

# Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 4

April 2009

## Sierrans get double feature at next meeting

Have you heard about the Illinois Great Rivers Research and Education Field Station that's being developed at Melvin Price Locks and Dam No. 26 in Alton?

Do you want to know how buildings get LEED (Leadership in Energy

and Environmental Design) designations from the U.S. Green Building Council?

Barbara Anderson will discuss both subjects at the April meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group. She is an architect with AAIC architectural firm in Collinsville and design project manager for the field station.

More and more residential, commercial and government builders are seeking LEED designations because of increased sensitivity to environmental concerns — not to mention long-term economic benefits from decreased energy costs.

LEED designations come in three levels: gold, silver and platinum. Developers of the river field station are going for gold.

The 30,000-square-foot complex will be used by researchers from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Natural History Survey to study the ecology of the Illinois, Missouri and Mississippi rivers, according to the AAIC Web site.

Facilities will include a wet lab, dry lab, classrooms, offices, a library, conference room, administration space, temporary living quarters, boat and truck storage, experi-

ment raceways and a greenhouse.

The Sierra Club meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. The public is invited.

## Group starts outings listserv

The Piasa Palisades Group is offering a technologically advanced way for members to stay informed about outings.

People can put their names on an automated e-mailing list called a "listserv." It will be used to send reminders of monthly moonlight hikes and bike rides and to post early notices of other outings.

If you want to sign up or get more information, contact ExCom member Jim Bensman at [jbensman1@charter.net](mailto:jbensman1@charter.net).

### PLEASE VOTE ...

... in the national Sierra Club board election. Show your support for our hard-working leaders and help maintain the democratic structure of the organization. Ballots are due April 21. If you haven't received one, go to the Web site at <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2009election/>.

### Check out this month's calendar!

As usual, the Sierra Club and other area environmental groups are blasting out of the starting gate this spring with hikes, bike rides, camping trips, bird walks, frog walks, gardening seminars and other outdoor activities. The calendar is packed. Get all the details on pages 2, 3 and 4.



**JOIN  
THE  
FUN!**

[www.myspace.com/piasapalisades](http://www.myspace.com/piasapalisades)

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Serving the Southwestern Illinois counties of  
Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery.

# C A L E N D A R

**April or early May McCully Heritage Project outing.** Spend all day at this nearly 1,000 acre private preserve in Calhoun County, near Kampsville. Enjoy trails, wildflowers and wetlands. Free. Date to be determined. If interested, inform trip leader Rich Keating at rkeatin@siue.edu or (618) 656-3647. He will notify you of final plans at least a week in advance.

**Friday through Sunday, April 3-5 Fern Clyff State Park weekend** in Southern Illinois. Camp in tents and enjoy the park's beautiful hiking trails. Witness the return of spring to Shawnee National Forest. Led by Carol Klinger and Jim Bensman. Free. For more information, call (618) 288-5630 or send an e-mail to cklinger@yahoo.com.

**Wednesday, April 8 Knee-High Naturalists program** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. April's theme is "Illinois Prairie-ific." Participants will learn the Illinois state

bird, grass, amphibian, snack, dance, etc. Morning session from 10 to 11, and afternoon session from 1 to 2. The \$5 cost includes a nature hike, snack and a craft to take home. Register by Friday, April 3. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

**Wednesday, April 8 Frog and toad workshop** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Meet at 6 p.m. at Talahi Lodge (see directions under moonlight hike). For more information, call (618) 466-9930 or visit the Web site at [www.thenatureinstitute.org](http://www.thenatureinstitute.org).

**Thursday, April 9 Piasa Palisades Group monthly moonlight hike** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Explore Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. Meet at 7 p.m. at Talahi Lodge, 2213 S. Levis Lane. From Homer Adams Parkway in Alton (Illinois 3), turn right on West Delmar in Godfrey (also Illinois 3), left on Levis Lane and left on South Levis. Free. Bring a

friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

**Friday, April 10 Easter activities for children** up to age 9 at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Continental breakfast with the Easter bunny at 9 a.m. will be followed by an egg hunt at 10 a.m. The cost is \$5. For more information, call (618) 466-9930 or visit the Web site at [www.thenatureinstitute.org](http://www.thenatureinstitute.org).

**Monday, April 13 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting.** Barbara Anderson of AAIC architectural firm in Collinsville will be the guest speaker (see related article). Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. Free. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

**Wednesday, April 15 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride.** First ride of the season! Take the Watershed Trail from Wanda to Edwardsville. Easy, 9-mile round trip. Meet at 6 p.m. in the trailhead parking lot off Wanda Road. Bring a light. Free. For more information, contact Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or [jbensman1@charter.net](mailto:jbensman1@charter.net).

**Friday, April 17 Spring frog walk** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Expert Paul Shetley will discuss calls and other habits of frogs and toads in the region, then lead the group into wetlands to see and hear them up close. The cost is \$5. Families welcome! Meet at 7 p.m. Dress appropriately and bring a flashlight or headlight. The center is at 1591 Tower Ave. Registration is required. Call (618) 692-7578 or

## YOU ARE INVITED TO A PARTY!

ALL past and current Sierra Club volunteers are invited to the first annual volunteer appreciation party. *Food, friends, and fun!*

**Sunday, April 19**

Open House: Drop by anytime between 1 and 4 p.m.  
Guided bird walk: 3 to 4 p.m. on the nature trails!

Watershed Nature Center  
1591 Tower Ave.  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Please RSVP to (618) 462-6802 or [christine.favilla@sierraclub.org](mailto:christine.favilla@sierraclub.org)

# CALENDAR

send an e-mail to watershed@cityofedwardsville.com.

## **Saturday, April 18 Sierra Club recycling drive**



for computers, electronics and appliances (see related chart). Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alton Square Mall. For a list of accepted items or more information, call Christine at (618) 462-6802, send her an e-mail at christine.favilla@sierraclub.org or visit the Web site at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/piasapalisades>.

**Saturday, April 18 Workshop on basics of organic gardening**, sponsored by The Community Cultivators. Geared toward adults. Hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The garden is in La Vista Park, 2421 W. Delmar in Godfrey. To register, call Kerri at (618) 420-5443.

## **Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19 Overnight retreat**

called "Silent Spring: Listening to the Voices of Extinction" at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Honor Rachel Carson's wisdom by hearing a scientist speak on the importance of biodiversity. Discuss extinct and endangered species and learn to live with integrity during this critical juncture in the Earth's story. Hours are 9:30 a.m. Saturday through midday Sunday. The \$100 fee includes meals and lodging. To register, call (618) 466-5004.

## **Sunday, April 19 Piasa Palisades Group Volunteer Appreciation**

**Day.** All present and past Sierra Club volunteers are invited to a party at Watershed Nature Center, 1591 Tower Ave. in Edwardsville. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. by calling (618) 462-6802 or sending an e-mail to Christine Favilla at christine.favilla@sierraclub.org.

## **Monday, April 20 Piasa Palisades Group Executive Committee meeting**

All members are welcome to attend! Meet at 7 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 223 Market St. in Alton. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

## **Wednesday, April 22 Town-hall meeting on climate change**

at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Spend Earth Day at a public forum on the definitive issue of our time. Learn about legislation that can help Illinois reduce its global-warming pollution. Meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Oak and Redbud rooms of Morris University Center. Free. For more information, call Wes at (217) 544-5954.

## **Friday, April 24 Spring frog walk**

at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Expert Paul Shetley will discuss calls and other habits of frogs and toads in the region, then lead the group into wetlands to see and hear them up close. The cost is \$5. Families welcome! Meet at 7 p.m. Dress appropriately and bring a flashlight or headlight. The center is at 1591 Tower Ave. Registration is required. Call (618) 692-7578 or send an e-mail to watershed@cityofedwardsville.com.

**Saturday, April 25 Wings of Spring festival** at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Mo. Fourth annual. Bird walks, river tours, kayak clinics, geocaching workshops, hand's-on children's activities, pelican and raptor shows and live music from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fun for the whole family! For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.wingsofspring.org/>.

## **Saturday, April 25 Environmental art workshop**

at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Celebrate Earth Day by letting your creative juices flow. Connect with others in a beautiful setting and express love and concern for the Earth in an artistic manner. Led by sculptor Jane Rieso and poet Elva Maxine Beach. Hours are 1 to 6:30 p.m. Use materi-

See CALENDAR/page 4

## Palisades Views

is a monthly publication for and about Sierra Club members.

To submit a newsletter item:  
440 W. Union St.  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
(618) 656-8132  
[palisadesviews@gmail.com](mailto:palisadesviews@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE FOR MAY:  
SATURDAY, APRIL 25**



# CALENDAR

## Continued from page 3

als found on the land to create natural sculptures that will remain at La Vista. Poetry readings will honor the Earth. Limited to 20 participants. The center is at 4300 Levis Lane. Fee of \$30 includes dinner. Call (618) 466-5004 to register.

**Saturday, April 25 Earth Day Coffeehouse** at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Bring a dessert and Earth-themed poetry, music or art to share with an enthusiastic audience. Hours are 7 to 9 p.m. outside a rustic lodge on bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River. Fair-trade coffee and tea will be provided. Celebrate human talent and honor the Earth. La Vista is at 4300 Levis Lane. Donations appreciated but not required. Call (618) 466-5004 to register.

**Friday through Sunday, May 1-3 Camp Ondessonk weekend.** Stay in dorms and enjoy beautiful hiking trails in the Ozark area. We hope to be joined by members of the Kaskaskia Group and Shawnee Group. Led by Carol Klinger and Jim Bensman. (Ted Horn has indicated he may not be leading his annual Ondessonk trip this year.) Free. For

## WANTED

**PLASTIC JUGS** — Three Rivers Project Coordinator Christine Favilla needs CLEAN gallon or half-gallon plastic milk or water jugs with lids for craft projects at the Wings of Spring birding festival on April 25. For more information, send an e-mail to [christine.favilla@sierraclub.org](mailto:christine.favilla@sierraclub.org).

more information, call (618) 288-5630 or send an e-mail to [cklinger@yahoo.com](mailto:cklinger@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, May 2 Bird walk** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Migratory birds are returning after a long winter and those that never left are becoming more active. Sierrans John and Ginger McCall will help people recognize birds by sight and sound. Meet at 8:30 a.m. The cost is \$3. Bring field guides and binoculars if you have them. The center is at 1591 Tower Ave. Registration is required. For more information, call (618) 692-7578 or

send an email to [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com).

**Saturday, May 9 Stream-monitoring workshop** for new “citizen scientists” with Illinois RiverWatch Network. Free for anyone interested in monitoring a stream each spring. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Lewis and Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road in Godfrey. Advance registration is required. A refresher workshop will be offered the same day for people who have already undergone full training. Contact RiverWatch Coordinator Vera Bojic at (618) 468-4870 or [vbojic@lc.edu](mailto:vbojic@lc.edu).

## Computer, electronics and appliance recycling

CITY	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	ADDRESS	FEES
Alton	Saturday, April 18	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Alton Square Mall (main parking lot)	200 Alton Square Mall Drive	None
Collinsville	Saturday, June 20	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Collinsville Memorial Public Library (parking lot)	408 W. Main St.	TV sets: \$10 for up to 24-inch, \$15 for 24- to 40-inch and \$20 for consoles and big screens
Jerseyville	Sunday, June 28	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Carrolton Bank Jerseyville Banking Center (parking lot)	201 W. Exchange St. (North State and West Exchange)	Same as Collinsville above
Hardin	Saturday, Sept. 12	9 a.m. to 2 p.m.	Calhoun High School (parking lot)	Illinois 100 North	\$20 for TV sets and \$10 for laptops and computer monitors