

# Tallgrass Sierran

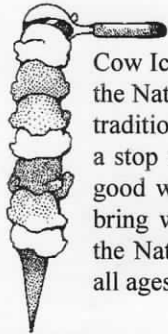
July/August 1999 Volume 27 No. 4

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

## HOI Group Meetings

WED  
JULY 21

*Spotted Cow Ice Cream Hike*  
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.



The Annual Pimiteoui Trail and Spotted Cow Ice Cream Hike will begin at 7 p.m. in front of the Nature Center. This uphill hike, in the true Sierra tradition, takes about 45 minutes, and is followed by a stop at the Spotted Cow in Peoria Heights. Wear good walking shoes. If it is hot, you may want to bring water. Carpooling will provide rides back to the Nature Center. This is a participatory event for all ages! Call 243-2230 for more information.

WED  
AUG 18

**Newsletter Mailing & New Member Welcome**  
Peoria Pizza Works, 7 p.m.

Join us for our Newsletter Mailing and informal dinner at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights. Everyone is welcome, especially those new members who would like to get to know our local Sierra Group. You'll find that were a friendly bunch who cares about the environment and enjoys good conversation and likes to have a great time!



Lick Creek running through Pekin's McNaughton Park. The City of Pekin's proposed sewer line would cross under Lick Creek six times. Photo: John Wosik

## Sierrans Fighting Sewer Line Proposed for Pekin's McNaughton Park

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Local Sierra members hiked a proposed sanitary sewer line that would run along much of Lick Creek crossing Pekin's McNaughton Park. The sewer line is being proposed by the City of Pekin to connect to the new Luticken's Cove subdivision at the east edge of town. The City is attempting to convince the Pekin Park Board that a sanitary sewer line would cause only minimal temporary impacts on the park. The Heart of Illinois Sierra Club Board does not agree, and a unanimous vote against the project was made. There are major concerns for permanent scarring of the park and destruction of much of the scenic quality

of the creek. The sewer line route through the park would cross under Lick Creek six times. A manhole cover failure or a line break or leak could cause major effluent pollution on the creek. Two other routes are being considered. One uses part of a CILCO right-of-way, and the other would go along Sheridan Road. While the alternative routes cost more, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club is arguing that the park should be protected and that a sewer line along the creek will cause significant damage. Public comments on the sewer line will be presented at a meeting June 21<sup>st</sup>.



## Girl Scout Logging .....What?

By RALPH GINN

If you missed the article in the Journal Star that told of a plan to log 468 acres of the Girl Scout's Camp Tapawingo you weren't alone. The story ran alongside one of the early stories of infamy brewing for Black Partridge Park. These two articles were as welcome as seeing your dog hit by a car. Kickapoo Council executive director Carol Ladwig would not discuss the plan, but she did agree to send a copy of the plan's background and goals.

A phone conversation with Mark Brown, a DNR forester, revealed more information. Mr. Brown and DNR did an extensive analysis of the Tapawingo woodland. It is in a declining condition very typical of many woodlands in Central Illinois. There is erosion on the steep slopes, an abundance of scrub maple and dogwood, and many dying and diseased Red Oaks. Given the Girl Scouts desire to manage the property responsibly, and provide a financial return from the timber, he recommended a plan called "group selection." This plan would divide the woodland into five compartments of about 90 acres each. Within each compartment 15 clearings of one to two acres would be cut by a commercial logger. The idea is to let more light into the timber, promote erosion controlling understory and reseeding of oaks, and cull dying Red Oaks for harvest. Mr. Brown agreed that it probably is not the best method of woodland restoration, but the Girl Scouts have very limited manpower and it is the best plan available to them.

Mike Ingram, long time volunteer with Peoria Wild's restoration work in Singing Woods, says that group selection may not improve the Tapawingo woodland but it probably won't hurt it. HOI has written a letter to Ms. Ladwig and the Kickapoo Council asking that they be very explicit and demanding in negotiations with a commercial logging company, that they be vigilant in monitoring the logging operation, and that they consider trying the plan on a smaller area for five years before committing the entire 468 acres. HOI still has a bad taste in our mouth from the assault on Senachwine Creek.

And speaking of Senachwine, the Iowa based company that left their mess of bare erodable slopes, slash, debris, and ruptured creek banks, parceled the 600 acres, and sold them at auction for more than they paid for the original tract. A report from a Marshall County resident says that they are now approaching other landowners seeking to buy.

### You can make a difference!

- The White House:**  
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Comment Line: (202) 456-1111  
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov
- U.S. Senators:**  
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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 George Ryan:**  
State House, Springfield, IL 62706  
Ph. (217) 782-6830
- State Senator or Representative:**  
State House, Springfield, IL 62706  
Capitol Switchboard: (217) 782-2000



## Black Partridge Park Battle Not Over

By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Efforts to save Metamora's Black Partridge Park from becoming a four star golf resort continue. Heart of Illinois sierra Club prepared an extensive tree and plant list for part of the park. That information was presented along with other statements of concern at a meeting with a Metamora Park Board Subcommittee on June 14th. The Park Subcommittee consists of two people, the Board President and the Trustee most involved with the planning of the golf facility. Board President Stan Deatheredge would not allow further presentations before the full park board. Opponents to the golf resort made repeated requests that the Park District conduct a poll to determine the community's wishes regarding the proposed development, but were turned down. On June 17th the Peoria Journal Star reported that the Kickapoo Council of Girl Scouts announced its opposition the golf course project. The golf plan included purchase of property from the Scouts. Several other property owners adjacent to the park have also stated that they will not sell land to the Park district, even though the master plan for the golf course includes property from several private landowners.



**Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang: Conservationists of the Year**  
Photo: John Wosik

### Conservationists of the Year Honored at HOI Annual Potluck Picnic

Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang were honored as "Conservationists of the Year" at the June 16th Heart of Illinois Annual Group Picnic. Maury and Emiko have spent considerable time and effort restoring their private property to native prairie and woodland conditions. Congratulations and thanks go to Maury and Emiko for their outstanding dedication!

Thanks also to those Sierrans who bid on and donated items for our White Elephant auction. This year we raised \$160! Thanks to auctioneers Deanna Ginn and Cindy Matthias, and Treasurer Grayce Haworth who kept track of the bids.

# Vermillion Impressions

By RICHARD KLATT

I can only give a brief summary of my impression of paddling down this lovely little river. We start at the put-in, near the highway bridge on route 178. This location is the starting point for most of the kayak and canoe trips, and is also the raft rental station.

The first hour of the river run impresses you with high tree covered banks and no evidence of human habitation. The water quality is excellent and there are minor rapids moving between gravel bars. The next paddle hour puts you between some very high clay-shale bluffs and occasional limestone cliffs. At this point Matthiessen State Park is your east bank. The technical paddling level rises and then peaks at a shoot called "the wildcat".

A big horseshoe bend in the river comes during the third paddling hour. Good, clear water, flows below great timbered

banks and no signs of Homo Sapiens mar the tranquility.

During the fourth paddle hour, the banks begin to show signs of the river being Illinois after all. The Lone Star Cement Company looms on the west bank and then comes the take-out at the route 71 bridge in Oglesby.

You really must see this section of the Vermillion to believe that a river of this quality exists in the northern half of Illinois and to appreciate my difficulty in understanding the IDNR's reluctance to protect this little treasure. Maybe we, with help from Chapter and others groups, can change their minds.



## Three Strikes for Hamm .....Maybe

By RALPH GINN

In the fifteen year old saga of Richard Hamm's illegal activities on the Illinois River, the end could be in sight. In April of this year the United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois issued a Third Consent Decree that was signed by Hamm, Judge Joe B. McDade, and several U.S. Department of Justice officials. HOI's primary interest in this case has been illegal dredging and channeling that occurred at a 45 acre Marshall County wetland site. In the third decree, Hamm has agreed to transfer title to 90 acres (including the wetland) to the State. He must also pay the sum of \$50,000 to the Illinois Conservation Foundation. The money will be used to improve the wetland and correct Clean Water Act violations at the site.

Mr. Hamm has also agreed to pay an additional \$25,000 to the U.S. Treasury for other river violations at his marina, located one mile south of Chillicothe.

If you have been paying attention, you have already surmised that if there is a third decree, there must have been a first and a second. And there were, and Hamm did not live-up or pay-up to what he signed onto in either of those decrees. He now has 120 days from the April 2nd decree entry date to comply or incur fines of \$1000/day. But don't hold your breath, strike three for Hamm may not have the same outcome as it does in baseball.



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Optional) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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   |

Enclose check and mail to:

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



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

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## Yes you can! I-TAN

Do you want a quick, easy way to make yourself heard on environmental issues? Join the Illinois Telephone Activist Network (I-TAN). Approximately every two weeks you will receive late-breaking action alerts and the officials to contact to make your opinion count. **To join call Mary Bodell, 745-5479, the HOI HOTLINE, 745-1920, or send an e-mail to [jwosik@mtco.com](mailto:jwosik@mtco.com).** We need your name, phone number, and if you prefer e-mail notification, your e-mail address. **You DO NOT have to be a Sierra Club member to join.**

# HOI Group Calendar

## July

**13 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
 TUE Cindy Ewing's home, 3336 W. Brookside Dr., Peoria. Call Cindy at 686-4122 for directions.

**21 Spotted Cow Ice Cream Hike, 7 p.m.**  
 WED Meet at the Forest Park Nature Center. We'll hike up to the Spotted Cow for ice cream. See front page for more details.



## August

**10 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
 TUE Ralph Ginn's home, 20822 N. Blue Ridge Rd., Chillicothe. Call Ralph at 274-3289 for directions.

**13 Newsletter Deadline**  
 FRI Send articles for Sept. and Oct. to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525, or jwosik@mtco.com

**18 Newsletter Mailing & New Member Welcome, 7 p.m.**  
 WED Join us for our Newsletter Mailing and an informal dinner at Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights. *Everyone is welcome, especially those new members who would like to get to know our local Sierra Group.*



**SIERRA CLUB**  
 FOUNDED 1892

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



### Friends of the Rock Island Trail Workdays

Workdays are **Saturday July 10 and Saturday August 7**. 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!*

### 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.

### THE Interplanetary Bicycle Ride

**Saturday, July 24**  
**A "Century" Ride to Pluto and Back**  
 Start between 6-9 a.m. from the CILCO Pioneer Park Service Center. Route options are 10 to 100 miles on the R.I. Trail and/or low traffic roads. Food provided.

**Sunday, July 25**  
**The Inner Solar System & Historic Peoria**  
 Start between 6:30 & 7 am. at Lakeview Museum. This 22-mile ride through Peoria and East Peoria takes about 3 hours.

**Registration:** Call Lakeview Museum at (309) 686-7000 for more information and a registration form. Registration fees are:

- Until 7/11:** Saturday & Sunday ..... \$18
- Saturday only ..... \$15
- Sunday only ..... \$5
- Family (2 adults, 2 children) . \$40
- After 7/11:** Late Fees (per adult rider) ... \$3



## Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

**HOTLINE:** Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts (309)  
 • Public Contacts • Leave Messages 745-1920

### Executive Committee

|                             |                   |          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Chair .....                 | Cindy Ewing       | 693-1881 |
| Vice-Chair .....            | Ralph Ginn        | 274-3289 |
| Secretary .....             | Norman Ewing      | 347-8921 |
| Treasurer .....             | Grayce Haworth    | 246-8397 |
| Calendar Sales .....        | Chris Meydam      | 682-0549 |
| Excom .....                 | Richard Klatt     | 274-3792 |
| Excom .....                 | Laurel Williams   | 244-7238 |
| ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦                   |                   |          |
| Conservation Co-Chair ..... | Joyce Blumenshine | 688-0950 |
| Conservation Co-Chair ..... | Rudy Habben       | 685-5605 |
| Membership Chair .....      | Cindy Matthias    | 686-4134 |
| Outings Chair / I-TAN ..... | Mary Bodell       | 745-5479 |
| Newsletter Editor .....     | John Wosik        | 243-2230 |

HEART OF ILLINOIS  
**Sierra Club**  
 P.O. Box 3593  
 Peoria, IL 61614

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