

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2017

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 15

Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Roger Halleen and 28 other advocates for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease spent 4 days and 3 nights hiking the Inca trail to Machu Picchu. Roger will share his stories and photos of the amazing hike and the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu, the city of Cusco, and the surrounding area. The amazing architecture, construction of stone buildings that have stood for over 800 years, combined with the scenery of the Andes Mountains and a 5,000 ft. climb left the advocates breathless at times.

WED
DEC 20

Annual Holiday 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 with 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!

WED
JAN 17

John Muir and American Conservation

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Mark Golden will present a biography of John Muir, a summary of a 4-week OLLI (Osher Lifelong Learning Institute) study group. Come and learn about the life of the founder of the Sierra Club and his impact on American conservation.

Inside . . .



Bird Seed
Order Form

Dynegy Coal-Fired Power Plants Gutting Air Regulations

ALERT: Action Needed Now!

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Texas based Dynegy, Inc. is moving to gut clean air regulations for its coal-fired Illinois power plants and at the same time push for special funding from the Illinois Legislature. Your calls and emails are needed now to let your state Representative, Senator, and Governor Rauner know that you oppose these requests. Since November of 2016, Dynegy has met behind closed doors at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to get air standards for its power plants weakened. If they succeed, highly polluting plants like Edwards south of Peoria can run more without any concerns for reaching the new permit lev-

els. See the Chicago Tribune story "Pollution could increase as Rauner EPA moves to rescue coal plants". Dynegy is also working to get special funding support to prop up their aged fleet of Illinois coal plants, which are not financially able to compete with gas and renewable energy like wind and solar. For more information see Crain's Chicago Business article "More power bailout talk in Springfield".

Please phone your state Representative and Senator and ask that they vote no on any Dynegy bail-out legislation. This company has repeatedly claimed economic hardship as an excuse to have its pollution regulations weakened and now it

(See *Dynegy* page 2)



The E.D. Edwards coal-fired power plant near Bartonville



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

or visit our website: www.sierraclub.org

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(Dynergy, from page 1)

wants financial help. These plants are a huge burden on public health because of the pollution they emit. Phone Governor Rauner and ask that he deny air permit changes that increase the pollution caps for Dynergy coal-fired power plants.

Phone numbers for Peoria area state legislators and Governor Rauner are below.

Senator Dave Koehler	217-782-8250
Senator Chuck Weaver	217-782-1942
Rep. Jehan Gordon-Booth	217-782-3186
Rep. Ryan Spain	217-782-8108
Governor Bruce Rauner	217- 782-0244

This year your Heart of Illinois Group of the Sierra Club:

- Will hold 9 Group meetings, including a Holiday Potluck, with speakers on topics including recycling, community supported agriculture, the Illinois Clean Power Plan, the Food Recovery Program, Peoria water issues, Utah, and Machu Picchu.
- Talked to students about the impact of climate change on the oceans at the Clean Water Celebration and the Tazewell County Environmental Education day.
- Published 6 email and 1 print newsletters.
- Along with Friends of Riverfront Park and other local organizations, fought the City of Peoria's plans to build private apartments in Riverfront Park.
- With Central Illinois Healthy Community Alliance, worked toward closing the E.D. Edwards power plant and for cleaner Central Illinois air.
- Lobbied our local state legislators for laws to protect the environment.

. . . . and much more!



Above: HOI Sierra Group's presentation on "The Impact of Climate Change on the Oceans."

HOI Sierra Group Talks to Students About Climate Change

Heart of Illinois Group members Wendy Marquis and John Wosik talked to students from Tazewell County grade schools at the Tazewell County Environmental Education Day, held October 5th in the Avanti's dome in Pekin. Our presentation was "The Impact of Climate Change on the Oceans" and dealt with 1) sea level rise caused by glacial ice melt and thermal expansion, 2) sea temperature rise impacting coral and other marine organisms, and causing more extreme weather events, and 3) increased ocean acidification caused by the oceans absorbing increasing amounts of carbon dioxide.

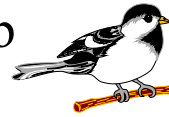
The presentation included a 9 ft. tower showing the probabilities of seal level rise to the year 2100, a heated flask of water to demonstrate thermal expansion, and containers with ice representing melting glaciers on land, and melting sea ice, and their impact on sea level rise. To demonstrate ocean acidification, Wendy blew threw a straw into a glass of water, exhaling the carbon dioxide from her lungs. Within approximately a minute, students could see the water acidity increasing in a graph displayed on a tablet connected to a wireless pH meter in the glass of water.

Nine grade schools and eighteen presenters participated in this year's event.



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: November 30, 2017

Pickup Day: Saturday, December 2, 2017, 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 2, 2017.

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 <small>cracked corn, black oil sunflower, red milo, white milo, white millet</small>	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Songbird Mix <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, safflower, white millet</small>	20 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	35 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Nyjer (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 <small>sunflower hearts, cracked corn, red millet, white millet</small>	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	\$ 39.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 67.00		
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 <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, peanuts (no shell), raisins</small>	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	20 lbs	\$ 21.00		
Suet Cakes	1 dozen	\$ 16.00		

Total Amount Due \$ _____

Check one: ☐ Pick-up ☐ Delivery

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 November 30 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL _____

2017 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

Ballots Due December 20

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 3 candidates for a 2018-2019 term to the Heart of Illinois Group 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. 20, or can be delivered to the Group Holiday Potluck on Dec. 20.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 20.

2017 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

_____ Diane Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ Robin Nolting

2017 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

_____ Diane Jorgensen
_____ Wendy Marquis
_____ Robin Nolting

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 and a supportive member of Sierra Club having served on the Executive Committee for many years. 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.

Wendy Marquis

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." (Muir) With ignorance, greed and disrespect, the current Administration in Washington is putting environmental policies in place (or rolling back protections) that will damage the health and quality of life in this country for decades to come. I believe the Sierra Club offers the best possibility for people to join together to fight the forces in this country who today, more than ever, will lay waste to our environment in order to line the pockets of the super wealthy. Time spent in nature offers us unparalleled beauty, quiets the anxieties of life, and can give us unlimited adventures. I cannot understand the disregard many people have for our open spaces - as if they are an unlimited resource. When air, land, and water have all become fouled by greed and unbridled consumption, what will be left to sustain life on this small blue planet? This remains my primary reason for being part of the Sierra Club and wanting a voice in it's direction. I believe our local group needs to refocus on the most important issues facing our area to increase our effectiveness as a club and minimize the feeling of being overwhelmed by those willing to volunteer their time and effort. I urge those of you who joined the National Sierra Club, and thereby the Heart of Illinois Group, to get out! Get out to our meetings, find out what's happening, and find a way to be involved and make a difference. Do not expect others to do it for you. Democracy demands participation by an informed public. Illinois is one of the states where you can make the biggest difference because we have some of the biggest problems and greatest apathy environmentally. Initiative. Perseverance. Participation. It's the right thing to do - period. "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul." (Muir) Thank you.

Robin Nolting

My name is Robin Nolting; I am a mother of 3 wonderful adult children. My Son is a Partner with Clark Hill Law Firm in Scottsdale, Arizona, my Daughter-In-Law also practices Law in Phoenix, Arizona, and my Daughter is a sophomore at The University of Illinois at Chicago and is 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, Illinois State Sierra Club ExCom, and Federal Chapters; advocate and volunteer with Moms Clean Air Force -MCAF, a current member of the Environmental/Labor Group with Senator Dave Koehler. 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 Pekin Community HS students advocating with us on many different events over the last 4 years! During my childhood, you could always find different rocks, acorns, and sticks, from hiking, in my pockets. (My mother had to carefully watch my laundry for fear of the health of her washing machine) Through the course of my life, I have hiked most of the Sierra Nevada's - from Lake Tahoe to the foothills of San Francisco, the Northern California Redwoods, Grand Canyon through the Red Rock National areas, and most of Arizona's National and State Canyons and Parks; Many of Pennsylvania's State and National Parks, Maine's National and State Parks, Washington, Oregon, and Southern California's National and State Parks and Trails, and many, many more to come. I am an avid Kayaker - now a member of four Canoe and Kayak Clubs! I volunteer at the Dixon Mounds Archaeological Digs. And, I have been active with many of Peoria Park District events. I plan to continue these adventures throughout the rest of my life - as the beauty of Our Country's Land's are always in my heart! I am currently HOI Sierra Club's Local ExCom Member & Elected Delegate to Illinois State ExCom Sierra Club. I am forever grateful for the people that I have met since walking through the doors at Forest Park Nature Center (another favorite local hiking spot!!!!) for a Public Sierra Club meeting, some years ago. And, I would love to continue this Journey with Sierra Club!. My arms are always open to help with Our Earth and Our Future Generations! Sincerely, Robin Nolting.



Photo: Ansel Adams

Let Us Pause for Thanks and Inspiration for the New Year Ahead

Sierra Club founder John Muir said, "Keep close to Nature's heart... and break clear away, once in awhile, and climb a mountain or spend a week in the woods. Wash your spirit clean." Let us all give thanks for the beauty and change of nature around us. Get outdoors! Hug a tree! Look ahead with hope. Act to help nature and this planet that we love.

HOI Group Calendar

November



8
WED **Executive Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**
John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap

15
WED **HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Roger Halleen, *Machu Picchu and the Inca Trail*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!

December

2
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.

20
WED **Annual Holiday Potluck & Slides Party, 6:30 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center. See front page for more information.



January 2018



17
WED **HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Mark Golden, *John Muir and American Conservation*. See front page for more information. Everyone is welcome!

20
SAT **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@outlook.com or 309-634-1381) by January 18th.

Friends of Riverfront Park Silent Auction Fundraiser

When: Thu, November 16, 5-9 p.m.
Where: Sky Harbor Restaurant, 1321 N Park Rd, West Peoria

Give yourself an evening out with some free wine and cheese while you take a look for that perfect decorating item or holiday gift of local photographs, original paintings, and other lovely items. Then treat yourself to dinner! Stop by Sky Harbor Restaurant for this fund-raiser for *Save Riverfront Park*. Funds are urgently needed for park legal defense from city efforts to sell land for apartment buildings and parking lots.



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612
Web: sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois Email: hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org

Chair	Robert Jorgensen	jestpr@aol.com
Vice-Chair, Chapter Delegate	Robin Nolting	petalnrose@gmail.com
Secretary	Chris Golden	
Conservation Chair	Joyce Blumenshine	309-688-0950 joblumen@yahoo.com
Newsletter Ed., Website, Outings	John Wosik	309-222-2519 johnwosik@outlook.com
Treasurer	Diane Jorgensen	309-966-2223 mdjorg@comcast.net
	Matt Ryan	309-251-7116 PCWRT2004@yahoo.com

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