

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2016

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 16

The Role of Soils in a Changing Climate

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Dr. Sherri Morris, Chair and Professor of Biology and Co-Director of Center for STEM Education at Bradley University, will discuss soil carbon dynamics in the context of the changing climate and specifically her research on land use change.

Soils, our most valuable natural resource, will play a role in determining the extent and impacts of global climate change. Soils can absorb or emit carbon or other greenhouse gases depending on the soil characteristics, moisture content and the temperature of the ecosystem. The degree to which disturbed and native soils act as sinks or sources for carbon must be better understood so that we can adequately model climate change and develop management strategies that favor carbon storage.

WED
DEC 21

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. The Nature Center will be decked for the season, and this is a great chance to enjoy a relaxing evening during the holiday. Bring some friends! Hot and cold drinks will be provided. You will need your own table service and a good appetite! A laptop and projector will be available for showing a sampling of slides after dinner, and you will see your fellow friends and Sierrans in action!

Inside . . .



Bird Seed Order Form

Powerton Power Plant IEPA Air Pollution Permit Hearing

Tuesday, November 15th 7 p.m.
Miller Senior Center, 551 S. 14th St, Pekin

We Need YOU at this Important Public Hearing!

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Your opportunity to comment on your concerns for area air quality will be at the Powerton coal-fired power plant permit hearing November 15th. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency will be holding this public hearing to take comments and questions regarding their proposed draft CAAPP/Clean Air Act Pollution Permit for this 1970s plant.

An information meeting about concerns regarding this permit and what to expect at the public hearing will be held Wednesday, November 9th at 6:30 p.m. at

the Pekin Public Library, 301 South 4th Street, Pekin, for those concerned about clean air issues and who are interested in attending the public hearing.

The public hearing notice and link for the technical permit documents are available on the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.illinois.gov/Assets/iepa/public-notices/2016/powerton-generating-station/hearing-notice.pdf>.

The Powerton Plant has been undergoing upgrades for new air pollution controls. It has consistently been one of the largest area polluters of carbon dioxide, and in 2006 put 9,140,631 tons of CO₂ into the air. A 2010 study for the Clean Air Task Force estimated pollution from this plant leads to 79 heart attacks, 51 deaths, 860 asthma attacks, 54 asthma ER visits, and 37 hospitalizations a year.



Powerton coal-fired power plant near Pekin



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Open Burning Hazards in East Peoria

BY BOB JORGENSEN

Does the practice of burning yard waste in the City of East Peoria need to end? What are the reasons to stop this practice in our city? One reason is because the practice of outdoor burning of leaves, grass, and branches releases CO₂ into the atmosphere. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that is causing the warming of the Earth. This is changing our climate causing weather to be more intense, making temperatures, rainfalls, and droughts, more extreme. Did you know that each of the last 16 months has been the warmest ever recorded? These are longer term affects of burning organic matter that could be used as mulch or making of helpful compost material.

A more immediate effect of burning these materials is the adverse health issues it can cause for ourselves and our neighbors. The burning of yard waste causes smoke, some very dark and thick. This smoke causes soot and particulate matter or PM, to be released into the air because the leaves etcetera are not burned completely. These tiny particles can cause a number of health problems. They can reduce lung capacity and harm the lung's ability to use the air. They trigger asthma attacks. They get into the blood stream through the lungs and increase the risk of heart problems for those that have heart issues. Naturally the people that are hurt the most are the young, with smaller lungs, and the old with lungs that have, over the years, breathed in smoke and chemicals from other sources in their lifetimes. Those that have developed problems like asthma, emphysema, or bronchitis are most at risk. In addition to particulate matter the smoke also contains dioxins, nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, and other volatile organic compounds. The smoke from open burning can be just as dangerous as the smoke from cigarettes.

Even if you don't worry about the problems that open burning causes, shouldn't the city think of all its citizens? Please consider the health of the planet, children and the elderly, and your neighbors with respiratory problems. Please encourage the city to ban open burning.

Save Riverfront Park Battle Continues



Peoria Riverfront Park

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please phone U.S. Representative Darin LaHood 309-671-7027 to let him know that you want the Peoria City Riverfront Park to remain public open space and you strongly oppose his efforts to push the National Park Service to approve the sale of the park for private apartment buildings. Call state Representative David Leitch 309-690-7373 with the same message. The Friends of Riverfront Park continue their efforts to challenge errors in the City of Peoria land conversion application. An attorney hired by the group is reviewing sections that do not comply with federal regulations. Any donation toward legal defense for the park will help. Checks can be made out to 'Friends of Riverfront Park' and mailed to:

Attn: Elaine Hopkins
Treasurer
1825 East Maple Ridge
Peoria, IL 61614

Please Call Representative Cheri Bustos with Thanks for being a RECLAIM ACT Co-Sponsor!

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please phone U.S. Rep. Cheri Bustos (Peoria office at 309-966-1813) and thank her for signing on to the RECLAIM Act. This bipartisan bill will bring essential funding to states with pre-regulation coal mine impacts and provide new job opportunities that can clean-up existing contaminated land or bring development to mine brownfields. This legislation will free up millions of dollars of existing funds for reclamation of abandoned mine lands giving coal mining areas support for economic diversity and jobs.

The U.S. Congress will resume in December, and there may be a chance to pass the RECLAIM Act, House Bill 4456. Call Rep. Darin LaHood (Peoria office at 309-671-7027) and ask that he sign on as a co-sponsor of the RECLAIM Act. His district has many abandoned mine land areas and could really benefit from this bi-partisan legislation.



Construction has started on the Sandy Creek Lane LLC hog confinement facility in Marshall County near Wenona. The facility will house 20,000 head of swine. A local group, Save Our Sandy, has been fighting the proposed facility for the last two years. Their biggest concern is hog waste from the facility leaking into nearby waterways, including Sandy Creek. Unfortunately, the Illinois Department of Agriculture approved construction of the facility. The Marshall County Board voted to oppose the facility but they have no authority over it's construction.



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 1, 2016

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 3, 2016, 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 3, 2016.

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

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

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 21.00		
Striped Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 17.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 30.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 14.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 30.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 50.00		
Wild Bird Mix	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Songbird Mix	20 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	35 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Niger (Thistle)	10 lbs	\$ 14.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 30.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 55.00		
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 19.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 32.00		
No Waste Mix	20 lbs	\$ 15.00		

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 5.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 10.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 18.00		
Peanuts in Shell	5 lbs	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 35.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 62.00		
Peanuts No Shell	10 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 28.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 50.00		
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 8.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 13.00		
Shelled Corn	25 lbs	\$ 7.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 12.00		
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 18.00		
Fruit and Nut Mix	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	20 lbs	\$ 22.00		
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 1 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL _____

2016 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

Ballots Due December 21

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 4 candidates for a 2017-2018 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. 21, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 21.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 21.

Joyce Blumenshine

Think Globally: Act Locally is still true and we need to continue the important work of HOI Group in our area environmental concerns. If we do not act locally, who will? HOI Sierra is way more than a social club or a monthly program group. We tackle tough local political issues. We also need to continue action on larger issues with our Chapter and National Sierra. HOI has stood up in the past and continues work to Save Riverfront Park, fight local air pollution, monitor local landfill concerns, participate in public education through the Clean Water Celebration and other events, and take part in the many, many ways you all as volunteers make possible. Climate change is here and the time to act on cutting CO2 was years ago but we have to do more now. The next years will be challenging for HOI to find active members who will step up and help with the work of the group. Your support and membership dues are essential in enabling ongoing efforts for HOI. We have had many successes with our local partners such as stopping the hazardous waste landfill expansion, stopping the Banner Mine and the North Canton Mine, and reducing the size of the new Peoria City-County Landfill, but many environmental problems are out there that need attention. I have had the honor of serving with the HOI Board and would appreciate your vote to continue every effort as best possible to protect our environment for our families and for our future.

Bob Jorgensen

There are always opportunities and challenges in the environmental arena. After serving on the HOI ex-com for over 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 HOI Sierra Club has an off shoot group called Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance or CIHCA, that is working with labor and other groups to improve the air quality in central Illinois. I would encourage you all to get involved with HOI

2016 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Matt Ryan
_____ John Wosik

2016 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Joyce Blumenshine
_____ Bob Jorgensen
_____ Matt Ryan
_____ John Wosik

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.

Matt Ryan

My name is Matt Ryan. I am no relation to the Matt Ryan who owned a tavern in Peoria, nor am I related to Jim, Jack or George Ryan. I have served on the Board of Trustees of the Peoria Park District for 13 years. I am also currently serving on the board of the Springdale Cemetery Management Authority and I have been fighting for years to preserve the Sidney L. Esslinger Savanna in the cemetery from destruction. I also serve on the Peoria Riverfront Museum Associate Board. In 2014 I was appointed by the Governor to the Illinois River Coordinating Council. I also have an application pending with the Illinois Environmental Council. I have participated in many tree plantings and river clean up with the Living Lands and Waters organization and many past Illinois River Sweep work days. I have been supporting the addition of Rocky Glen into the Peoria Park District and a behind the scenes supporter of Save Peoria's Riverfront. My long term goal is to establish a Land Conservation Trust for the greater Peoria area.

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.

Thanks! Giving Joy and Year-End Peace and Hope!

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Thank YOU to each and every Heart of Illinois Group Sierra member! Your membership enables the ongoing work of Sierra Club on critical environmental issues of our time. We need each and every one of you! Please consider becoming more active with HOI in the New Year ahead. Check our website and calendar online for topics and meetings and join with others in efforts for a cleaner and healthier environment.

Heart of Illinois Sierra sends warm wishes for a Happy and Peaceful year end to all. We wish you renewed energy and spirit for the New Year ahead! Each day, each of us are given gifts of sunshine or shadow, warm or cool breezes, a patch of green or a collage of brown. Nature surrounds us with her beauty and wonders. Pause and stretch. Take a big breath. Take joy that the future is before us with every opportunity to be part of life on this amazing planet: say a kind word; notice something new; reduce, re-use and recycle and mindfully take steps to make a positive environmental impact. As the Sierra Club mission says: Protect the Environment for Our Families and for Our Future! We Can Do It! Onward!

MORE SLOWLY

Most of all,
I love the patience of the forest:
no matter how long I stare
the hickories are still immense,
still green,
but in a hundred years
they will be soil.

If only we could go back
and move through our years
more slowly,
man and dog like the trees, savoring
the Sun and rain for uncounted years,
until they become what gave them birth,
then start over again.

Copyright © 6 July 2014 by Dave Grebner

HOI Group Calendar

November



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

9 WED Info Session: Powerton Air Permit Hearing, 6:30 p.m.
Pekin Public Library, 301 S 4th St, Pekin. The Illinois EPA is holding a public hearing on the Powerton coal fired power plant's clean air permit on November 15th in Pekin. We'll have an info meeting for those that want to learn more about the permitting process. Contact Ellizabeth Scrafford at elizabeth.scrafford@sierraclub.org for more info.

15 TUE Powerton Air Permit Hearing, 7 p.m.
Miller Senior Center, 551 S 14th St, Pekin. The Illinois EPA is holding a public hearing on the Powerton coal fired power plant's clean air permit. *This is your chance to speak up for clean air!*
This is not a Sierra Club event.

16 WED HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m.
Dr. Sherri Morris, *The Role of Soils in a Changing Climate*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!

December

3 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.

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



January 2017



22 SUN Starved Rock Winter Hike, 8 a.m.
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 8 a.m. for the trip to Starved Rock, or meet at the Starved Rock Lodge fireplace by 9:30 a.m. Hiking will last approximately 3 hours, depending on conditions and weather. Afterwards, we will have lunch at the Starved Rock Lodge. RSVP to John Wosik (johnwosik@comcast.net or 309-222-2519) by January 20th.



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612

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

Chair	Joyce Blumenshine . . . 309-688-0950	joblumen@yahoo.com
Vice-Chair	Robert Jorgensen	jestpr@aol.com
Secretary	Chris Golden	
Conservation Chair / Chapter Del.	Robin Garlish	petalnrose@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor / Website	John Wosik 309-222-2519	johnwosik@comcast.net
Treasurer	Diane Jorgensen 309-966-2223	jestpr@hotmail.com
	David Grebner	309-688-3908

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PEORIA, ILLINOIS
PERMIT NO. 839

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