



Environmental Justice and Equity Issues for Proposed Peoria Distillery TIF

Southside Peoria leaders spoke out at a press conference February 22nd on concerns for the city of Peoria tax increment financing (TIF) district that includes the BioUrja ethanol plant. Concerns include the plant could use TIF funding for site work related to installing carbon capture/sequestration and a CO2 pipeline or site preparation for these. [More »](#)



Illinois Legislative Lobby Days Opportunities Ahead

On Tuesday, March 26th, volunteers from clean energy, environmental, faith-based, farm families, social justice, and other interest groups will head to Springfield to visit with their state representatives and senators, in support of new legislation on carbon capture and sequestration and CO2 pipelines. [More »](#)



Finding Common Cause: HOI Group Partners with Oak Brook Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited shares many of the same values that are ingrained within the Sierra Club. This article provides a brief summary of Trout Unlimited's national organization along with highlights of the local Oak Brook chapter. [More »](#)



April Is Earth Month: What Will You Do?

Spring is coming and with that the annual Forest Park Nature Center Earth Day celebration which will be Saturday, April 20th, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please stop by and say hi at the Heart of Illinois Group table that day and let us know what your interests are. A variety of other events will be happening throughout the month. [More »](#)



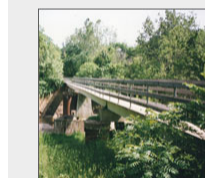
Macroinvertebrate Monitoring in Small Streams

One of the overlooked aspects of Mother Nature is the creatures that live in the small streams. Yet the presence and the relative population of these creatures is an indication of the health and quality of the water. The [Illinois RiverWatch](#), a citizen scientist program, will offer a [one-day training session in Peoria](#) on Sunday, April 21st, on how to conduct scientifically valid surveys of aquatic creatures. [More »](#)

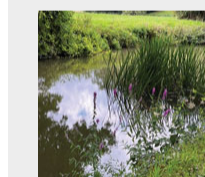


HOI Group Meetings and Events

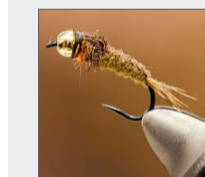
Rock Island Trail Hike at Alta » Sun, Mar 10, 1pm - Rock Island Trail Alta Parking Lot

 Come hike this beautiful section of the trail from Alta north toward Dunlap. The first part off the trail passes through an area with beautiful houses. There are many trees on both sides of the trail, but if you look carefully you can see some of the houses. Farther north the trail is flanked by open farmland. 2024 marks the 35th anniversary of the trail's founding. Come join us and help us sing "Happy Birthday" to the trail. This outing is sponsored by the Pimiteoui Trail Association and the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. [Registration required.](#)

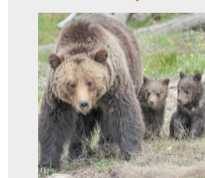
The Clean Water Forever Campaign » Wed, Mar 20, 6:30pm - Forest Park Nature Center

 Speaker Robert Hirschfeld, Director of Water Policy for the [Prairie Rivers Network](#), will talk about the Clean Water Forever Campaign. Robert Hirschfeld was cited in a recent front-page article in the Chicago Tribune as "a leading voice calling for the state to take a more active role in protecting the people of Illinois." Hirschfeld leads PRN's effort to reform Illinois water use law to ensure that the state's waters are protected for the benefit of both public and wildlife. The meeting will begin with a meet-and-greet at 6:30 p.m., with the program from 7:00 to 8:30. [Registration requested but not required.](#)

Free Fly Tying Workshop » Sun, Mar 17, 1-3pm & 3-5pm - Forest Park Nature Center

 Have you ever wanted to learn about the fine art of tying flies? The Sierra Club HOI Group is partnering with the Oakbrook Chapter of Trout Unlimited to offer a free workshop on fly tying. Learn how to craft convincing (to the fish, anyway) lures for trout, bass, and panfish. Sessions will last two hours, during which participants will work closely with a trained instructor (two students to each instructor) and learn to tie two or three different fly patterns. [Registration required.](#)

Prairies to Peaks: Illinois Moths Critical for Survival of Yellowstone Grizzlies » Wed, Apr 17, 6:30pm - Forest Park Nature Center

 Dr. Anant Deshwal, Assistant Professor of Biology at Bradley University, will talk about how moths from Illinois are critical for the survival of grizzlies in Yellowstone National Park. The Fall Army Cutworm Moth is traditionally considered a pest by the farming community. However, recent studies have shown that these moths are critical for the survival of the grizzly bears in the Rocky Mountains. The meeting will begin at 6:30 with a meet-and-greet, with the program starting at 7:00 p.m. [Registration requested but not required.](#)

 [Check our calendar for more events.](#)



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Our mailing address is:
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