

# Tallgrass Sierran

November/December 2000 Volume 28 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 15

**China - A Sierra Club Journey  
to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain**  
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Rudy Habben will give a slide presentation of his April 2000 Sierra Club international tour of China. The purpose was to see as much of old China before it is swept away in this rapidly changing nation. From Shanghai the group visited the Song Dynasty garden cities of Suzhou and Hangzhou and then flew to the southern mountainous province of Yunnan to visit the ancient walled cities of Da Li and Naxi. A hike into Tiger Leaping Gorge and a cruise on the Li River complete the tour. *All are welcome! Refreshments served after the meeting.*

WED  
DEC 6

**Happy Holidays!  
Annual Potluck and Slides Party**  
Forest Park Nature Center, 7 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!



## Rock Island Trail Extension Vote November 14th at Peoria City Hall!



One more time! Let's pack City Hall for public support in extending the Rock Island Trail along the Kellar Branch Line. Tuesday, November 14th, 6:15 p.m. is the long-anticipated vote. If you have not recently contacted Mayor Bud Grieves and your City Council representative, now is the time! For more information, phone 688-0950.



## Inside -

- *Bush/Gore Environmental Record*
- *Heart of Illinois Excom Ballot*

## ELECTION 2000



BY RALPH GINN

There are many important environmental issues on the table in the November 2000 election. Let's take a look at the candidates and how they are likely to respond to these issues.

### PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

A look at the resume of Al Gore, shows that he has been a friend of the environment. Some say he has been a major force in the conversion of Bill Clinton from a conservation no-show in '92 to a Teddy Roosevelt in '00. Time and Clinton himself may tell if that is true, but Gore is a good bet to protect the environment as President.

George Bush gives us a clear choice. As governor of Texas he presides over the most polluted state in America. He let industry write anti-pollution laws and believes in voluntary pollution plans, not regulation. He would open the Arctic Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, and try to rescind Clinton's national monument designations and road building moratorium on 60 million acres of public lands. He opposes bypassing any of the dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. Dams that have driven salmon to near extinction and ruined a fishing industry. Bush thinks global warming is a myth.

### 17TH CONGRESSIONAL:

Lane Evans (D) had a League of Conservation Voters rating of 94% in '99. His Sierra Club rating was 93. His ratings have been mid-nineties for the previous four years. Evans received HOI's Conservationist of the Year award in 1995. His opponent, Mark Baker (R), has no record but his campaign rhetoric and positions on environmental issues are not good.

### 18TH CONGRESSIONAL:

At the HOI Sierra Club sponsored "Meet the Candidates Night" last month, Congressman LaHood (R) began his remarks with, "Ray LaHood has been no friend of the Sierra Club." At a candidate's debate in October of 1998 LaHood began his opening statement with the exact same words. And of course, Congressman, you are correct. With good reason. Your Sierra Club rating was 13% in '99, your League of Conservation Voters rating was 19%. But low ratings are nothing new for LaHood. At the local level, Mr. LaHood single-handedly resurrected the Peoria-to-Chicago freeway

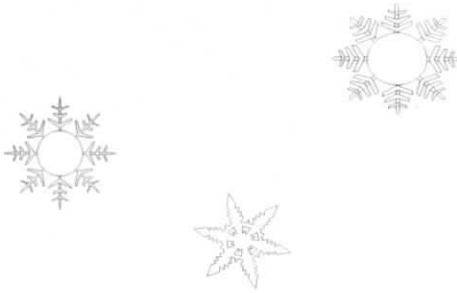
■ see page 2 ■

■ Election 2000, from page 1 ■ from the Illinois Department of Transportation's trash bin and is now obsessed with closing the freeway gap with Bloomington-Normal.

Joyce Harant is LaHood's environmental antithesis. Her campaign positions are environmentally harmonious and she opposes wasting 500 million on the Peoria-Chicago sprawl magnet.

**PLEASE!**

**Go to the poll and vote your environmental conscience.**



# Tree Action!

Call & Write Now!



BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Speak up for trees! Whether you live in Peoria or not take 3 minutes to call Peoria Mayor Bud Grieves (weekdays 309-494-8519) to ask that Peoria approve a Tree Protection Ordinance. If you live in Peoria, please also contact the City Council members listed below. After the flagrant destruction of five giant oaks on Big Hollow Road last October, the effort to add a tree protection section to Peoria zoning regulations is moving forward. It is possible this issue will come before the Peoria City Council in the next few weeks. Public support is needed to urge the Mayor and City Council to direct City Staff to take recommendations from PUFAB (Peoria Urban Forestry Advisory Board) and complete an ordinance for Peoria. Special thanks go to HOI Group Board Member Joe Laszlo who did extensive work writing the proposals for PUFAB consideration, and to HOI Group Chair Rudy Habben who has tirelessly attended meetings to move this project forward. *Peoria City Council Members and Mayor Bud Grieves general address:* City Hall, Room 207, 419 Fulton, Peoria, IL 61602.

**City of Peoria - Elected Officials**

Bud Grieves (Mayor)	671-1011
<b>City Council</b>	
Jim Ardis	692-1149
Chris Duncan II @ City Hall	494-8514
Camille Gibson	673-7289
Charles Grayeb	676-2913
John Morris	686-3944
Patrick Nichting	692-5580
Gary Sandberg	682-2564
Gail Thetford	686-7151
Eric Turner	675-4405
William Spears	688-0960

## BASHING THE CLEAN WATER ACT

BY RALPH GINN

The Clean Water Act has been taking a bashing of late from members of Congress, governors, industry, manufacturers, utilities, Farm Bureau (of course), and none other than Tom Skinner, head of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The frustration of all of the above originates from federal rules that requires states to develop plans to clean up waterways polluted by runoff from non-point sources (agriculture, construction, suburban sprawl). Mr. Skinner agrees that many of Illinois' rivers and lakes need help....but the problem with the EPA's TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) rule is the "process". So what does that mean? My guess is that the IEPA doesn't want to do the work.

The Clean Water Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972. The setting of TMDLs was clearly a part of that Act. The above mentioned frustratees refer to TMDLs as new. Well, maybe, considering that Illinois began TMDL work in 1997 and to date has completed assessment of seven bodies of water out of more than 300 that have been identified as impaired. The rest of the nation hasn't done much better. According to Peter Guerrero of the Government Accounting Office, only six states have half of the data necessary to assess their waters. Three states have a majority of the data needed to establish TMDLs.

Here in Illinois, a national leader in agriculture pollution, the Farm Bureau leads the chorus of complainers. Nancy Erickson, director of natural resources, says, "Farmers need more encouragement and funding for voluntary efforts that are already in place and are reducing erosion." "More funding for voluntary efforts".....have we heard that dollar sucking refrain before?

Non-point source is the largest origin of pollution in our country and our state, and agriculture makes up more than 60% of that total. The TMDL rule is the only legal process for controlling non-point source pollution. Environmentalist should be alarmed when members of Congress, a plethora of special interest groups, and the head of our Illinois EPA are actively trying to circumvent the rules of the Clean Water Act.



**Heart of Illinois Group Changes Bylaws**

The Heart of Illinois Group has changed its bylaws in accordance with a National Sierra Club requirement that all Sierra Chapters and Groups follow an updated and standardized set of bylaws. If you have questions about the new bylaws, or would like a copy, contact John Wosik at 243-2230 or johnwosik@home.com. The HOI bylaws are available to any HOI member in either a printed or MS Word format.

## 2000 HOI Excom 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 2001-2002 term to the Heart of Illinois Executive Committee.
3. Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2.
4. Mail ballot(s) to: Sec. Joseph Laszlo  
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 Dec. 6, or can be delivered to the Group Meeting on Dec. 6.
7. Ballots will be counted at the Group Meeting on Dec. 6.

### 2000 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #1

Joyce Blumenshine  
 Ralph Ginn  
 Grayce Haworth  
 Richard Klatt

### 2000 HOI Sierra Club Excom Election Ballot #2

Joyce Blumenshine  
 Ralph Ginn  
 Grayce Haworth  
 Richard Klatt

**Ballots Due December 6**

## *Heart of Illinois Executive Committee Election: Candidate Statements*

### **Joyce Blumenshine**

In the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club area there are many environmental issues that need to be addressed, and each and every one of you helps with your Sierra Club dues and other donations. Like many groups, Heart of Illinois Sierra Club needs more activists. If elected to the HOI Group EXCOM, my goal for the coming year will be to focus on ways to reach out to our members, and to encourage people to become active on issues that matter to them. In the last year I have organized protests against tree destruction by the Michaels Craft Store, participated in testimony at City Council meetings on the extension of the Rock Island Trail, written letters to the editor, and worked as best I can to help the environment around us. We are all environmental volunteers trying to juggle work, family needs, and still find time and energy for the issues that matter to us. I have been a volunteer with HOI group since 1977, am a life Sierra member, and believe that the Heart of Illinois Sierra is an essential voice for the environment: together we can make a difference in the quality of life for our families and for our future.

### **Ralph Ginn**

Heart of Illinois Sierra Club has been a voice, an advocate and a watchdog for the environment in west central Illinois for twenty eight years. Too often, we play the role of the fireman that is too late or the boy with his finger in the dike. Ancient trees get cut, animal wastes pollute a stream, silt rolls down the

flooded creeks into the river, but sometimes we are there and do make a difference. Even when we fail, the polluters and abusers hear from us and know we are watching and will be ready for the next engagement. And that's why I am honored to run for the EXCOM. We can never give up, never give in.

### **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.



## Letter to the Editor of *Tallgrass Sierran*.....



Friends, if this newsletter reaches you before November 7th, please consider that this election year is critical to many of the environmental principles for which we have fought so long. You know that the Republican platform calls for opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling; you know that the Republicans will have a President and Vice President whose background and wealth are all from the oil industry and whose records on the environment are appalling. While the best environmental candidate running is Ralph Nader, this year's election will be so close that my view is a Nader vote is a vote for George W. Bush and the Republican platform. No matter what your political persuasion, this year's election holds hope for continued progress in clean air, clean water, alternative energy and a sound environmental future only if

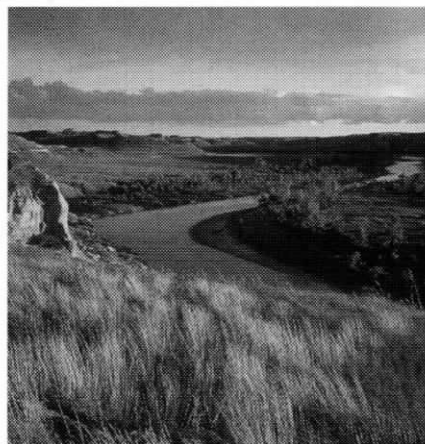
you vote for Al Gore and the Democrat's platform. Granted, we have had many failures and disappointments from the Democrats, but how can we let years of hard fought environmental progress into the hands of leaders who place no value protecting our last wilderness treasure and have an agenda for weakening environmental regulations that have made all our lives better? PLEASE VOTE for Gore, Lieberman, and Representative Harant (Evans or Kellerstrass depending on your District) for our future, and the future of the creatures that depend on human wisdom and vision to leave their habitats intact. That's how I see it.

Joyce Blumenshine

Phone 688-0950

## 2001 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 2001 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 Emiko Yang at 691-5213. Calendars will also be on sale at all Group meetings through January.



**Sierra Club 2001 Wilderness Wall Calendar**—majestic natural landscapes of North America. Spiral bound.



**Sierra Club 2001 Engagement Calendar**—stunning images of flora and fauna, from panoramas to close-ups.

**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"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Enclose check and mail to:

**Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968  
Boulder, CO, 80322-2968



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

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## Action for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge






By JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

The Alaska Wilderness League, which includes Sierra Club, is asking that you call President Clinton to urge that he designate the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a National Monument. National Monument status should protect the Refuge from oil drilling and ruin of the habitat. Phone the White House comment line at 1-202-456-1111 or call the Alaska Wilderness League toll free hotline at 1-888-750-4897 and you can use their phone menu to be connected to the White House. After you are connected to the comment line, save your time by touching "0" for the operator to leave a message.

# HOI Group Calendar

## November

- 7 TUE**  **You can make a difference!**
- 8 WED** **Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
John Wosik's home, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap. Call 243-2230 for directions.
- 11 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 Haworth at 246-8397.
- 12 SUN**  **Jubilee College State Park Hike, 1 p.m.**  
Join us for an easy paced, 2 hour hike to stretch your legs and get some crisp November air! We will take a look at trail conditions and do some late fall tree identification practice. Optional pie & hot chocolate stop afterwards at a local eatery. Meet at the parking section next to the historical college building. Call 688-0950 for information.
- 15 WED** **Group Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Forest Park Nature Center. *Rudy Habben, China - A Sierra Club Journey to Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.* Everyone is welcome!

## December

- 6 WED** **Executive Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
Forest Park Nature Center, Peoria Heights.
- 6 WED** **Annual Christmas Potluck and Slides Party, 6:30 p.m.**   
Forest Park Nature Center. Everyone is welcome! See front page for more information.
- 15 FRI** **Holiday Treats! 7 p.m.**  
Stop by 120 W. Arcadia Street anytime between 7-9:30 p.m. for a Holiday Open House with an environmental theme. Sit by the crackling fire, eat holiday goodies, and relax. Optional holiday thank you cards will be available for writing to pro-environmental legislators. Peace on Earth and Good Will to All Beings, furry, fuzzy, and all! Phone Joyce at 688-0950 for more information.
- 27 WED** **Newsletter Deadline**  
Send articles for January and February to: John Wosik, 12409 N. Blackhawk Ct., Dunlap, IL 61525, or johnwosik@home.com

## January 2001

- 1 MON** *Happy New Year!* 
- 3 WED** **Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.**  
Peoria Pizza Works, 3921 N. Prospect, Peoria Heights.
- 9 TUE** **Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.**  
Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone welcome!

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

 **Forest Park Nature Center Book Club**

- Nov. 16, 7pm - *Cabin Fever*  
by Richard E. Carter
- Dec. 12, 6pm - *The Songs My Paddle Sings, Native American Legends,*  
collected by James Riordan  
Families are invited to join us this evening for readings around the wood burning stove. Chili will be provided and others can bring the side dish of their choice.

Copies of all chosen books may be purchased at the Trailhead Nature Store at a 25% discount. For more information, call Kristin Jacobson at 686-3360.

**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.



### Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

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

#### Executive Committee

Chair	.....Rudy Habben	... 685-5605
Vice-Chair	.....Norman Ewing	... 686-4127
Secretary	.....Joseph Laszlo	... 637-4692
Treasurer	.....Grayce Haworth	... 246-8397
Conservation Chair	.....Ralph Ginn	... 274-3289
Outings Chair	.....Richard Klatt	... 274-3792
Newsletter Editor / Chapter Del	.....John Wosik	... 243-2230
Membership Chair	.....Cindy Ewing	... 686-4122
Alternate Chapter Delegate	.....Joyce Blumenshine	... 688-0950
I-TAN	.....Mary Bodell	... 745-5479
Calendar Sales	.....Emiko Yang	... 691-5213

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 ...