

Tallgrass Sierran

May/June 1997 Volume 25 No. 3

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614 ☎ (309) 745-1920

General Meetings

WED MAY 21 Population and the Environment Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Speaker David Snoeyenbos, Chairman of Population Awareness in Decatur, has a special interest in raising concerns of the threat of a large world population. He proposes that each environmental problem has its own immediate cause. The primary cause of all environmental problems, however, is population pressure. Shall we treat the cause or the symptoms? Come to hear this thought-provoking discussion. *Refreshments follow the meeting. Everyone is welcome!*

Pre-Meeting Hike, 6 p.m. - Arrive an hour early for a hike on the Forest Park Nature Center trails. Enjoy the Spring wildflowers, get some exercise, and talk with other Sierrans.

WED JUNE 18 Annual Potluck Picnic, White(Green) Elephant Auction & Environmentalist of the Year Award

Jubilee State Park, 6:30 p.m.

Great food, super & silly stuff, and our special Environmentalist of the Year Award, all in the scenic outdoors. Bring something to share for dinner and your own table setting (iced tea & lemonade will be provided. Esteemed Auctioneers Larry Johnson and Mary Harkrader are not to be missed with their wild ways of selling donated items to raise funds for Heart of Illinois Sierra. Bring something useful, arty, or other to contribute to the auction. Meet at the Quail Meadow picnic shelter, in Jubilee Park. Signs will be posted. Directions: Route 150 to the entry of the park (not the historical site); follow this road north through the park. Pass the park headquarters on the left and then take the first two right turns. Call Joyce, 688-0950, for more information. *Bring a friend! Everyone is welcome!*




Adopt-A-Highway: Elliot Murray and Joyce Blumenshine officially start the cleanup by picking up the first piece of litter at the intersection of Routes 26 and 116.

HOI Sierra Club Begins Adopt-A-Highway Program

Christmas trees, diapers, auto parts, candy wrappers, and of course the never-ending assortment of bottles, cans, and fast-food packaging were among the many items of litter picked up by the HOI Sierra Club on our first Adopt-A-Highway cleanup day April 19. We separated into two groups and picked up litter along 1.5 miles of Route 40 north of Peoria, and 1.2 miles along Route 26, just north of the Route 116 intersection. Since this was our first cleanup day we encountered large amounts of litter along both routes. Of course, bottles and cans made up a significant portion. (Illinois has no law mandating deposits for bottles or cans.) Thanks to Rudy Habben for coordinating the Route 40 cleanup, and special thanks to Grayce Haworth for setting up our Adopt-A-Highway participation with IDOT and coordinating the Route 26 cleanup. Our next cleanup day is June 21.

Conservationist of the Year

The HOI Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the **Heart of Illinois Conservationist of the Year**. The nominee does not have to be a Sierra Club member. This individual's conservation efforts should have been pursued on a volunteer basis, not for pay. Your nomination should include a brief explanation of why you feel this person should be considered. The deadline for nominations is May 29. The winner will be announced at our annual potluck picnic on June 18. Send nominations to **Rudy Habben, c/o HOI Sierra Club, P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614; or call him at 685-5605.**

Yes you can!  Make your voice heard on environmental issues! Join the **I-TAN** Illinois Telephone Activist Network (I-TAN). Approximately every two weeks you will receive a brief action alert, pass it on to another local I-TAN member, and then call the HOI HOTLINE for more detailed information and the officials to contact to make your opinion count. **To join call Mary Bodell, 745-5479, or the HOI HOTLINE, 745-1920, mailbox 5, and leave your name and phone number.**

Dillin Estate Update

By RALPH GINN

On April 8, 1997 the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee voted to seek an established foundation to take title to the Ilo E. Dillin eighty acre bequest that was made to Heart of Illinois Sierra Club.

Mr. William Rutherford met with our EXCOM several weeks ago and donated his legal services in exploring options open to us. We were between a proverbial rock and a hard place on this as the will specified that the land be left in a natural state for perpetuity and National Sierra Club has a policy that does not permit ownership of land. The reasoning for the latter is that we are a grassroots, activist organization and land ownership has liabilities and responsibilities that are not in our best interest. HOI EXCOM disagrees with this line of reasoning, but short of separating from Sierra Club, we are bound by their policies.

Mr. Rutherford explored an option in which we would form our own foundation and could then manage the Dillin property as a wildlife refuge through that organization. National Sierra Club said, "No." We were left with the option described in paragraph one or pursuing a will construction suit that would enable us to sell the 60 acres now in agriculture (the 20 acres in a natural state would be given to a foundation). **It was EXCOM's unanimous opinion that preserving the entire 80 acres for wildlife should take priority.**

Hiking Sierrans: "People to Do Stuff With"

We're starting a list of people to who may sometimes which to participate in activities with little prior notice. You can call or be called on the spur of the moment. It's OK to decline; realize that others may already have plans. Activities are not limited to hiking. If you are interested, call Mary Bodell (745-5479) or leave your name and phone number on the HOI HOTLINE (745-1920), mailbox 5.



You can make a difference!

- The White House:**
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue., NW,
Washington D.C. 20500
Comment Line: (202) 456-1111
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov
- U.S. Senators:**
Carol Mosely-Braun / Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510
Capital Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
- U.S. Representatives:**
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
Local: Ray LaHood (309) 671-7027
Lane Evans (309) 793-5760
- Governor Jim Edgar:**
State House, Springfield, IL 62706
Ph. (217) 782-6830
- State Senator or Representative:**
State House, Springfield, IL 62706
Capitol Switchboard: (217) 782-2000

Du Pont Plans Mine Adjacent to Okefenokee

By MARY BODELL

E. I. Du Pont Nemours & Co. has announced plans to open a 2-mile-wide, 20-mile-long titanium dioxide mine immediately adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge's eastern boundary. Titanium dioxide is a relatively common mineral used as a whitening agent in such products as paint, plastics, paper and fiber, and is currently being mined at other sites in Florida and Georgia. During its 50-year operation, the water intensive and physically invasive mine could alter the swamp's hydrology, release treated water into the water-dependent refuge, and endanger the Swanee and St. Mary's rivers. Okefenokee's swampland is world-renowned for its unique biological diversity. Mining this property for titanium dioxide is not in the public interest and should not be allowed to proceed.

Write to:

John A. Krol
CEO, DuPont Corp.
1007 Market St.
Wilmington, DE
19898

Send copies of your letter to:

Okefenokee Campaign
Sierra Club
1447 Peachtree St. Suite
305
Atlanta, GA 30309

Bruce Babbitt
Dept. of the Interior
1849 C St. N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20240

Erosion Abatement Bill Passes Illinois House

By RALPH GINN

A bill that would eliminate property tax for riparian filter strips along the Illinois River and its tributaries passed the Illinois House on April 18. **A Peoria area representative, David Leitch, was the bill's sponsor.** If passed by the Senate and signed by Governor Edgar, this bill could provide important erosion abatement on farmland and logging sites (Senachwine Creek). Please call Representative Leitch (309-685-3900 or 1-800-773-3935) to thank him and please call your State Senator to ask for his or her support.

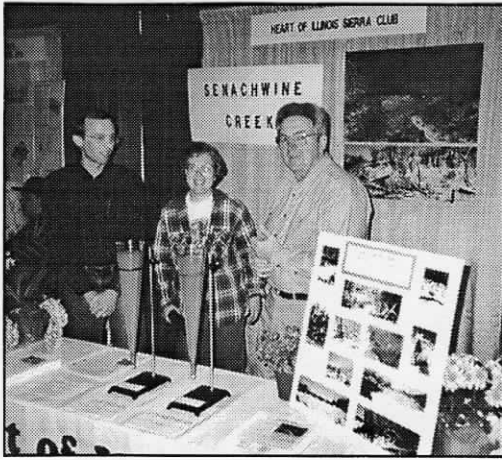
Meredosia and Emiquon

By RALPH GINN

An opportunity to purchase 1,100 acres for Meredosia Wildlife Refuge (south of Beardstown) is at hand. A willing seller is offering the land for approximately \$2 million. The money is available in the Land and Conservation Fund (LAWCON). LAWCON funds come from fees collected from offshore oil wells and other wells on federal lands. The fund is designated by the U.S. Congress to be used for conservation purposes. The trick is to get Congress to do just that. LAWCON makes, on paper, a nice deficit reducer. Consequently, Congress needs a lot of prodding to cut loose the money.

In view of this spring's flooding along the Illinois and Ohio Rivers, an opportunity to call for more flood plain makes a strong case. Meredosia lies in Congressman Ray LaHood's district. Please write him at 3311 N. Sterling Ave., Suite 10 Peoria, IL 61604-1837, or call 309 682-0061 (Fax 309 682-0321).

If you are in the environmental mode, also contact Congressman Lane Evans. Ask him to request LAWCON funds for Emiquon Wildlife Refuge (near Havana). Emiquon recently got an 800 acre boost, but is still only 10% of its 11,000 acre goal. Write to 1640 N. Henderson, Galesburg, IL 61401, or call 1-800-322-6210.



Clean Water Celebration, Peoria Civic Center: Our booth focused on Senachwine Creek erosion. Pictured: John Wosik, Mary Bodell, Rudy Habben

Become Active, Make a Difference, See Results



Earth Day Weekend, Bradley University: Joyce Blumenshine and Rudy Habben answer questions at the HOI table.



You Can Be Proud of Your President! Sierra President Adam Werbach Speaks at Bradley

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Bringing a message of environmental activism and enthusiasm, twenty-three year old Adam Werbach made an appeal to generation "X" to be involved in environmental issues at his talk April 25th in the Student Center Ballroom at Bradley University. As the youngest National Sierra President ever, Adam is someone in whom you can be very proud. He conveyed his command of issues and his dedication to raising environmental awareness in an entertaining and highly articulate manner. New Sierra initiatives in M-TV, music, and other media intended to reach college students and young people are a credit to Adam's influence and film and political science studies. His speech was the final event in Earth Week activities at Bradley, and the Bradley Student Environmental Organization sponsored his talk.



ONE EARTH, ONE CHANCE®

Yes, I want to help safeguard our children's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Optional) () _____

Annual dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter. Dues are not tax-deductible.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$108
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$750	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO
80322-2968



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Rock Island Trail Extension Update Letters & Calls Still Needed

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

The Peoria City Council has postponed consideration of closing the Kellar Branch line of the P.P. & U. Railroad running south from Pioneer Park to downtown Peoria. This means the newly seated city council and new Mayor Grieves will be voting on the future of the Rock Island Trail extension.

Your letters and calls are needed now to let the new city council and mayor know that Peoria needs the safe, off-road bicycle access that the Rock Island Trail extension will provide. The city needs to close the seven miles of track and let the Peoria Park District proceed with construction of the trail.. An opportunity exists for the new city council to support an extension of the Union Pacific rail line coming into Pioneer Park from the west. This is a financially reasonable way to continue rail service to Pioneer Park, and to allow the bicycle trail to proceed. The city has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in maintenance for the P.P. & U. rail line. That would now be better spent on the estimated \$425,000 for bringing the western line into Pioneer Park.

Please call and or write Mayor Grieves and the new Council members to urge their support for providing safe bicycle access to downtown Peoria. The trail extension would provide family recreational opportunities and link the riverfront parks with residential areas through much of the city. Please contact: Mayor Grieves and the City Council members listed below:

City of Peoria - Elected Officials - 1997

Bud Grieves (Mayor)	125 SW Jefferson, 61602	671-1011
At-Large Councilmen		
Camille M. Gibson	1627 W. Columbia Ter., 61604	673-7289
Dr. Edward P. Glover	3711 N. Sheridan Rd., 61614	688-2271
Charles V. Grayeb	502 N.E. Monroe, 61603	676-2913
W. Eric Turner	6212 N. Tealwood Circle, 61615	672-8519
Leonard A. Unes	1216 W. Teton Dr., 61614	685-4942
District Councilmen		
1st - Christopher Duncan II	314 Madison Park Ter., 61605	673-0673
2nd - Gary V. Sandberg	1305 N. North, 61604	673-1430
3rd - Gail Thetford	1126 E. Fair Oaks, 61603	686-7151
4th - William Spears	225 W. Overhill, 61615	688-0960
5th - Patrick Nichting	909 W. Burnside Dr., 61614	691-7574

HOI Group Calendar

May

- 13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Grayce Haworth's home: RR1 Lacon.
Call Grayce at 246-8397 for directions.
- 18 Rock Island Trail Marathon Hike, 7:30 a.m.**
SUN Hike the entire length of the Rock Island Trail! Meet at the Alta parking lot with energy food and plenty of water, wearing sturdy, well broken in shoes. Lunch at an eatery along the way, probably in Princeville. Call Mary, 745-5479, for more information.
- 21 Forest Park Nature Center Hike, 6 p.m.**
WED Arrive an hour before our meeting and hike the Nature Center trails. A completely new group of wildflowers will be blooming!
- 21 General Meeting, 7 p.m.**
WED Forest Park Nature Center. *David Snoeyenbos, "Population and the Environment"*.

June

- 7 - 8 Trail Appreciation Day Campout, 5 p.m.**
SAT-SUN Campout and wiener roast at the Meyer Tract campsite on the Rock Island Trail. Arrival and tent setup will be at 5 p.m., with dinner sometime after 6. We'll reminisce around the campfire and plan future projects. On Sunday morning we'll pack up and hike to the Bicycle Inn in Dunlap for breakfast. Call Les and Mary Bodell at 745-5479 for more information.
- 10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
TUE Ralph Ginn's home: 20822 N. Blue Ridge Rd., Chillicothe. Call Ralph at 274-3289 for directions.
- 18 Annual Potluck Picnic & White Elephant Auction, 6:30 p.m.**
WED Jubilee State Park, Quail Meadow picnic area. *See front page for more details.*

- 21 Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, 9 a.m.**
SAT Route 26 volunteers will meet at the Total Gas Station at the intersection of Routes 26 & 116. Route 40 volunteers will meet at the Fry Farm at the intersection of Rt. 40 and Singing Woods Road. If you have not viewed the safety video (required to participate) call Rudy Habben at 685-5605. It is suggested that you wear gloves and hard-soled shoes or boots. Sorry, no helpers under the age of 10 due to safety concerns. Call Grayce Hayworth at 246-8397 for more information.
- 26 Newsletter Deadline**
THU Send articles for July and August to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@mtco.com
- 28 Matthiessen State Park Outing, 9 a.m.**
SAT Join us to hike the cool canyons of Matthiessen State Park. We will carpool from the Forest Park Nature Center. Bring a light lunch and plenty of water. Dinner afterwards at Duffy's in Utica. Call Mary, 745-5479, for more information.

Other Events: (Not sponsored by the Sierra Club but provided as a public service.)



We're back!

Rock Island Trail Workdays

Scheduled workdays are the following Saturdays: **May 17, June 14, and July 26**. Rain dates will be the next day (Sunday). Meet at the Alta end maintenance building. Directions: Go about 1 mile west of Alta on Rt. 91, turn right on Radnor Rd., follow road around curves, maintenance building is on your right just before railroad tracks. Call Chris at 682-0549 for more information.

Prairie Dawgs Work Crew

Work includes prairie burns, brush cutting, eradicating alien plants, native plant seeding, and planting root stock. Crews meet the 1st & 3rd Saturdays at 9 a.m. at Hal Gardner's old house about 2.4 miles west of Jubilee-Princeville Rd. on Jubilee-Brimfield Rd. Call Hal Gardner at 446-9792 for directions.

Morton Bicycle Trail Dedication

National Trails Day - Saturday June 7

Meet at 1 p.m. at the Morton K-Mart parking lot. Bring your bicycle or hiking boots! Refreshments will be provided. Representative LaHood and other dignitaries are expected, and you can try out the trail after the dedication. For more information call George Burrier, 698-5512.

Mackinaw Canoe Club Outings

East Fork-Mazon, IL	May 10
Upper Sangamon	May 18
Wolf/Pestigo, WI	May 23-26
S. Fork of N. Vermilion	May 31
Vermilion, IL	June 7
Vermilion, IL	June 14
Spoon River	June 15
Middle Fork Vermilion	June 21
Brule River, WI	June 27-29

Call George Burrier, 698-5512, for more information, including name of trip leader.

July

- 1 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.**
TUE Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

HOTLINE: Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts • 745-1920
Public Official Contacts • Leave Messages

Executive Committee

Chair / Chapter Representative	Rudy Habben	685-5605
Vice-Chair	Joyce Blumenshine	688-0950
Secretary / Newsletter Editor	John Wosik	682-8950
Treasurer	Grayce Haworth	246-8397
Membership Chair	Cindy Matthias	686-4134
Conservation Chair	Ralph Ginn	274-3289
Alternate Chapter Representative	Hal Gardner	446-9792
Outings Chair / I-TAN	Mary Bodell	745-5479
Calendar Sales	Chris Meydam	682-0549

HEART OF ILLINOIS

Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593
Peoria, IL 61614



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... To explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth ...