

# Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 8

August 2008

## Sierrans to tour ethanol plant

Members and friends of the Piasa Palisades Group are invited to take a 45-minute tour of the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, beginning at 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21.



The non-profit center provides industry support for design and construction of new ethanol plants; development and implementation of processes to enhance ethanol production; movement of near-term research into commercial production; and coordination of efforts by corn growers, livestock producers and the ethanol industry.

It's the only facility in the world

to house an analytical laboratory, fermentation-research laboratory, pilot-scale dry grind and wet mill ethanol-production process and workforce-training program under one roof.

"Advantages of using ethanol as a renewable fuel (are that it) improves our environment, reduces our dependence on oil and creates opportunities in rural America," according to the center's Web site.

Piasa Palisades Group Executive Committee Vice Chair Dave Gocken arranged for the tour after center director John Caupert had to cancel his presentation at the group's June meeting. For more information, call (618) 656-8304.

## Summer picnic: Be there or be square

It's hard to believe August is here already!

The Piasa Palisades Group's annual summer picnic will be held Sunday, Aug. 10, at Beaver Dam State Park, 7 miles southwest of Carlinville.

Members and guests are invited to go hiking or canoeing in the early afternoon or just show up for the potluck meal at 3 p.m. in Pavilion No. 3. Grilled items and fresh-squeezed lemonade will be furnished. Bring a dish to share, as well as plates, cups and utensils.

Beaver Dam is an incredibly nice

park with walking trails, a fishing and boating lake, a campground and marsh overlook. The picnic is a great opportunity to relax and touch base with other environmentalists in the region.



Some people may camp the night before and do some stargazing.

For more information, call Wayne Politsch at (618) 466-6150 or Bob Larson at (618) 462-2925.

## *Think globally, act locally on climate change*

What do soaring asthma rates, skyrocketing gas prices and shifting garden zones have in common?

They're all related to climate change.

The Illinois Environmental Council will hold a town-hall meeting on the topic of "Climate Change: How Does it Affect Metro East?" at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the National Great Rivers Museum, 2 Locks and Dam Way in Alton.

People will learn about proposed state legislation and other ways they can act locally to deal with this serious global threat.

An introduction by a climate-change expert will be followed by presentations from representatives of the American Lung Association and other groups, a question-and-answer session and sustainable refreshments.

Invited special guests include Illinois Rep. Daniel Beiser, Illinois Rep. Jay Hoff-

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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

**Friday, Aug. 1 Professional landscaping workshop** at Alberici Enterprises, 8800 Page Ave. in St. Louis (near Page and Interstate 170). The first in a two-part series for professionals in landscape management, architecture and horticulture. The topic is "Rain Garden, Bioswale and other Stormwater Alternatives." Four-hour session from 1 to 5 p.m. with lecture, discussion, questions and answers and site tour. Free. For more information,

call (314) 733-2000.

**Monday, Aug. 4 Construction Site Stormwater Committee meeting.** New members welcome! The committee has been busy reviewing developments and redevelopments near impaired waterways. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 223 Market St. in Alton. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or

send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

**Sunday, Aug. 10 Annual summer picnic** at Beaver Dam State Park, 7 miles southwest of Carlinville (see related article). Sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Members and guests are invited to go hiking or canoeing in the early afternoon or just show up for the potluck meal at 3 p.m. in Pavilion No. 3. Some people may camp the night before. For more

## 2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Wayne Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Vice Chair/Programs	Dave Gocken	435 E. Schwarz, Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 656-8304
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Political Action	Everett Loy	221 Ladd, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-5919
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Member	Sandy Wood	1719 Central Ave., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0358
Member	Jim Bensman	1802 Main St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0714
Member	Patricia Murrell	187 W. 19th St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-4051

## OTHER COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Treasurer	Sharon Freeman	P.O. Box 1031, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0059
Outings	Larry Tucker	1822 Park Ave., Apt. A, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-0649
Fund-raising	Bob Freeman	4813 Kaskaskia Trail, Godfrey, IL 62035	(618) 466-0656
Hospitality	Audrey Wiseman	3941 Sarah Lane, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 259-5997
Merchandising	Jennifer Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Staff Person	Christine Favilla	christine.favilla@sierraclub.org	(618) 462-0282

## SIERRA CLUB OFFICES

Illinois Chapter	200 N. Michigan, Suite 505	Chicago, IL 60601	(312) 251-1680
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# CALENDAR

information, call Wayne Politsch at (618) 466-6150 or Bob Larson at (618) 462-2925.

**Tuesday, Aug. 12 Illinois Environmental Council town-hall meeting** on the topic, "Climate Change: How Does it Affect Metro-East?"

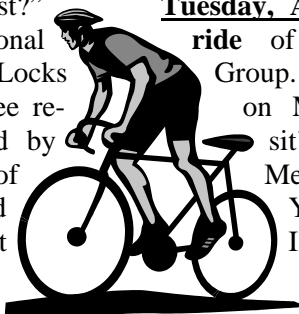
Meet at 6:30 p.m. at National Great Rivers Museum, 2 Locks and Dam Way in Alton (see related article). Co-sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club and United Congregations of Metro East Alton Cluster. For more information, call (217) 544-5954.

**Thursday, Aug. 14 Downstate Democrats for Change meeting** on climate change. Open to the public with a special invitation to Sierra Club members. Meet from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Southern Illinois University Religious Center. The guest speaker is Cathy Blair, who was trained by former Vice President Al Gore. Local organizations will operate booths with information on clean air and other regional environmental issues. For more information, call Pam at (618) 973-3584.

**Saturday, Aug. 16 Monthly moonlight hike** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Explore Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:30 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. Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

**Monday, Aug. 18 Executive Committee meeting** of the Piasa Palisades Group. All members are welcome to attend! Meet at 7 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 223 Market St. in Alton.

**Tuesday, Aug. 19 Monthly bike**



**ride** of the Piasa Palisades Group. Cover about 15 miles on Madison County Transit's Schoolhouse Trail. Meet at 6 p.m. at the YMCA of Southwest Illinois, 1 Town Center Drive in Maryville (near Illinois 159 and

Interstate 55/70). Ride to Horseshoe Lake in Granite City and back. Stop for ice cream at Culver's in Collinsville. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to [jbensman1@charter.net](mailto:jbensman1@charter.net).

**Thursday, Aug. 21 Tour of the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center** at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (see related article). Meet at 3 p.m. For more information, call Dave Gocken at (618) 656-8304.

**Friday to Sunday, Aug. 22-24**

**Overnight float trip** on Big Piney River in Missouri, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Camp Friday night at outfitter's campground and Saturday night on a gravel bar. For more information, call Larry Tucker at (618) 462-0649 or Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714.

**Tuesday, Sept. 2 Construction Site Stormwater Committee meeting.** New members welcome! The committee has been busy reviewing developments and redevelop-

ments near impaired waterways. Meet at 6 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 223 Market St. in Alton. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to [cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net).

**Friday to Sunday, Sept. 5-7 Sierra Club outings training** at MacKenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette, Wisc. Two-day training will focus on developing leadership and group-management skills needed for leading multi-day trips for adults and youths. Recommended for veterans and newcomers. For more information, call Sascha Paris at (415) 977-5711.

**Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12-13 Confluence clean-up** at Columbia

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## Palisades Views

is a monthly publication for and about Sierra Club members.

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

**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER:  
SATURDAY, AUG. 23**



# CALENDAR

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Bottoms Conservation Area in Missouri. Help beautify the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers following a riverside education program for students from Hazelwood, Mo., and St. Louis. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

**Wednesday, Sept. 17 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Volunteer Fair.** Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Morris University Center. Volunteers are needed to operate a Sierra Club booth and let students know of volunteer opportunities with our organization. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

**Saturday, Sept. 20 Mississippi Earthtones Festival in Alton.** A celebration of Illinois watersheds through education, recreation and conservation. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about native plants and animals, address threats to ecosystem health and help protect the history and culture of life on the river. Other activities include live folk and bluegrass music, a "River Art" village, plein-air contest, food and craft vendors, bike rides, litter clean-ups, etc. For more information, call (618) 463-1016 or (618) 462-2802.

**Friday, Sept. 26 Professional landscaping workshop** at Alberici Enterprises, 8800 Page Ave. in St.

Louis (near Page and Interstate 170 intersection). Second in a two-part series for professionals in landscape management, architecture and horticulture. The topic is "Landscape Planning and Design for Prairie and Savana." Four-hour session from 1 to 5 p.m. with lecture, discussion, questions and answers and site tour. Free. For more information, call (314) 733-2000.

**Saturday, Oct. 11 Alton fall litter and debris clean-up.** Register at one of five sites with coffee and donuts or stay close to home and beautify your own neighborhood. For more information, call (618) 467-2375.

**Saturday, Oct. 11 Cool City Treasures community sale** at the old St. Patrick's School during the Alton clean-up (see listing above) Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will sell artwork, crafts, plants, books and other new and "gently used" items. Benefit for United Congregations of Metro East, a peace and justice organization working for lasting social change. The school is at Fifth and Central. Space rental is \$25 for a table and two chairs. For more information, call Mary Lu McManus at (618) 660-5223 or Jan Hines at (618) 377-8257 before Sept. 20.

## CHRISTINE'S STAFF REPORT

~ A coalition of environmental groups, outdoor enthusiasts and government agencies held simultaneous press conferences at five Illinois state parks on July 22 to discuss concerns related to \$14 million in budget cuts recently imposed on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. More than two-dozen radio, TV and newspaper reporters covered the story. To read what they wrote, visit the Web site at <http://www.ilenviro.org/>

inthenews/.

~ Volunteers at recent Sierra Club e-drives collected 52 tons of recyclable items from 887 cars.

~ The Piasa Palisades Group and Alton Marketplace Association are sharing an intern this summer! Please welcome Zak Krug, soon to be a junior at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. He's majoring in political science with plans to pursue environmental law.

Krug is working on joint projects, such as the downtown Alton recycling pick-up. He's making tree shadow boxes for Illinois native trees; developing an adopt-a-can marketing and placement plan and computer-recycling flow chart; and helping to organize the Mississippi Earthtones Festival.

## CLIMATE

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man and Illinois Sen. Bill Haine.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club and United Congregations of Metro-East Alton Cluster. For more information, call (217) 544-5954 or send an email to [jgaudette@ilenviro.org](mailto:jgaudette@ilenviro.org).

