



Northwest Cook County Group Ex Com Elections

The Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club has an elected group of seven members called the executive committee, or ex com. The members of the ex com are elected by the Northwest Cook County Group's membership. Last year three members were elected to a two year term. This year, another three members will stand for election for another two year term. This ensures that there can be some turnover every year, but that some members will always remain from a previous year. Any Northwest Cook County Group member is eligible to run. Elections are held each winter.

Ex com members are responsible for keeping the group running. They ensure that someone takes responsibility for all essential tasks and that the group is advancing the interests of its members. They vote on how to spend the group's money and which political candidates to endorse. They also make sure that the group's efforts coincide with the efforts of the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club and the national Sierra Club. The chair and treasurer must be elected to the ex com by the membership. Other positions may be appointed by the majority vote of the ex com.

The ex com handles the day-to-day planning and operation of the Northwest Cook County Group. Ex com meetings are on the first Thursday of each month, and any member is welcome to attend. The meetings are held in Schaumburg at 7:00 P.M. Contact Eric Patterson at (847)490-0360 for further information.

Listed below are the four candidates who are running for the ex com. Please read over the candidate statements and vote for three candidates. Ballots are at the bottom of page 2 of *the leaf*. Please return ballots by January 28, 2005

Chad Gernady

I have been a Sierra Club member since 2003 and I have recently become more involved in environmental and other social causes to better this nation and world. If elected, I will make every effort to be a strong, active member of the Northwest Cook County Group and to offer my strengths of organizational skills and a strong desire to bring change to protect our precious lands. I have worked on several political campaigns since 2000 and have been a recent volunteer with the Spring Valley Conservation group, as well as email campaigns with such groups as Earth Justice and NRDC. I have the desire and dedication for this position, and will offer my true commitment to the Sierra Club if elected.

Jeannine Cantwell

In 1998 I joined the Sierra Club simply because of my love for nature and the outdoors, and being with people who shared similar interests. I soon realized the Sierra Club had much more to offer, and that I could become more involved.

I have served as treasurer for the Northwest Cook County Group since it re-formed several years ago. Being a member of the Executive Committee has taught me so much about the environmental issues we face today, and I truly enjoy being involved with a group that I believe is making a difference in what happens. If re-elected I will continue to make it my priority to maintain the financial records of our group and contribute in whatever way I can. My qualifications include a degree in accounting and employment in the accounting field for more than 15 years. I also attended the Sierra Club treasurer-training program in March 2003, which gave me a better understanding of the treasurer's role.

I think our group has come a long way in a relatively short time, and I believe we owe it to our strong leadership. I would like to continue to be a part of this team.

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Are You Ready to Make a Difference?

Open House on February 10 at 7:00 P.M.

Greg Stolzer

On Thursday, February 10 the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club will hold an Open House event from 7:00 P.M.–9:00 P.M. at Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary in Schaumburg (1111 E. Schaumburg Road). If you've thought about joining, volunteering some of your time to the Sierra Club, or simply want to get more involved with outdoor activities, this is the event for you.

The Sierra Club is the country's largest grassroots environmental organization with over 750,000 members. While the strength of our numbers alone make us a formidable group, the real force comes from members who volunteer their time to help make our planet a better place to live. As citizens I believe we all have a responsibility to give of our time toward the improvement of our communities. The Sierra Club and its volunteer efforts are all directed toward improving communities. When we have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, our communities are healthier. When we have preserved public lands that are in a healthy state for citizens to enjoy, our communities are healthier. When we elect public officials who desire a healthy environment, our communities are healthier. What can you do to make your community healthier?

The leadership of the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club works hard to provide opportunities for people to contribute to healthy communities. Whether it is helping with land restoration efforts, campaigning for a political candidate, lobbying a public official or contributing talents to our newsletter, you're helping to make our communities healthier.

We also like to socialize and have a good time! Maybe you would be interested in attending one of our Social Club events. At these events we get together for an hour or two on a weekday or weekend night and have a good time outside of our usual settings. Maybe you would like to go to an occasional program meeting and meet new friends while learning about some environmental issues. Or maybe you would like to go on one of our nature outings to reconnect with the natural world. I believe these are all important activities that reaffirm our commitment to the environment and to the Sierra Club.

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From the Chair

Eric Patterson

National and Local Elections

The membership of the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club made a difference in the last election. Although the presidential election result was a huge disappointment for the environment, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Congress and the Illinois Legislative races were all won by NWCCG endorsed candidates. Melissa Bean was elected to replace long-time environmental foe U.S. Rep Phil Crane. Environmental leader Mark Kirk was re-elected in the 10th Congressional District, and Illinois now has two U.S. Senators who are excellent environmentalists. All of the NWCCG endorsed candidates for Illinois State Legislature won, and we have a governor and Illinois Attorney general who are both very much friends of the environment. Other legislators that we can count on to hear our

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Calendar of Events

Program meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month, September through June, at the Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary at 1111 East Schaumburg Road (west of Meacham Rd. and east of Plum Grove Rd.), in Schaumburg. Meetings start at 7:00 P.M. with refreshments and snacks, and the program starting at 7:30 P.M. Programs focus on natural history or environmental issues. Our meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about our programs contact Greg Stolzer at (847)368-0483 or greg.stolzer@illinois.sierraclub.org for more information.

Outings are listed in the Outings section of *Lake & Prairie*, (the flip side of this newsletter) and on our website at: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/NWCCG>

Thursday, January 13—Moving Toward Sustainable Agriculture. Come learn about what you can do to promote sustainable agriculture. Kane County farmer, Mark Schramer, will talk about his hormone-free and humanely raised cattle. We will also have a representative from a local CSA farm (Community Supported Agriculture) to talk about how CSAs operate and how they promote sustainable agriculture.

Thursday, February 10—NWCCG Open House. Come out and learn about our group's outings program as well as the various volunteer opportunities that exist within the group. We will have tables staffed by group volunteers to tell you about what we are doing and to answer your questions.

Thursday, March 10—Climbing the Mountains of the American West. The mountain ranges of the American West provide excellent opportunities for first-time climbers. Sierra Club member, Mark Ferguson, and his climbing partner, Jim Shellard, will demonstrate mountaineering equipment and show a video of their 2001 climb of Mt. Rainier, Washington. If you ever thought about what it would be like to stand atop a 14,000 foot snowcapped mountain, this program is for you.

Thursday, April 14—A Study Tour with Heifer International. Sierra Club member, Terry Hansen, will present a slide and video presentation of his June 2002 Heifer International trip to Tanzania, East Africa. Heifer International is a development organization providing livestock and training to families, enabling them to become self-sufficient and raise themselves out of poverty. Heifer also promotes sustainable agricultural techniques that replenish the earth's natural resources.

The Eagles are Coming!

Actually, we go to them. For four years Northwest Cook County Group outings have included an eagle watching trip to NE Iowa. We stay in rustic cabins and are treated to four group meals, (two dinners and two breakfasts). We have seen HUNDREDS of eagles! All of this for 80 bucks! Club and non-club members are welcome! We go the third weekend in February. For more info check the outings section in the *Lake & Prairie* or call Tom Borchard at (847)390-8386 or thomas.borchard@illinois.sierraclub.org

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environmental concerns are: Rosemary Mulligan (R) District #65, Elaine Nekritz (D) District #57, Kathy Ryg (D) District #59, Carolyn Krause (R) District #66, and Beth Coulson (R) District #59.

Sierra Club members did make a difference. Some members just paid dues and voted knowledgeably. A few members conducted endorsement interviews of candidates in both the primary and general elections so that the rest of us could vote knowledgeably. Some registered new voters. Some worked to educate voters at local college campuses. Others helped in the Bean campaign, stuffing envelopes, calling voters, and canvassing neighborhoods. Some of us called voters in swing states and went door-to-door in Wisconsin. On whatever level, Sierra Club members made a difference. Congratulations to all who helped. Next time, we'll do even better!

Garden of the Gods Service Outing at Shawnee National Forest

The Northwest Cook County Group had an excellent Service outing in the Shawnee National Forest on Columbus Day weekend. We cleaned up an area around Garden of the Gods and received some good newspaper coverage in southern Illinois. The trees were in full color, and the hiking was absolutely inspiring. This will be an annual NWCCG outing. Be sure to look for it next year.

NWCCG partners with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County

NWCCG has just become a partner with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Audubon-Chicago Region, and a consortium of local environmental organizations in the restoration of the Spring Creek Headwaters Forest Preserve. This is a beautiful 3,910

acre tract of forest, prairie, savanna, and wetlands, located on Higgins road by the Sears Prairie Stone development. Several species of rare and/or endangered birds live on this property. This is a beautiful place to hike and cross-country ski. We will be tasked with removing invasive species of plants, such as garlic mustard and buckthorn, while encouraging the growth of native plants.

We are planning to have about six workdays each year at Spring Creek. The first will be on Sunday, January 16 at 12:00 noon. Dress warmly and wear gloves and boots. We expect to be cutting and burning buckthorn. Expect some good outdoor exercise and a warm bonfire. Please call (847)490-0360 for further information.

Make a Difference from page 1

If you are interested in learning more about what the Sierra Club offers please plan to attend our Open House event on Thursday, February 10 at Spring Valley Nature Sanctuary in Schaumburg. The event runs from 7:00 P.M.—9:00 P.M., but please feel free to drop in at a time that's convenient for you. Remember: You don't need to volunteer hours and hours a month to make a difference. Just a few minutes a month making a phone call or sending an e-mail to an elected official can help make your community a healthier place to live.

Greg Stolzer
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Northwest Cook County Group Ex Com Elections from page 1

Greg Stolzer

In September 2001 I joined the Sierra Club because I thought I could do more for the environment than what I was doing around my own home. I knew that if

I wanted to do more I had to reach out to others. The Sierra Club has indeed allowed me to reach out to others in an effort to motivate them to explore, enjoy and protect our planet.

Since joining the club I have served as the Membership Chair and a member of the Executive Committee. My goals have always been to increase and mobilize our membership. I have worked very hard to achieve these goals. More needs to be done, however. If elected for a second term on the Executive Committee I will continue to work hard to mobilize the membership and to represent the group's needs. Thank you all for being Sierra Club members.

Tom Borchard

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1986. From the beginning, I have had a desire to be a more active member. I have had the pleasure of volunteering with the finest people I've ever met, from all walks of life. Currently I act as vice-chair of our group. I lead occasional outings, usually conservation or service oriented. I am active within our conservation committee, and on the chapter (state-wide) conservation committee. I am chairperson of the chapter's energy issues committee. I am acting as our group's representative to chapter meetings. If re-elected, I will strive to show the connections between our Sierra Club group, the wider club organization, and its different components such as outings, conservation and political activities. I will also strive to show how we can live our everyday lives with what the great environmentalist, Aldo Leopold, called the ethics of conservation.



the leaf

Winter 2004

Disclaimer: *the leaf* is the official nonprofit quarterly newsletter for the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club. Unless otherwise stated, all articles, opinions and comments are solely those of the author(s)/contributor(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Sierra Club and/or the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club. *the leaf* may be redistributed, whole or in part, so long as the original content remains unchanged and full credit is acknowledged to the respective author(s)/contributor(s) and to the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club. All content, in all forms print and electronic, is copyright the Sierra Club and/or the Northwest Cook County Group of the Sierra Club.

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Northwest Cook County Group Ex Com Ballots

Instructions:

- You must be a member of the Northwest Cook County Group to vote.
- **IMPORTANT:** You must print your full name and address on the outside of the ballot envelope for membership verification. Mark your envelope: "Attention: Elections Committee." See sample ballot envelope below.
- Joint memberships may use Ballots #1 and #2—be sure to print both member names on the ballot envelope (needed for membership verification).
- Do not send any items except your ballot(s) in the envelope (no membership renewals, etc.).
- Vote for a candidate by putting an X in the box next to his or her name.
- Vote for up to three (3) candidates.
- Please return ballot(s) by **January 28, 2005**

Please mail ballots by **January 28, 2005** to Eric Patterson, 1530 Coventry Road, Schaumburg, IL 60195, attention: Elections Committee. See sample ballot envelope below.

Your Name Second Name if Joint Ballot 1234 Your Street City, State Zip	37¢ stamp
Eric Patterson 1530 Coventry Road Schaumburg, IL 60195	
Attn: Elections Committee	

Sample Ballot Envelope
Please return by Jan. 28

Ballot #1	Ballot #2
(for Single Member vote) Please choose 3 candidates	(for Joint Member Vote) Please choose 3 candidates
<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Borchard	<input type="checkbox"/> Tom Borchard
<input type="checkbox"/> Jeannine Cantwell	<input type="checkbox"/> Jeannine Cantwell
<input type="checkbox"/> Chad Gernady	<input type="checkbox"/> Chad Gernady
<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Stolzer	<input type="checkbox"/> Greg Stolzer