

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2015

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 ♦ hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org

HOI Group Meetings

WED
Nov 18

**Rachel Carson:
Her Life and Legacy**

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Using biographical information, excerpts from Rachel Carson's books, and current events, Tracy Fox will share a presentation on Ms. Carson's accomplishments and why they continue to inspire environmental activists today. Rachel Carson is the author of *Silent Spring*, a 1962 book which led to the banning of the pesticide DDT in the U.S. *Everyone is welcome.*

WED
DEC 16

**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 . . .



**Order Your
2016 Sierra
Club Calendars**



Bird Seed Order Form

City of Peoria Public Meeting on Riverfront Park "Replacement Property" November 4th

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

As the saying goes, lipstick on a pig is still a pig. How is the proposed Peoria City Hall "replacement property" for the current Riverfront Park like lipstick on a pig? For starters, much of it floods. Given the increasing number of Peoria flood events beyond expected spring and fall floods, a large portion of the proposed property may not be accessible to the public for numerous weeks through the year. Yes, it is a really good idea to have flood prone land safe from development, but can citizens count on the city to keep the land as a park? What is the next land swap the city may dream up for more development verses public open space along the Peoria Riverfront? Where are

the hundreds of thousands of dollars coming from to rehab the proposed acres to make them usable by the public? No funding was budgeted for reclaiming this replacement property.

The overriding issues remain. Selling public park land for private, for-profit development is unacceptable. The HOI Board revisited this issue at their October ExCom and remains opposed to this development. Please let your Peoria City Council Representative know your continued concerns about this project. If you live outside of Peoria, send a note to the Peoria Mayor's office or a letter to the Peoria Journal Star and help keep opposition to this project visible.



This is part of the riverfront land the city of Peoria plans as a replacement for the current Riverfront Park, which will be sold for privately developed apartments.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Supporting Sustainable Agriculture

BY CHRIS GOLDEN

The Heart of Illinois Group took action to support Sun Dappled Farms, a small, local, chemical free farm in Peoria County near Farmington. Akron Services, Inc., has plans to redevelop and expand an old grain elevator next door to the farm. The agribusiness corporation, with three existing facilities in Peoria County, filed a zoning request to enable them to add large chemical and fertilizer storage and services. Owners of the farm have concerns that these plans will affect their business. The HOI Group Executive Committee approved sending an e-mail alert to the Group members in Peoria County to let them know how they could help. They also sent a letter to the Peoria County Zoning Board of Appeals to express the Group's concerns, including that the zoning request did not fit with the Peoria County Comprehensive Plan.

Sun Dappled Farms includes a market garden, grass fed livestock, orchard enter-

prises and a vacation rental/farm tourism business. In recent years they have planted fruit and nut trees in a perennial agriculture system that produces local food while sequestering carbon and providing a haven for bees, butterflies and other wildlife. Sun Dappled Farms also provides sustainable agriculture education and field learning opportunities. It is a case study site for the Savanna Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to developing restorative, savanna-based agricultural systems through research, education and outreach.

Concerns expressed by the farm owners included: an estimated 2,200 semi-truck round trips in the first year alone creating noise from braking and accelerating as well as diesel fumes, chemical dangers from the storage of a large quantity of anhydrous ammonia just steps from where they live and work, grain dust, noise from grain dryers, and bright security lights at night.

Following a hearing by the county Zoning Board of Appeals and then the county Land Use Committee, both recommending approval of the Akron Services request, the matter went to the Peoria County Board. After hearing public comments at their meeting on October 8th, the county board voted to approve the request.

Thank you to those who sent e-mails to officials, signed the farm's on-line petition, attended hearings or offered public comment in support of Sun Dappled Farms. Learn more at the Sun Dappled Farms Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sundappledfarms and their HomeAway restored farm house rental at www.homeaway.com/vacation-rental/p367103.

Please support sustainable agriculture in YOUR community and eat local.

HOI Group Talks to 5th Graders About Rain Barrels

BY BOB JORGENSEN

HOI Group members John Wosik and Bob Jorgensen talked to Tazewell County 5th graders about the benefits of using rain barrels at the Environmental Education Day on October 8th at the Avanti's Dome in Pekin. This is the 5th year in a row the HOI Group has participated in the event, sponsored by the Tazewell County Health Department. Twenty organizations participated, including Wildlife Prairie Park, Forest Park Nature Center, Peoria Riverfront Museum, HOI Beekeepers, and the Prairie Dawgs.

The HOI display featured a miniature working model of water flowing out of a rain gutter into two connected rain barrels. A small pump continuously cycled the water in a loop through the display. We also had two full size rain barrels as examples so students could relate the working model to the real thing.

We gave our presentation about rain barrels to 11 different classes, each class rotating every 20 minutes among the different exhibits. We covered general information on what rain barrels are, how they work, and how to make or buy one.

Another important part of our program was about the environmental benefits of using rain barrels. We wanted to let the students know that they can save water that is good for a garden, slows erosion by reducing the amount of water running away from the house, and keeps some pollutants from reaching the river because the total amount of water flowing to the river at one time is reduced. Our program was well received and we plan to participate again next year



HOI Group member Bob Jorgensen talked to 5th graders about rain barrels at the Environmental Education Day on October 8th at the Avanti's Dome in Pekin.

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612

Web: sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois Email: hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org

Chair / Chapter Delegate	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950	joblumen@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair	David Grebner	688-3908	
Secretary	Chris Golden		petalnrose@gmail.com
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Newsletter Editor / Website	John Wosik	222-2519	robertbmccoy@msn.com
Political Chair	Robert McCoy	243-2910	jestpr@aol.com
	Robert Jorgensen		

Treasurer / Calendars Diane Jorgensen 966-2223 jestpr@hotmail.com





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, 2015

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 5, 2015, 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 5, 2015.

Reminder: I purchased _____ bags of _____ **For** ☐ Pickup
 _____ bags of _____ ☐ Delivery

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

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal	Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 11.00			White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 6.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00				25 lbs	\$ 10.00		
Striped Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 18.00				50 lbs	\$ 18.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 30.00			Peanuts in Shell	5 lbs	\$ 9.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 12.00				25 lbs	\$ 33.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 27.00				50 lbs	\$ 60.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 50.00			Peanuts No Shell	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
Wild Bird Mix	25 lbs	\$ 11.00				25 lbs	\$ 28.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00				50 lbs	\$ 50.00		
Songbird Mix	20 lbs	\$ 13.00			Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 8.00		
	35 lbs	\$ 20.00				50 lbs	\$ 13.00		
Niger (Thistle)	10 lbs	\$ 14.00			Shelled Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 30.00				50 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 55.00			Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 9.00				50 lbs	\$ 18.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 20.00			Fruit and Nut Mix	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 32.00				20 lbs	\$ 22.00		
No Waste Mix	20 lbs	\$ 14.00			Suet Cakes	1 dozen	\$ 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!

Optional: Send me an email reminder on December 3 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL _____

2015 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures **Ballots Due December 16**

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 3 candidates for a 2016-2017 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. 16, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 16.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 16.

Robin Garlish.

My name is Robin Garlish. Most importantly, I am a mother of 2 wonderful children. My son is currently practicing law in Scottsdale Arizona and my daughter is a senior at Pekin Community High School, and an advocate and volunteer for Sierra Club, CIHCA and Moms Clean Air Force.

I currently represent, advocate and volunteer with Sierra Club's HOI Local, Sierra Club's State, and Federal Chapters; advocate and volunteer with Moms Clean Air Force - MCAF, current member Envir./Labor Group and Senator Dave Koehler's "Environmental/Labor - Monthly Meeting". I am one of the founding members of CIHCA - Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance (which includes advocates from "League of Women Voters," "Free Trade - Peoria," "Families Against Toxic Waste," "Interfaith Alliance," and many others. And, we have been honored to have some of PCHS students helping us on different events over the last 4 years!

During childhood you could always find different rocks, acorns, and sticks from hiking in my pockets. (My mother had to carefully watch the laundry for fear of the health of her washing machine.)

Through the course of my life I have hiked most of the Sierra Nevada - from Lake Tahoe to the foothills of San Francisco, the northern California redwoods, Grand Canyon and most of Arizona's national and state canyons and parks, many of Pennsylvania's state and national parks, Maine, and many, many more. I plan to continue these adventures throughout the rest of my life - as the beauty of our land is in my heart!

I am currently HOI Sierra Club's Local Executive Member - Conservation Chairperson (covering 17 counties). I am so forever grateful for the people that I have met since walking through the doors at Forest Park Nature Center for a public Sierra Club meeting some years ago. And, I would love to continue this. My arms are always open to

2015 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Robin Garlish
_____ Chris Golden
_____ Diane Jorgensen

2015 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Robin Garlish
_____ Chris Golden
_____ Diane Jorgensen

help with our earth and our future generations! Sincerely, Robin Garlish.

Chris Golden

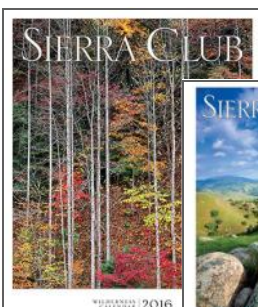
I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 2004 because I enjoy nature, am concerned about the environment, want to be better informed about the issues and learn how I can help. In the past I served three years as treasurer of the HOI Group, then last year was asked to serve on the Executive Committee when a vacancy arose. I currently serve as its secretary and would like to continue on the ex-com to do what I can to support the excellent and important work done by HOI Group. I encourage you to support these efforts also by doing what you can whether it be attending Group meetings or outings, assisting at educational events, voicing your concerns to government officials or one of the many other ways to get involved. As a member of the Executive Committee I will continue to work to support the Group and it's much needed voice for the environment in the area and state.

Diane Jorgensen

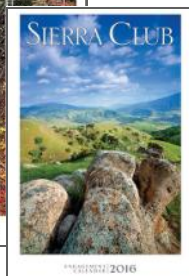
I am concerned about the environment, the use of natural resources and the preservation of natural habitats. As a nature lover I want future generations to have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate the sights and sounds of wildlife, waterfalls, running streams and rivers, to stand in awe of panoramic views, and to have clean air and water. This is why I have always tried to be an active participant in recycling and reusing, a supportive member of organizations, such as, Sierra Club, and a participant in such activities as the River Sweep. Through Sierra Club I have become more educated about our environment and the need to be vigilant. It would be an honor to be considered as a member of HOI Sierra Club Executive Committee.

2016 Sierra Club Calendars . . . The Perfect Holiday Gift!

Wilderness Wall Calendar (\$13.95)



Engagement Calendar (\$14.95)



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

Joy and Resolve as We Move to the End of 2015 and on to the New Year

If you feel worn and weary from the disasters around the world and problems around you, take a moment to step outside: turn your face to the sun or take a deep breath and think about Joy and Resolve. Joy is with us in each breath of wind and glimmer of sun. Resolve is with us as part of Sierra Club to make a difference for a healthier planet.

As difficult as the present and future seem, you can help and we are collectively making a difference to protect our environment for our families and for our future. Thank you for your Sierra Club membership which goes to fund National Sierra efforts on all our behalf. Thank you for your interest in Heart of Illinois Group.

Your membership and participation in whatever way works best for you is greatly needed!

HOI Group Calendar

November

4 WED Central IL Healthy Community Alliance Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Universalist Unitarian Church, 3000 W Richwoods Blvd, Peoria

7 SAT River Science Lab and River Walk, 3:30 p.m.
Join Dave Grebner at the Peoria Riverfront Museum for hands-on activities in its River Science Lab, including the Stream Table, then continue at 4:30 p.m. with a walk along the riverfront trail, dinner afterward optional. Anyone attending is welcome to come earlier to tour other exhibits in the museum on their own. Museum members can come free-of-charge. Others may purchase admission for \$11 (adults), \$10 (seniors), \$9 (children).

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

18 WED HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
Tracy Fox, *Rachel Carson: Her Life and Legacy*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!

December

2 WED Central IL Healthy Community Alliance Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Universalist Unitarian Church, 3000 W Richwoods Blvd, Peoria

5 SAT HOI Bird Seed Sale Pickup, 9 to 11 a.m.
Pick up your birdseed order at the Kelly Seed and Hardware parking lot, 202 Hamilton Blvd., Peoria.

16 WED Annual Christmas Potluck & 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.)

Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry: An Exhibit at the Chillicothe Public Library, Nov. 4 to Dec. 18 (430 N Bradley Ave, Chillicothe)

Nov. 12, 6:30 p.m. - Drought in the Great Plains

Join biologist Dr. Jan Gehring (Bradley University) as she explores patterns of drought in the Great Plains from prehistoric times to today, and what current climate models predict about drought in the future. Registration appreciated. Call 309-274-2719.

Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. - Day of Dirt

Get down and dirty as we celebrate soil and learn about its importance for many aspects of life on earth. There will be something for everyone to enjoy in this day-long event! Make sure to visit the information tables where you can learn about soil-related topics, and explore the hands-on activities and learning experiences. Registration for programs requested, but not required. Call the library at 309-274-2719.

Check <http://dust2015.weebly.com> for more events and information.

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HEART OF ILLINOIS
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