



Liquified Carbon Dioxide Pipelines Coming to Illinois

Hundreds of miles of CO₂ pipelines could cross Illinois counties, according to a plan by a Texas venture capital company. Navigator CO₂ Ventures, LLC, wants to pipe liquified CO₂ from South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Iowa, ending in Illinois at a Christian County location where the CO₂ will be pumped deep underground at high pressure for carbon sequestration into the Mt. Simon sandstone. [Read More »](#)



New Solar Farms Being Planned

Three exciting, new, large utility-scale solar farms will be going through local approval processes in this new year. If you are a resident of the project county, please help by sending in supportive comments to your local county board or attending a hearing in person to let officials know that you support solar energy. [Read More »](#)



Chillicothe Island Barge Fleeting Project Application Withdrawn

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced before Christmas that the Hamm's Holiday Harbor application for a 32-barge mooring area on the west side of Chillicothe Island and directly across the Illinois River channel from downtown Chillicothe, was withdrawn. [Read More »](#)



Mason County Hog CAFO Loan Withdrawn

On December 23rd, the Illinois Coalition for Clean Air and Water (ICCAW), announced they received a much-welcomed notification from the U.S. Region 5 Environmental Protection Agency. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan for a large swine CAFO (Confined Animal Feeding Operation) in Mason County was terminated as the applicant had withdrawn their application. [Read More »](#)



Congratulations to the HOI Newly Elected Board Members!

Thanks to you HOI members! Voting in our annual election for board members is definitely up. Elected for two year terms beginning January, 2022, on the HOI Board are Alisha Granderson, Dave Grebner, Diane Jorgensen, and Robin Nolling. The HOI Board determines priorities, programs, and a range of other actions and activities for Heart of Illinois Group through the year.



HOI Group Meetings and Events



Photos: Monarch Joint Venture/Katie-Lyn Bunney, Wendy Caldwell, Laura Lukens

Watch Monarchs Webinar »

Missed our December 15th presentation on Monarchs? [Watch a recording of it now online!](#) Katie-Lyn Bunney from Monarch Joint Venture talks about the work being done for monarch conservation in North America and reviews the spectacular phenomenon of the monarch migration, delves briefly into the causes behind the decline of the monarch population, and ends on a hopeful note discussing work being done across the continent to help monarch butterflies.

[Watch Now](#)



Become a Sierra Club Outings Leader!

Want to bring people outside to explore, enjoy, and help protect our region's most beautiful places? Want to volunteer but don't want to be indoors?

[Register for our virtual outings leader info session.](#)

Are you an outdoor enthusiast who wants to take things to another level and share your enthusiasm with others? Are you interested in creating opportunities for people new to the outdoors or new to a specific type of experience in the outdoors?

[Become a Sierra Club Outings leader!](#)

The Sierra Club Outings program trains volunteers to lead a variety of outings, from short local hikes to longer treks and service trips. We are NOT a hiking club! We offer hiking and backpacking trips; we also have walks, bike rides, boating trips, and more. Do you want to do it? You can do it with Sierra Club Outings! You choose.

This information session will review the training requirements to become a certified Sierra Club Outings Leader and give you the tools to become a successful leader. *This online information session is free.*

[Let's get outside!](#)

[Register Now!](#)

SONGS OF THE SEASONS

I hear the song of spring
in the warming air that awakens the earth
from its revitalizing slumber,
in the sprouts, peeking hopefully towards the sun,
in the promise of the new year,
in the youth eager for life's adventure.

I hear the song of summer
in the sweat that cools us on fun-filled days,
in the green of life at its
best and brightest and boldest,
in the sweet symphony of the birds
in the bright stars decorating the black night sky.

I hear the song of autumn
in the tree leaves, their red, orange, yellow
shyly emerging from beneath the green
in the master painting they create,
finer than any human art,
in the nourishment of our bodies with earth's harvest,
and sharing it with delightfully-imperfect family and friends,
in the crescendo of bounty and fulfillment.

I hear the song of winter
in the gently-falling snow that covers the sleeping earth,
in the hanging icicles, more beautiful than the finest diamonds,
in the cold that makes the fire so calming,
in the holy peace of silence,
where we can hear our own inner beauty.

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Heart of Illinois Group
SIERRA CLUB

Our mailing address is:
Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
PO Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61612

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