

# Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2019

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612 ♦ [hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org](mailto:hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org)

## HOI Group Meetings

WED  
Nov 20

### Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Lisa Sons, the park interpreter for Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks, will talk about volunteer opportunities at the parks, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and other topics relating to the parks such as hummingbird and butterfly gardens, eastern bluebirds, and monarch migration. Bring your questions!

WED  
DEC 18

### 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!

## Inside . . .



### Bird Seed Order Form



### HOI Group Excom Ballots

## Illinois Climate Impacts Make the Clean Energy Jobs Act Essential

### ACTION ALERT! Phone Your State Senator and Representative Now

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please phone your Illinois State Senator and Representative (see listings below) and let them know you are in strong support of the Clean Energy Jobs Act, Senate Bill 2132 and House Bill 3624. Thank Senator Dave Koehler for his support and hard work for this legislation. The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) will promote wind and solar energy to power more than four million homes and lower electric rates. It expands access to clean energy job training and includes transition support for communities and workers who

are impacted by the decline of fossil fuels. CEJA has new provisions focused on reducing congestion and pollution from transportation, which is now the largest source of carbon emissions for our state. For more details go to <https://www.citizensutilityboard.org/clean-energy-jobs-act>.

Phone Numbers: Thank Senator Dave Koehler for his support and efforts on CEJA at 309-677-0120. Phone Senator Chuck Weaver to urge his support at 309-693-4921. Phone Representatives Jehan Gordon-Booth 309-681-1992 and Mike Unes 309 620-8631 to urge their support. To find your State Senator and Representative type in your zip code at [https://openstates.org/find\\_your\\_legislator](https://openstates.org/find_your_legislator).



SIERRA  
CLUB

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
<b>Special Offer</b>	<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](http://www.sierraclub.org)

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## Recycling at Risk: Peoria Residents Contact Your City Council Member

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

The Peoria City Council will be considering concerns from the city garbage and recycling hauler, Peoria Disposal Company, about the loss of recycling markets since the Trump trade war with China. The fact that sales of recyclable items are greatly diminished is creating problems for PDC, including many materials being hauled to a landfill instead of being recycled. What options can be found? Please phone your Peoria City Council District Representative and the City At-Large Representatives. Tell them that recycling is important to you and that you want a public hearing before any decisions are made affecting Peoria recycling plans. A full listing of City Council members is at <http://www.peoriagov.org/city-council/>.



## With Thanks and Fond Memories: Rudy Habben, November 10, 1935 - August 4, 2019

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Heart of Illinois Group Sierra Club has lost one of its most dedicated members with the passing of Rudy Habben. Rudy was a pillar of support for the group, serving as board chairman and Executive Committee member for numerous terms of duty. He was a key donor for many of the group events, including funding our Clean Water Day exhibit space and contributing for many environmental battles from stopping several area coal strip mines to the hazardous waste landfill expansion fight and most recently, the battle to save Riverfront Park. Rudy was an avid supporter for saving the Rock Island Trail and attended many hikes and meetings in the decades of local efforts that resulted in the popular public linear park. His articulate and professional presence at meetings and personable charm and curiosity benefited our local group in many ways. His good humor and kindness will not be forgotten by those who knew him. Rest in Peace Rudy. Heart of Illinois Group honors memories of you and your many good works with our heartfelt thanks.



## Looking Ahead . . .



Whatever the weather, we know that Nature surrounds us with daily wonders in the graceful dance of a falling leaf, in the perfect prisms of raindrops on a branch, in the moment of amazement seeing snowflakes on the arm of your coat. Thank you for being a Sierra Club member! Take action. Phone your legislators. Write a letter to the editor. Talk to your neighbors. Give Thanks for the beauty of nature and be part of efforts to move to clean energy: our environment needs help and we need each other in the work before us. Onward to a New Year and new opportunities for action!

- Joyce Blumenshine



# 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 5, 2019

**Pickup Day:** Saturday, December 7, 2019, 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 7, 2019.

**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	\$ 23.00		
Striped Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 16.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 27.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 26.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 50.00		
Wild Bird Mix cracked corn, black oil sunflower, red milo, white milo, white millet	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 19.00		
Songbird Mix black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, safflower, white millet	20 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	35 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Nyjer (Thistle)	10 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 28.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 54.00		
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 19.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 31.00		
No Waste Mix sunflower hearts, cracked corn, red millet, white millet	20 lbs	\$ 16.00		

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 5.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Peanuts in Shell	5 lbs	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 35.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 66.00		
Peanuts No Shell	10 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 30.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 55.00		
Cracked Corn	25 lbs	\$ 6.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 11.00		
Shelled Corn	25 lbs	\$ 6.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 10.00		
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 18.00		
Fruit and Nut Mix black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, peanuts (no shell), raisins	10 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	20 lbs	\$ 20.00		
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 29 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_



## 2019 HOI Excom Election: Rules and Procedures

Ballots Due December 18

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for up to 3 candidates for a 2020-2021 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. 18, or can be delivered to the Group Holiday Potluck on Dec. 18.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 18.

### 2019 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Grebner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Jorgensen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robin Nolting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Brian Tresenriter

### 2019 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave Grebner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Diane Jorgensen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Robin Nolting  
\_\_\_\_\_ Brian Tresenriter

#### Dave Grebner

In my forty-three years as a member of the Sierra Club, I have served on our HOISC executive committee several times. With the environmental challenges facing our planet, our nation and our community, it is more important than ever for us to be active in working for positive change. Protecting the nature, air, land, and water around us takes some time and energy, but what we put in we get back multiplied. I would welcome the opportunity to work with the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club to help in this effort.

#### 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.

#### Robin Nolting

My name is Robin Nolting. I look forward to serving Sierra Club Executive Committee! First, I'm a mother of 3 wonderful children.

I substitute teach high school mathematics. I currently represent, advocate, and volunteer for HOI Sierra Club. Throughout my life, I've hiked the Sierra Nevadas - from Lake Tahoe's Sequoias, to the Red Woods around San Francisco; the Grand Canyon and Sedona area, and many other Arizona parks; Pennsylvania's trails and parks, Maine,

Washington, Oregon, and Southern California's national and state parks. This year was the Rockies!!!

I have volunteered at Dixon Mounds archaeological digs and have volunteered at our local animal shelter. I plan to continue these adventures throughout the rest of my life - as the beauty and health of our country's lands are always in my heart! Currently, I'm a member of HOI Sierra Club's Executive Committee. I'm forever grateful for the people I've met since walking through the doors of Forest Park Nature Center (another favorite hiking spot!!!!) for a public Sierra Club presentation, many years ago. And, I look forward to continuing this journey with Sierra Club! My arms are always open to help our earth and our future generations! Sincerely, Robin Nolting.

#### Brian Tresenriter

My name is Brian W Tresenriter. Almost everything I do is driven by climate change and for the health of our planet and all living beings on it.

I have been in the solar energy industry for 7 years and have had between 2 and 3 megawatts of PV solar installed since 2012. I used to conduct energy audits for the Ameren Acton Energy Program. My ex-wife and I decided, in 2002, to not have children due to the state of the climate and political indifference associated with it.

I have been back in Peoria, IL since the fall of 2017. I never hear about the Sierra Club and I am an activist, although not active for a while. It is time to change both of these short comings. We need to get out in the public much more often. We must educate the public on climate change and how pollution is affecting not only their health but that of every living organism on our planet.

We need the planet to be healthy. It does not need us to be. Let's get to work to ensure both are healthy. Please.



Edwards Power Plant

## Legal Action Could Bring Benefits to Pollution Impacted Neighborhoods

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

On Tuesday, October 15th, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Respiratory Health Association and Illinois Power Resources (IPRG), which is the subsidiary of the Vistra Corporation that owns several downstate Illinois coal-fired power plants, filed a request for a consent decree in the federal court case regarding the Edwards power plant. IPRG is agreeing to pay over \$6 million toward public health and environmental benefits for the Peoria region to settle the lawsuit, which was filed in 2013. The case was filed because of thousands of company documented air pollution emissions over permit levels which released particulates and other pollution. The consent decree will need to be reviewed and decided by the case judge.

# HOI Group Calendar

## November



**8 FRI** **Executive Meeting, 10 a.m.**  
Lakeview Branch Peoria Public Library,  
1137 W Lake Ave, Peoria

**20 WED** **HOI Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Lisa Sons, *Starved Rock and*  
*Matthiessen State Parks*. See front page  
for more information. Everyone is wel-  
come!



**Wanted:**  
**HOI Group Facebook**  
**Administrator**

The Heart of Illinois Group is looking for a motivated, responsible person to be an administrator for our Facebook page. Responsibilities include adding Group events to the page and posts of environmental concern, generating additional interest in the page, monitoring activity, and other actions to promote our Group. If you are interested or have questions, email [hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org](mailto:hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org) or call 309-222-2519.

## December

**7 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.

**13 FRI** **Executive Meeting, 10 a.m.**  
Lakeview Branch Peoria Public Library,  
1137 W Lake Ave, Peoria

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



## Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61612

Web: [sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois](http://sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois) Email: [hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org](mailto:hoi@illinois.sierraclub.org)

Chair .....	Robert Jorgensen .....	<a href="mailto:jestpr@aol.com">jestpr@aol.com</a>
Vice Chair, Conservation Chair .....	Robin Nolting .....	<a href="mailto:petalnrose@gmail.com">petalnrose@gmail.com</a>
Secretary, Conservation Chair .....	Joyce Blumenshine .....	309-678-1011 <a href="mailto:joblumen@yahoo.com">joblumen@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Ed., Website, Chapt. Del .....	John Wosik .....	309-222-2519 <a href="mailto:johnwosik@outlook.com">johnwosik@outlook.com</a>
Treasurer .....	Diane Jorgensen .....	309-966-2223 <a href="mailto:mdjorg@comcast.net">mdjorg@comcast.net</a>
	Chama St. Louis .....	309-989-5851 <a href="mailto:chamastlouis@gmail.com">chamastlouis@gmail.com</a>

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