** **Annual Christmas Potluck & Slides Party, 6:30 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center. See front page for more information.



January 2015

- 17 SAT** **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.