

# Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2022

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 16

### Encountering Nature During Covid-Times

Forest Park Nature Center, 6:30 p.m.

Sheldon Schafer will talk about the unexpected travels of him and his wife over the last year, after their pre-COVID travel plans had to be cancelled. His presentation will spend most of the time on the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica, where their experiences focused on nature and wildlife, and similar experiences in the other countries. In the Galapagos, he will also talk about the economy and advantages of an independent, land-based trip (i.e. staying in B & Bs, not on a small cruise ship).

WED  
DEC 21

### 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**

## Sand Mining Expansion and Wetlands Destruction East of Starved Rock State Park

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

### URGENT! DEADLINE November 5th. Email or Write Your Request for Public Hearing.

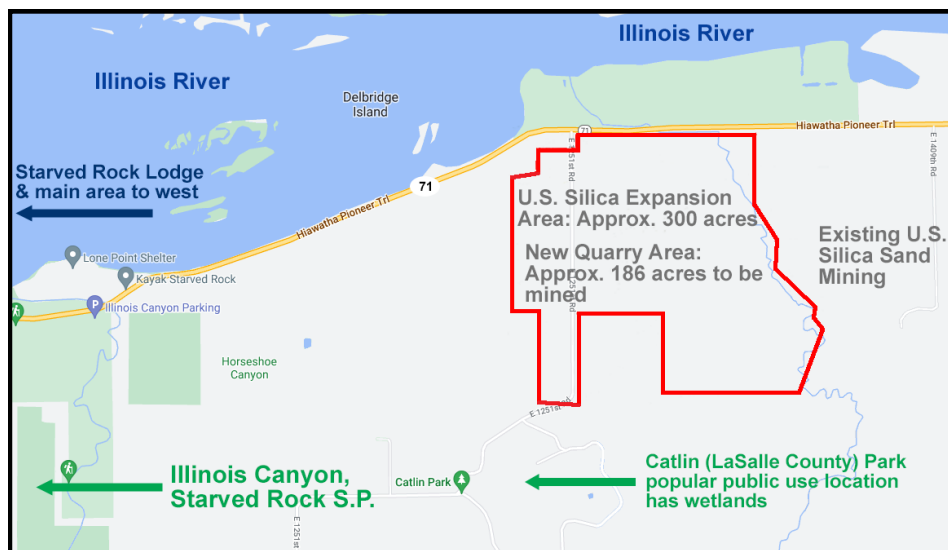
The U.S. Silica Company sand mining quarry four miles east of Ottawa wants to expand toward Starved Rock State Park! This is a for-profit, Texas based corporation and has nothing to do with the U.S. government. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering approval of a wetland destruction permit for the quarry expansion. Most of this sand is used for fracking (high pressure extraction of oil or gas using a cocktail of chemicals and high-quality sand to force more gas or oil out of the ground).

Please send your request for a public hearing and add your comments of concern and opposition to the permit no later

than November 5th to email [wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil](mailto:wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil) or by mail to arrive by Nov. 5th to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Rock Island District, ATTN: RD-E,  
Clock Tower Building, P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

**BE SURE TO HAVE: Request for Public Hearing and Comment CEMVR -RD-2022-1270** in you email subject line and on your comments. Key concerns include: this expansion will destroy wetlands at the site and impact Brown's Brook and another tributary stream which will increase sediment and other pollutant loading to the Illinois River; there are clear concerns for groundwater and surface water adverse impacts including harm to wetlands at Catlin LaSalle County Park which has the Catlin Salt Marsh  
(See *Hearing*, page 4)



U.S. Silica approx. 300 acres expansion with 186 acres to be mined off of IL Route 71 and 1251st Road, Catlin Park Road, east of Ottawa, LaSalle County. Photo: Google Maps



**SIERRA  
CLUB**

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

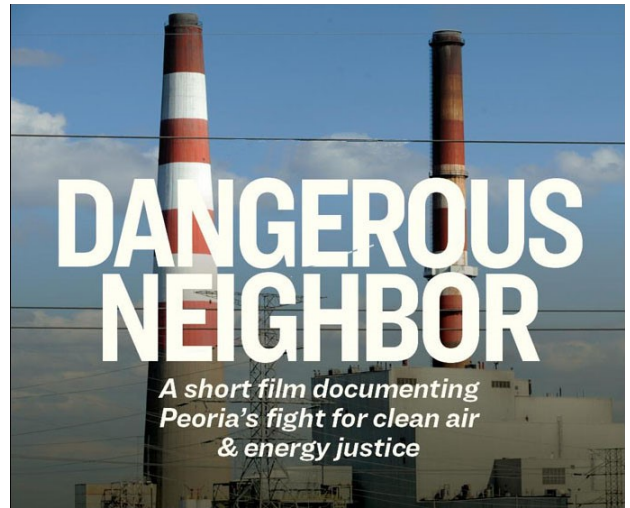
## Princeville Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Is Doubling in Size



Princeville CAFO with a second barn added. Photo: Joyce Blumenshine

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

A second hog confinement barn has been added at the hog production business near Princeville. The original animal facility used a loophole to avoid a public hearing in 2019 by listing 2,480 hogs in their proposed CAFO barn, just under the 2,500 number that would have allowed a public hearing established by a Peoria County Board resolution nearly twenty years ago. The property owner, Eleanor Basehoar, did not heed any local concerns regarding drawdown of the area water supply or for odors impacting Princeville. Now a second barn has been added and it is likely the number of animals at the location will double. Another loophole in the Illinois Department of Agriculture's minimal regulations for CAFOs allows a new confinement building without any new permit or public process when it is part of an expansion of an existing CAFO confinement. There is no state consideration for doubling or more the number of hogs, which will produce more waste than a small town. Gasses from the huge quantities of manure at CAFOs add to global rapid climate change and include nitrous oxide and methane. Smells from de-composting carcasses at the site have been an issue for area residents.



### *Dangerous Neighbor* Now Available to View Online

If you missed the September public premier showing of the film on efforts to clean up one of the worst causes of air pollution in the greater Peoria area, you can now watch online to see *Dangerous Neighbor* on your computer at <https://youtu.be/rtQHKsglut8>. The years of local activism regarding air pollution caused by the Edwards coal-fired power plant is presented in a series of interviews. Thanks to the many volunteers and staff who made this possible and to the years of legal work by several organizations to contest the thousands of documented air pollution permit violations by the plant.

## Carbon Sequestration By Trees

BY BOB JORGENSEN

First you need to know that live trees use the process of photosynthesis and absorb carbon dioxide from the air. They then release oxygen that we breathe and retain the carbon to store in the wood of the tree. So we need more trees to take CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air and retain it.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is released when materials that have stored CO<sub>2</sub>, in a solid form like wood, coal, and oil are burned. The more CO<sub>2</sub> that is in the air the more heat is held in the earth's atmosphere. The CO<sub>2</sub> acts like a blanket.

A term we need to start hearing more is 'proforestation.' This means protecting and preserving the old growth forests, which are holding CO<sub>2</sub>. Old growth forests sequester more CO<sub>2</sub> in the last 50 years of their lives than they do in their first 50 years. So it is not an even match to cut an old tree and to plant a new tree.

The Tongass National Forest in Alaska has 16 million acres of mature trees and stores about 2 ¾ billion tons of carbon. Terrible to say some climate denying legislators have tried for years to increase the logging of the Tongass' old growth forest, in part to make 'soft' toilet paper. Some of these hemlock and cedar trees in the Tongass are 1000 years old and 200 ft tall. Think of all the carbon they are all keeping out of the atmosphere to slow global warming. Just recently President Biden has said, "No more industrial logging of the Tongass will be allowed."

Some trees are better at sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> than others. The characteristics that make trees good carbon sinks are: live a long time, grow very large, have a large canopy to aid in photosynthesis, grow quickly, are native trees, are resistant to diseases and



Photo by Luke Paris on Unsplash

insects, and have a hard dense wood. Deciduous trees meet some of these criteria but need to grow faster. Conifers are usually fast growers but tend to capture much less CO<sub>2</sub> than hardwoods. Some of the top trees in our climate region are: Scarlet Oaks, Horse Chestnuts, and Silver Maples.

In summary, old growth forests like Tongass and the Amazon Rain Forest must be immediately protected, many new high quality trees must be planted, and people need to use less wood in their daily lives. Buy non-wood products such as: metal studs for building, mechanical pencils, and bamboo toilet paper.



# 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 309-634-1381 for more information.

**Order Deadline:** December 1, 2022

**Pickup Day:** Saturday, December 3, 2022, 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, 2022. Or take advantage of our Early Bird Delivery to get your seed before December 3.

**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	\$ 19.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 31.00		
Striped Sunflower	25 lbs	\$ 20.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 37.00		
Sunflower Hearts	10 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 33.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 62.00		
Wild Bird Mix <small>cracked corn, black oil sunflower, red milo, white milo, white millet</small>	25 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 22.00		
Songbird Mix <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, safflower, white millet</small>	20 lbs	\$ 18.00		
	35 lbs	\$ 30.00		
Nyjer (Thistle)	10 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 33.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 62.00		
Safflower	10 lbs	\$ 12.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 28.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 48.00		
No Waste Mix <small>sunflower hearts, cracked corn, red millet, white millet</small>	20 lbs	\$ 25.00		

Seed	Size	Price	QTY	Subtotal
White Millet	10 lbs	\$ 7.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 24.00		
Peanuts in Shell	5 lbs	\$ 9.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 40.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 75.00		
Peanuts No Shell	10 lbs	\$ 15.00		
	25 lbs	\$ 34.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 64.00		
Cracked Corn	20 lbs	\$ 7.00		
	40 lbs	\$ 13.00		
Shelled Corn	25 lbs	\$ 8.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 14.00		
Ear Corn	25 lbs	\$ 14.00		
	50 lbs	\$ 24.00		
Fruit and Nut Mix <small>black oil sunflower, striped sunflower, sunflower hearts, peanuts (no shell), raisins</small>	10 lbs	\$ 13.00		
	20 lbs	\$ 22.00		
Suet Cakes	1 dozen	\$ 20.00		

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

**Check one:** ☐ Pick-up ☐ Delivery (Dec. 3) ☐ Early Bird Delivery

### 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. 3.

**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 1 to pick up my birdseed.

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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



## 2022 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 3 candidates for a 2023-2024 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. 21.
7. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee on Dec 21.

### 2022 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

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

### 2022 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.

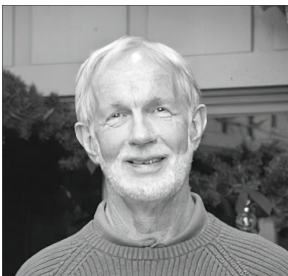
### Zachary Nolan

Hi my name is Zachary Nolan. I am the current Political Chair for Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. As Political Chair I have assisted in conducting candidate interviews with those seeking to retain or ascend to political office in our area. I believe that if we want to combat climate

change and pollution, we need to be both activists in both the personal and political sense. It is important that we identify allies to our cause and help connect them with our activism. Our state is leading the country in combating climate change and there is a lot we can do locally to build on those efforts.

### 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.



Ralph Ginn, 2004

## In Memory of Ralph Ginn

The HOI Group extends sympathy to the family of Ralph Ginn, who passed away on September 15th. Ralph joined the HOI Group in the 1970s as one of its earliest members, and more recently served in various positions on our Executive Committee from 1995 to 2005. He was our HOI Group Chair in 1996 and 2003. Some of you may remember Ralph as a prolific contributor to our print newsletter, with articles in most issues from 1996 to 2010. The wit and wisdom in his opinion columns were valued by our readers. All Ralph's articles are still available to read on our print archives page at <https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/heart-illinois/newsletter-print-archives>.

If you would like to read just one article representative of Ralph's writing, check out his column *"A Republic, If You Can Keep It" ....Franklin* from July/August 2005. Thanks Ralph for all your contributions to the HOI Group and the environment. You will be missed.

## ✓ Be Sure to Vote! Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates Merit Your Vote



BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

The state-wide Sierra Club endorsed candidates listing is at <https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/2022>. Be sure to vote for your Peoria County or other county board members who will speak up for the environment.

Sierra endorsed candidates for Peoria County Board are:

District 1: Sharon Williams  
District 2: Camille Coates  
District 4: Brandy Bryant  
District 5: James Dillon  
District 9: Danny Phelan  
District 10: Rob Reneau  
District 17: Jennifer Groves-Allison

Remember State Senator Dave Koehler is a leader in clean energy and justice issues for our state!

### (Hearing, from page 1)

to the immediate south and to the rare wetland Ernat's Marsh to the west. Both these sites are top-rated Illinois Natural Areas Inventory listed wetlands of importance to the state.

Ninety percent of the wetlands in Illinois have been destroyed. The Army Corps should hold a public hearing to hear local details of the importance of these sites and consider the full economic values of these parks in contrast to the one-time taking of sand leaving a large quarry which will remain a hazard for generations to come and render the current agriculture land at the quarry gone forever.

The Army Corps public notice is at <https://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Portals/48/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/2022/PN%202022-1270%20US%20Silica%20Company.pdf>. (See pages 5, 6 and 7 for location mapping in the Public Notice CEMVR-RD-2022-1270 at the link above.) For more information contact Joyce Blumenshine at [joblu-men@yahoo.com](mailto:joblu-men@yahoo.com) or 309-678-1011.

For views of sand mining quarries and discussion on loss of farmland see <https://civileats.com/2022/07/19/from-farmland-to-frac-sand/>.



## Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

**Conservation Chair** Joyce Blumenshine 309-678-1011 [joblumen@yahoo.com](mailto:joblumen@yahoo.com)