

# Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2020

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 18

**Abnormal Aboriginal**  
VIRTUAL, 7 p.m.

Nathaniel Parks, ICC student and member of the college's SAFE/Student Action for the Environment group, will speak on his experiences growing up where he was the only Native American in his school. He will share how he found his Choctaw heritage and learned Choctaw culture and history. Nathaniel will explain aspects of the Choctaw people and tell us his views on Thanksgiving, Columbus, and how he was impacted by his studies of the Trail of Tears. Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/HOI-Sierra-Nov18> to receive a Zoom meeting link via e-mail before the meeting.

## Virtual Clean Energy & Justice Lobby Day November 12th!

### You Can Make a Difference from the Comfort of Your Home

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Plan to be part of the Clean Energy Jobs Act 2020 Virtual Lobby Day, Thursday, November 12th, from your home computer or phone. We are regular citizens who want to talk to our state legislators about the importance of clean energy and a clean energy economy for Illinois. Climate change can't wait. Jobs and economic justice need to happen now to help people hardest hit by the COVID crisis and for communities faced with coal-fired power plant shut-downs. Is cleaner air,

water and a healthy environment for our families and everyone's future worth an hour of your time?

It just takes a moment to sign-up at <http://bit.ly/CEJALobby2020>.

By signing up, you'll have the chance to talk to your state legislators face-to-face (via zoom) about the need for climate action, just-transition, job growth grounded in racial and economic justice, consumer protection, and more! You'll also get to meet other activists from your area, and join a virtual rally. Once you sign-up, we'll be in touch with details about where/when of your virtual meetings.

### Writers, Poets and Pictures Needed!

Your Heart of Illinois Group needs reporters! If you have a local conservation issue or update on environmental news for your town or area, write up a short article for HOI. Photos are appreciated.

### Inside . . .



**Bird Seed  
Order Form**



**HOI Group  
Excom Ballots**



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# Galesburg Lake Plans Would Destroy Over 600 Acres

BY TED TOURLENTES

The Galesburg City Council had a presentation September 28th of an initial feasibility study to expand Lake Storey and to build a massive new expensive subdivision, with over five times as many houses as Soangataha Country Club. So far, the city is moving forward with no community forums or outreach.

The City of Galesburg will force 8 houses to be demolished if the plan to expand Lake Storey goes ahead. Is this ethical? Most of the people in these homes have lived there for over 20 or 30 years. Will the COVID-19 pandemic and the pandemic global economic crisis still continue when the city forces all these people to move?

The city's current sewer system is required to be updated in the near future at a huge cost to taxpayers. It makes no sense to add another big tax increase, to expand the lake and build a massive new expensive subdivision. What are the realistic odds that 500 couples or families will

move to Galesburg to buy a \$234,000 lake house? People with high income jobs who can telecommute, to do work that is not connected to, or dependent on, Galesburg. This is the target market for the plan to expand the lake.

The plan to expand Lake Storey would have a devastating environmental impact, destroying over 600 acres of habitats and biodiversity. The valley has a wide variety of plants and wildlife which need to be protected because there is a global biodiversity crisis.

The plan to expand Lake Storey would allow a real estate developer to get \$26,000,000 profit at the expense of all Galesburg taxpayers. See page 53 of the City of Galesburg's Lake Storey Expansion Initial Feasibility study (link below).

There would have to be a huge new municipal bond and tax increase to pay for a new dam, new roads and sewer and water pipes to lots for 500 new houses, priced at

\$234,000 each. Most Galesburg taxpayers can not afford to buy a \$234,000 house, but all Galesburg taxpayers would be taxed to pay for a new subdivision, designed to be segregated for people with high incomes only. The plan to expand Lake Storey will make inequality in Galesburg the most extreme it has ever been and it will be entrenched to be permanent.

There is no real need to expand Lake Storey and create a massive new expensive subdivision with over five times as many houses as Soangataha Country Club. Galesburg can be far better off, near term and long term, by pursuing other options to grow and strengthen our community for everyone, especially for those people most in need now. It might take years for Illinois and the world to recover from the health crisis and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Please email Ted Tourlentes at [ted.prairie@gmail.com](mailto:ted.prairie@gmail.com) to help.

The City of Galesburg's Lake Storey Expansion Initial Feasibility study is at [https://www.ci.galesburg.il.us/assets/1/20/Lake\\_Storey\\_Expansion\\_Initial\\_Feasibility\\_Presentation\\_09282020.pdf](https://www.ci.galesburg.il.us/assets/1/20/Lake_Storey_Expansion_Initial_Feasibility_Presentation_09282020.pdf).

## Help Starved Rock State Park

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

### Park's Beauty Being Destroyed by Overwhelming Visitors.

Starved Rock State Park is a treasure for our state but it is being destroyed by an overwhelming number of visitors. According to the president of the park's volunteer group, attendance at the park rank it in eleventh place nation-wide for park visitation after Glacier National Park and ahead of Joshua Tree National Monument. Hundreds of thousands of people a month visit Starved Rock State Park. It has over two million visitors a year. Cars can be lined up parked on both sides of the state highway to the park for 2 ½ miles on popular weekends. At times, lines of cars to the park have backed up miles to the Interstate 80 exit.

The number of visitors has taken a serious toll on the trails and ecosystems of the park. State budget cuts and lack of staffing combined with challenges during the COVID pandemic have meant that trail maintenance and park restoration cannot keep up with visitor use.

This park is in the northeastern corner of the fifteen county Heart of Illinois Group territory. It needs our help! Please consider

making a donation to the park friends group, which helps fund trail and other needed projects, at <http://starvedrock.org/get-involved/>.

Write a letter to your state legislators and ask them to take action to provide

more staff and funding for the park. Action must be taken to control the number of cars and visitors so the safety of the public and the park itself can be protected.



HOI Group Starved Rock winter outing at LaSalle Canyon, 2016



# 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, 2020

**Pickup Day:** Saturday, December 5, 2020, 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, 2020. Or take advantage of our new Early Bird Delivery to get your seed before December 5.

**Reminder: I purchased** \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ **For** ☐ Pickup  
 \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ bags of \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Delivery

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

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
Black Oil Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 14.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 24.00		
Striped Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 17.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 29.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 25.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 46.00		
Wild Bird Mix <small>cracked corn, black oil sunflower, red milo, white milo, white millet</small>	25 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 19.00		
Songbird Mix <small>black oil sunflower, striped sun- flower, sunflower hearts, safflower, white millet</small>	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	\$ 20.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 33.00		
No Waste Mix <small>sunflower hearts, cracked corn, red millet, white millet</small>	20 lbs	\$ 16.00		

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	\$ 34.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 63.00		
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 <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, peanuts (no shell), raisins</small>	10 lbs	\$ 11.00		
	20 lbs	\$ 20.00		
Suet Cakes	1 dozen	\$ 16.00		

**Total Amount Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:** ☐ Pick-up ☐ Delivery (Dec. 5) ☐ Early Bird Delivery

### New This Year: Early Bird Delivery!

As soon as we receive your order and payment, we will contact you to schedule your bird seed delivery anytime before Dec. 5.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for supporting the  
 Heart of Illinois Sierra Club!**



## 2020 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 2021-2022 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. 16.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 16.

### 2020 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Jorgensen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Zachary Nolan  
\_\_\_\_\_ John Wosik

### 2020 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

\_\_\_\_\_ Bob Jorgensen  
\_\_\_\_\_ Zachary Nolan  
\_\_\_\_\_ John Wosik

#### 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. 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. We need more active members to support the Clean Energy Jobs Act and other environmental actions HOI believes will help the planet.

#### Zachary Nolan

Hi my name is Zachary Nolan. I'm a graduate of Bradley University and hold a Bachelors in Political Science. I am currently working for the Sierra Club to help re-elect State Senator Dave Koehler and look forward to continuing along this line of work in the future. I recognize the urgent need we as a country have to try and combat climate

change. I think that need starts here locally with trying to expand our efforts to better the air we breathe and the water we drink. I hope to work with the board to learn more about the roles we all play. I also want to strive to try and bring new ideas to HOI.

#### 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.



## In Peoria and Beyond, We Must Build on What Ruth Bader Ginsburg Left Behind

OPINION, BY CHAMA ST. LOUIS

I have long admired women that have held strong amid fierce opposition.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg had a tenacious spirit and a firm exterior that I always connected with. As a woman of color, I've had to be tough too, and the call to embrace my inner warrior is stronger now than ever.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg went out like a warrior. While she was in pain and sick, she fought on for all of us women because she knew it was her duty and that so many of us out here were relying on her for our own survival.

Women have always had to be warriors - whether it be for our families, our children, our bodies or our health - it's always been a battle. I am grateful that Ruth Bader Ginsburg fought for the equality of women in our country. Yet, the battle is not yet won, and the time is now for women everywhere to heed the call and embrace our warrior spirits to continue our fight for justice.

Like all leaders, Ruth was not infallible. Like so many white feminist leaders, particularly of her generation, her justice lens did not always embrace women like me. Her comments regarding Colin Kaepernick

and the NFL protests for example are ones that I find disappointing to hear from a woman that stood for equal rights. However, I am able to recognize that while she may not have done as much to advance racial equity, her commitment to gender equity helped create the space that I stand in now.

As women, and particularly women of color, we owe it to ourselves and our communities to take the space that women like her won for us and fight against all forms of oppression. The failure to win justice for Breonna Taylor's family is proof that the fight for equity is not over. Women's bodies and the bodies of black and brown people like me continue to be a casualty of our unjust systems.

The fight for equity needs to continue here in Peoria, too. Blacks are pulled over by police at a significantly higher rate than whites, according to analysis of 2015 statistics. We have also had five police-related deaths in the last three years.

That's just one reason Peoria has been rated as one of the worst places to live if you are black. This rating is also in large part due to deep disparities between health

and income. Economic injustice is visible across our community. We have one of the poorest zip codes in the country, and our unemployment rate is above the national average.

Polluters poison our air and water and our wombs with toxic heavy metals and deadly gases. More often than not these polluters site their facilities in low-income communities and communities of color. They choke the air that our children breathe and force them to rely on costly medications to survive.

These are not all issues that RBG championed. These are the battles she leaves behind. As we reflect on her legacy we cannot simply acknowledge all that she won, but we must honor her warrior spirit by doing our best to emulate it. We must continue the fights she left behind while channeling her fierce advocacy into battles of our own.

To honor the memory of RBG and Breonna Taylor, two women from very different worlds, but both emblazoned forever in the scars of justice, we must build upon what they left behind. We must fight. We must be warriors.

# Action Is the Best Remedy

## A New Year Is Coming.

Don't sit there: do something. For whatever is weighing you down, take heart that we are so very lucky to live on this amazing planet. Be Thankful. Be Kind. Turn your face to the sunshine. Feel the wind. Phone messages to a Congressperson or donate to a local food bank. Do something.

Whatever is coming in the year ahead we can all take hope and we all need to take action however we can. Sierra Club members know these things: Science Is Real. Black Lives Matter. Women's Rights Are Human Rights. Love Is Love. No Person Is Illegal. Physical Challenges are Respected. We Are All Immigrants. Kindness Is Everything.

Thank you for being a Sierra Club member. Your membership helps fight for our health and the health of this beautiful planet. How will future generations look back on us now? Let's all keep trying. There is a lot of work to do and not much time. Take heart. Find joy in nature. Peace and Good Will to All as we face the closing for 2020 and whatever is ahead.

- Joyce Blumenshine



### 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)

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Vice Chair, Conservation Chair .....	Robin Nolting .....	<a href="mailto:petalnrose@gmail.com">petalnrose@gmail.com</a>
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