



Illinois Legislative Update: Support the Clean Energy Jobs Act!

Legislation in Springfield is moving fast and your help is needed now for CEJA, the Clean Energy Jobs Act to make it over the finish line! Please phone the Governor's Office at 217-782-6831 or 312-814-2121 and leave a message to urge support CEJA. [Read More »](#)



Emerald Polymer Plant Closing in Henry Leaves Many Questions

The life of the PVC resin plant at Henry currently known as Emerald Polymer may be drawing to a close. February 2, the Journal Star reported the plant announced it would be closing and likely demolished by summer due to "foreign competition". [Read More »](#)



Free Milkweed Seeds Available to Help Save the Monarchs

The HOI Monarchs Team, Bob Jorgensen and Dave Grebner, have been busy getting milkweed seed distributed to locations for you to pick up for planting now! [Read More »](#)



Peoria CSO Agreement Says 92% Reduction in Sewage Discharges by 2040

The city of Peoria is expected to be seeing work begin in earnest this summer on the 'green solutions' for the many decades long city combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges of untreated sewage into the Illinois River. While the agreement with the U.S. EPA is to reduce the discharges by 92%, the completion date is listed as 2040. [Read More »](#)



HOI Group Meetings and Events

Dragonflies and Damselflies: Freshwater Bioindicators »

May 19, 6pm - VIRTUAL

The dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata) are among the most successful predators in the world, evolving on the planet over 200 million years ago. They are aquatic insects that have adapted to living in or around freshwater for their entire life cycle, leaving them primed for research and conservation. Globally, there are around 6300 species of dragonflies and damselflies, and Illinois is home to around 100 of those. Tune in for a presentation by *Emily L. Sandall, Ph.D.*, on the ecology, evolution, and conservation of these incredible insects, in your backyard and beyond. [Please RSVP to receive a Zoom meeting link via email before the meeting.](#)

Starved Rock State Park Update »

June 10, 1pm - VIRTUAL

Lisa Sons, the Natural Resource Coordinator for Starved Rock and Matthiessen State Parks, will talk about volunteer opportunities at Starved Rock State Park and give an update on the current status of the park. Join us to hear more about Illinois' most popular state park and what you can do for the park. [Please RSVP to receive a Zoom meeting link via email before the meeting.](#)

Check our calendar for more events.


OPEN EARTH

Outdoors on Sunday afternoons,
the corn stretches to the south,
farther than I can see,
farther than the rows of trees
that used to be a lane
to a long-gone farmhouse.

I like to imagine the open Earth
stretches thousands of miles,
not interrupted by roads and factories
and people who can't get along
in dark, suffocating houses.

Here I can become the hawk soaring overhead.
Here I can be the wind caressing the willows.
Here I can breathe all possibilities.
Here I am not alone.
Here love is open and free.

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