

Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 1998 Volume 26 No. 6

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

HOI Group Meetings

WED
Nov 18

Mountain Climbing in North and South America

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.



Experienced backpacker and mountain climber Dr. Paul Schmidt will present a slide show of some of his adventures in the mountains of Washington State, Ecuador, and Argentina. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.*

WED
DEC 16

Happy Holidays! Annual Potluck and Slides Party

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



Bring your favorite food to share and a dozen or so slides from your latest trip or event, 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 during the holiday. Bring some friends! Hot and cold drinks will be provided. You will need your own table service and a good appetite! A projector will be available for showing a sampling of slides after the meeting, and you will see your fellow/friend Sierrans in action!

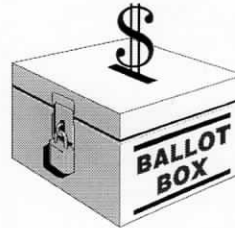
Call President Clinton! Monstrosity of Budget Bill Hurts

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Forty pounds of paper, thousands of bills, and "Only God knows what's in this monstrosity!" said Senator Byrd (W. Va.) on the omnibus spending package.

The giant budget bill passed by the 105th Congress contains many anti-environmental riders. Efforts by the Clinton Administration to clean up the worst provisions amounted only to damage control. Sierra Executive Director Carl Pope is asking that we call, write, fax, or e-mail President Clinton to demand that he begin the next Congress with a declaration that there will be no tolerance for anti-environmental riders. These pieces of legislation are tacked on to unrelated bills without regard to due process, public input or debate.

Some of the most destructive riders in the Budget Bill are the Quincy Logging Bill, which will double the timber cut in three National Forests in California's Sierra Mountains; a provision that prevents the Interior Department from requiring that companies repair damage to lands they have mined; a measure



Campaign Finance Reform and the Environment

By RALPH GINN

In early September the U.S. Senate voted against the McCain-Feingold bill that would have outlawed unlimited and unregulated "soft money" contributions that polluters and irresponsible developers have long used to buy votes in Congress. "Soft money" includes contributions to political parties and political action committees (PAC's). Although a majority voted for the bill, including Illinois' Moseley-Braun and Durbin, it failed to get the sixty votes needed to break a Republican filibuster.

McCain-Feingold had previously passed in the House, no thanks to Ray LaHood. Mr. LaHood voted against, but for a bogus bill introduced for the sole purpose of giving anti-reform Congressmen a "talking point" back home. Lane Evans voted for McCain-Feingold.

So what's the connection between campaign reform and the environment? Much of the anti-environment legislation proposed and passed into law is written, and sponsorship paid for with the "soft money" contributions of polluters and reckless developers. Cut off this flow of money and their influence is greatly reduced. It would also help to level the field between environmental groups and big business.

that betrays the Clean Air Act by mandating a four year delay in the phase-out of the pesticide Methyl Bromide (a chemical with damaging health effects and which depletes ozone); a provision that prohibits the Department of Transportation from improving fuel economy standards; and there are others.

The good news is that the Clinton Administration and environmental leaders in Congress removed or moderated some anti-environment provisions including a bill that would allow helicopters in Alaskan protected wilderness; a bill that would stop salmon restoration efforts by requiring Congressional approval for changes in dam operations; and a bill that would grant officials of the International Monetary Fund power to tell Third World countries which environmental laws to eliminate as "trade-barriers."

Your letters and calls to the White House help! Send a message that you strongly oppose sneak attacks on our environment!

IEC Releases Environmental Voting Record of 90th Illinois General Assembly

The IEC (Illinois Environmental Council) has released the Environmental Voting Record of the 90th Illinois General Assembly. Key environmental bills were selected from both the 1997 and 1998 sessions in compiling the voting record. Except in rare circumstances, the Record excludes consensus action on bills.

Included below are the voting records of central Illinois legislators. **Congratulations go to Ricca Slone, one of only two House members with perfect 100% pro-environmental voting records.**

From a central Illinois perspective, if one could pick a key vote it would be the Livestock Mega-Facilities bill, an amendment to the currently inadequate Livestock Management Facilities Act. A bad, industry supported version unanimously passed the Senate (and hence excluded from the Environmental Voting Record). In the House, with the sponsorship of

Representatives David Leitch, Ricca Slone, Michael Smith, and Donald Moffitt, the bill was amended to provide a good start toward some common sense regulation of livestock mega-facilities. The amended bill passed the House but unfortunately did not make it out of the Senate.

The IEC is the only Illinois environmental organization working full-time to educate citizens about the legislative process and voting records of the members of the Illinois General Assembly. The Illinois Environmental Council is a not-for-profit coalition of individuals and organizations (including the Sierra Club) committed to a healthful environment, stewardship of natural resources, and public participation in the decision-making processes of the state. The IEC does not make financial contributions to, nor receive them from any political party.

Jay Ackerman (R-89)
 David Leitch (R-93)
 Frank Mautino (D-76)
 Donald Moffitt (R-94)
 Richard Myers (R-95)
 Ricca Slone (D-92)
 Michael Smith (D-91)
 Carl Hawkinson (R-47)
 Robert Madigan (R-45)
 George Shadid (D-46)
 Patrick Welch (D-38)

+ = Pro-environment action
- = Anti-environment action
P = Voted "present"
NV = Not voting or absent
NA = Ineligible to vote

1996 Scorecard	67%	67%	94%	67%	67%	NA	78%	67%	61%	56%	72%	
1997-98 Scorecard	10%	38%	30%	30%	10%	100%	50%	50%	17%	75%	100%	
1997-98 VOTES	HOUSE						SENATE					Description - Pro-environment position in parenthesis.
SB819: Air Pollution Operating Permits	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					Exempt medium sized sources of air pollution from the requirement to renew operating permits. It authorizes the Illinois EPA to issue lifetime permits for these air pollution sources. (NO)
SB1103: Leaf Burning	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	NV	+	+	Prohibit leaf burning in municipalities with a population over 75,000. (YES) - Passed House and Senate but vetoed by Governor Edgar.
SB1707: Livestock Mega-Facilities	-	+	+	+	-	+	+					This bill, passed unanimously out of the Senate, contained language supported by industry groups to amend the Livestock Management Facilities Act. The bill was amended in the House (eliminating the Senate's livestock language) to include "Peoria Six" language providing stricter regulation of mega-facilities. (YES - House version) - Amended pro-environment version passed the House.
HB94: Secondary Materials Market	-	+	+	+	-	+	+					Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Act to create a 2-year pilot program to provide funding for the recycling industry's secondary materials market. The bill passed unanimously out of the Senate. (YES)
HB470: Open Burning Landscape Waste	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	P	+	+	Require the Pollution Control Board to adopt rules prohibiting the open burning of landscape waste in areas of the state classified as moderate, serious, severe, or extreme non-attainment areas. (YES)
HB823: Unbleached Paper	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					Amendment to the Paper Purchasing Act to require CMS to give price preferences to vendors of unbleached and non-chlorine bleached paper in the procurement of printing paper, stationary, and envelopes. (YES)
HB1309: Solid Waste Energy Facilities	-	+	-	+	-	+	+					Reestablish the Retail Rate Law for two incinerators, Robbins and Ford Heights. The Retail Rate Law, repealed in 1996, provided tax breaks and other incentives for incinerator owners and developers. (NO)
HB3129: Kyoto Protocol Act	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	Prevent the Illinois EPA and Pollution Control Board from proposing or adopting any new rule intended to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. It allows for ongoing voluntary initiatives only. (NO)
HJR36: Kyoto Protocol U.S. Commitments	-	NV	-	-	-	+	-					Resolution urging the President of the United States to avoid entering into treaty commitments imposing emission reductions that would negatively impact the U.S. economy, without imposing similar limitations on developing nations. (NO)
HJR48: Kyoto Protocol President	-	-	-	-	-	+	-					Resolution urging the President of the United States not to sign the Kyoto Protocol. (NO)
SB65: Minority Scholarships								-	NV	+	+	Create a minority environmental scholarship program for students pursuing undergraduate or graduate degrees in any environmentally related field. (YES)

**1998 HOI Excomm Election:
Rules and Procedures**

1. You must be a HOI Sierra Club member to vote.
2. Vote for not more than 4 candidates for a 1999-2000 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. **Mail ballot(s) to:**
 Sec. Cindy Ewing
 c/o Heart of Illinois Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 3593
 Peoria, IL 61614
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 November 18, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on November 18.
7. Ballots will be counted at the Group Meeting on November 18.

**1998 HOI Sierra Club
Excomm Election
Ballot #1**

___ Norman Ewing
 ___ Ralph Ginn
 ___ Grayce Haworth
 ___ Richard Klatt

**1998 HOI Sierra Club
Excomm Election
Ballot #2**

___ Norman Ewing
 ___ Ralph Ginn
 ___ Grayce Haworth
 ___ Richard Klatt

Ballots Due November 18

Heart of Illinois Executive Committee Election: Candidate Statements

Norman Ewing

I'm running for this office because I care deeply about the environment. As an animal lover, I'm concerned about the preservation of wildlife habitat and I'm against allowing the use of public lands for mining, grazing and logging that would damage these pristine areas. I'm strongly concerned about meg-hog farms and their potential damage to the water, air and standard of life for surrounding residents. I want to do my part to preserve our environment.

Ralph Ginn (Petition Candidate)

After 34 years of school teaching, I retired in 1992 and found time to renew an old association with Sierra Club. It has been rewarding and enjoyable. I hope to be capable of contributing to this most important of all work for many years in the future.

My environmental interests lie mostly in regional and state issues. Strong mega-hog farm regulations and repeal or modification of the Illinois Audit Privilege Law are at the top of my list. And I still have hopes that the Ilo Dillin land will some day be owned by Parklands Foundation and that our group can do some prairie and woodland restoration on that property.

Grayce Haworth

I am a member of the Sierra Club because I believe in salvaging what we can of this earth which is not only ours to enjoy while we are here, but also is ours to pass on to the coming generations.

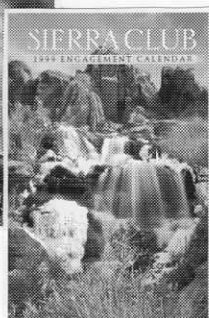
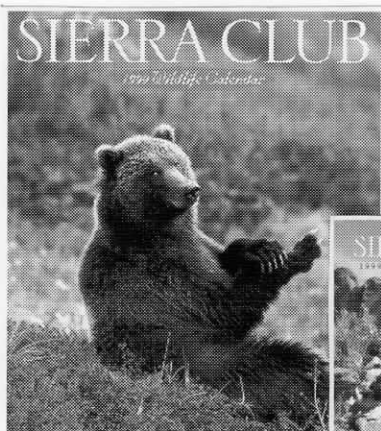
While I am not an activist and am not in a position to take part in many activities, I do try to attend most meetings and have been the Sierra Club Heart of Illinois treasurer for a number of years.

We really do need more active members in the Heart of Illinois Sierra Group and I encourage all to vote, to come to meetings and become involved. We need you!

Richard Klatt

I retired from I.D.O.T. as an engineer technician III at my earliest available date in 1988.

In the early 90's I tried to establish some Blue Bird trails. Some trail sites were and are fairly successful, notably at the Sun Foundation and surrounding area. Since about 1995 I have been a "Prairie Dawg" for Hal Gardner and though struggling botanically, I have been persistent.



**1999 Sierra Club Calendars Now Available!
The Perfect Christmas Gift!**

Sierra Club calendars, with their stunning nature photography, have been bestsellers for many years. Support the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club by buying your 1999 calendars from us! We receive a small profit from the sale of each calendar which helps pay for our operating expenses and special projects. To order, or for more information, call Chris Meydam at 682-0549. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.

Available Calendars:

- Wilderness
- Wildlife
- Birds
- Wildflowers
- Oceans
- Engagement
- Pocket

Peoria County Board Candidates Get High Marks on Environmental Survey

By RALPH GINN

A survey on local and regional environmental issues was sent to each of fifteen Peoria County board candidates in September by the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. The results were announced to the press at the HOI Group meeting on October 21. Eleven of the fifteen candidates responded. All eleven candidates indicated strong support for environmental stances. Every candidate checked the "environmentally correct" answer to at least nine of the twelve questions. Mike Mason (Democrat-18th district) scored a perfect 100%.

The question that drew the greatest number of opposing answers and the most comments concerned the construction of the Peoria to Chicago interstate highway. Nine of the candidates favored the highway. Several of these expressed, in their comments, a preference for the location having the least environmental impact. Sierra Club opposes the highway, but recognizes that some corridors are more environmentally friendly than others. In particular, Sierra Club strongly opposes the North corridor that would cut through the west river bluffs at several points.

Four candidates did not respond to the survey. They were Junior Watkins (Democrat 2nd district), Terry Weitzel (Republican 6th district), Carol Trumpe (Republican 12th district), and Brian Elsasser (Republican 14th district).

KEY:

Y = yes

N = no

U = undecided or no answer

Blank = Did not respond to survey.

Pro-environment position in parenthesis () following question.

County Board District:	2	4	4	6	6	8	8	10	10	12	14	14	16	18	18
Recycling															
1. Will you work to preserve the current number of community drop-off sites maintained by the County? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
2. Will you work with the City of Peoria to expand curbside recycling by shifting to a volume-based pricing systems for residents? (Y)		Y	U	Y		N	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
3. Will you support a County ordinance to increase the amount of recycled paper purchased by County offices? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Large-Scale Livestock Facilities															
4. Should County Boards have a veto over the siting of large-scale livestock facilities (i.e. mega hog farms)? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	N
5. Do you support a moratorium on the construction of new large-scale facilities until strong regulations on operation and siting are adopted by the State? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Illinois River															
6. Because of opposition from a few County Boards, The Illinois River did not obtain a "Heritage River" designation from the federal government. Would you have supported the designation of the Illinois River as a Heritage River? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	U
7. Will you support efforts to restore the Illinois River's environmental quality before there is an expansion of the lock and dam system? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Transportation															
8. Do you support the construction of a Peoria to Chicago interstate highway? (N)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		N		Y	N	Y
Biking and Hiking Trails															
9. Do you support the Peoria Park District and the City of Peoria in their efforts to connect the Rock Island Bike Trail and the Pimiteoui Trail? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
10. Would you support the inclusion of bicycle lanes on new road construction? (Y)		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Stream Erosion															
11. Currently, the County's erosion control ordinances have no jurisdiction over logging along streams that feed into the Illinois River. This is because logging is considered to be agriculture and falls under the sole authority of the State. Would you support an effort to bring logging under some type of county erosion control? (Y)		Y	U	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y
Wildlife Prairie Park															
12. Do you support a takeover of Wildlife Prairie Park by the State? (Y)		Y	U	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		U		Y	Y	Y

Junior Watkins (D)
Jeffrey Joyce (D)
Michael Meehan (R)
Cheryl Budzinski (D)
Terry Weitzel (R)
Patti Sterling (D)
Roger Monroe (R)
Michael Pheelan (R)
Don Shay (R)
Carol Trumpe (D)
Keith Wagner (R)
Brian Elsasser (D)
Eldon Polhemus (R)
Mike Mason (D)
Jan Schindler (R)



SUVs and Pickups Should Clean Up Their Act!

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Please contact Vice President Gore and urge him to help clean the air by supporting strong new auto pollution and clean gasoline standards that: close the loophole letting SUVs and other light trucks pollute more than cars; require diesel engines to meet the same tough new standards as gasoline; put advanced technology vehicles, such as nonpolluting fuel cell and clean electric and hybrid vehicles on the road, and reduce sulfur in gasoline. Pollution spewing from trucks, sport utility vehicles, and cars needs to be reduced. Other 117 million Americans, including children and the elderly of course, are in areas with major air pollution problems from vehicle emissions.

Local Candidate Endorsements by the Sierra Club

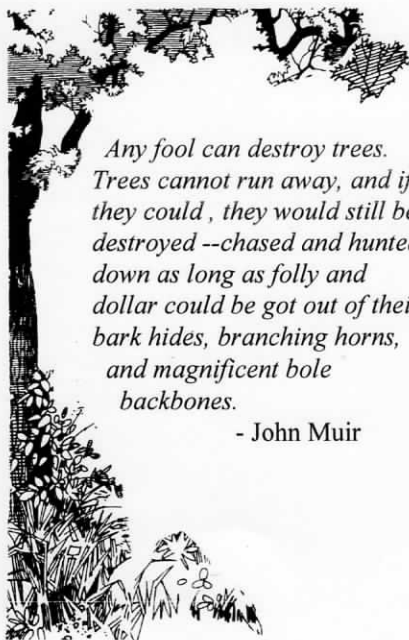
For Illinois House

- Mike Goodman (D-89)
- Mike Smith (D-91)
- Ricca Slone (D-92)

Don't forget to vote on November 3!

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



*Any fool can destroy trees.
Trees cannot run away, and if
they could, they would still be
destroyed --chased and hunted
down as long as folly and
dollar could be got out of their
bark hides, branching horns,
and magnificent bole
backbones.*

- John Muir



Oh, say can you see...?

For the past five years, the Endangered Species Act, and the many species it seeks to protect, has been under attack by politicians backed by a powerful coalition of timber, grazing and mining interests as well as real estate developers. The Bald Eagle is a success story — won't you join the Sierra Club, and add your voice to the many thousands who want to ensure that our nation's unique natural heritage is protected?

JOIN THE SIERRA CLUB TODAY!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (Optional) () _____
 Check enclosed
Please charge my Mastercard Visa
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date ____/____/____

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$128
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27

Sierra Club



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

F98QW1
F98QWIG

PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT.
For Our Families, For Our Future.


HOI Group Calendar

November

- 3** TUE  *You can make a difference!*
- 12** THU **Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Cindy Matthias' home: 1520 W. Wilcox Ave., Peoria. Call Cindy, 686-4134, for directions.
- 14** SAT **Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup, 9 a.m.** 
Route 26 volunteers meet at the Total Gas Station at the Rt. 26 & 116 intersection. Route 40 volunteers meet at the Fry Farm at the intersection of Rt. 40 and Singing Woods Road. Gloves and hard-soled shoes are recommended. Sorry, no helpers under 10 years due to safety concerns. For more information, or if you have not viewed the safety video (required), call Grayce Hayworth at 246-8397.
- 18** WED **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center. *Dr. Paul Schmidt, Mountain Climbing in North and South America.* Everyone is welcome!
- 21** SAT **Jubilee College State Park Hike, 9:30 a.m.**
Warm up with a great walk. Optional refueling stop for lunch at the Busy Bee afterwards. Meet at Forest Park Nature Center parking lot (far southeast corner) at 9:30 a.m. to carpool, or meet at 10:15 a.m. at the main historical entrance parking lot, right hand parking area as you enter the main gate to the College. We will hike 2-3 hours, depending on what people want to do. Call Joyce, 688-0950, for more details.



December

- 16** WED **Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**
Forest Park Nature Center.
- 16** WED **Annual Christmas Potluck and Slides Party, 6:30 p.m.** 
Forest Park Nature Center. Everyone is welcome! See front page for more information.



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

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.

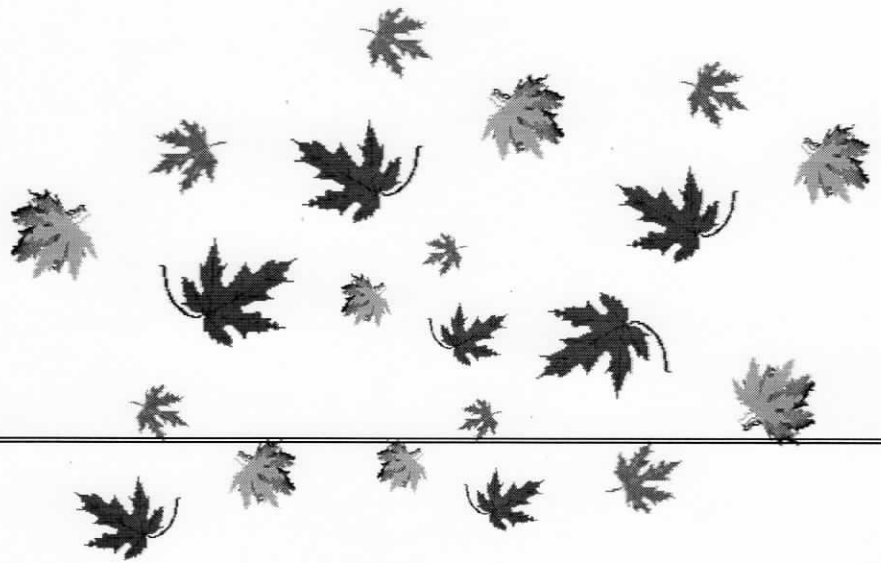
January

- 4** MON **Newsletter Deadline**
Send articles for January and February to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or jwosik@mtco.com
- 7** THU **Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Joyce Blumenshine's home: 120 W. Arcadia, Peoria, Call Joyce, 688-0950, for directions.
- 13** WED **Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.**
Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!



Friends of the Rock Island Trail Workdays

Remaining 1998 workdays are Nov. 7 and Dec. 5. Meet at 9 a.m. 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. *Everyone is welcome!*



Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

Executive Committee

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Chair | Joyce Blumenshine | 688-0950 |
| Vice-Chair / Newsletter Editor | John Wosik | 682-8950 |
| Secretary / Chapter Delegate | Cindy Ewing | 693-1881 |
| Membership Chair | Cindy Matthias | 686-4134 |
| Alternate Chapter Delegate | Rudy Habben | 685-5605 |
| | Michael Ingram | 686-2824 |
| | Laurel Williams | 244-7238 |
| ***** | | |
| Treasurer | Grayce Haworth | 246-8397 |
| Conservation Chair | Ralph Ginn | 274-3289 |
| I-TAN / Acting Outings Chair | 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 ...