

Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 3

March 2009

Shawnee field rep to speak

Terri Treacy, a Sierra Club field representative working in the trenches of Southern Illinois, will be the guest speaker at the March meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group.

She'll focus on the club's renewed campaign to protect three sites in Shawnee National Forest as federal wilderness areas: Camp Hutchins, Ripple Hollow and Burke Branch.

She'll also outline a plan of action and offer suggestions on how metro-east residents can help.

"Wilderness protection is a strategic process that requires a collective and coordinated contribution of work and spirit," said Treacy, who's based in Golconda.

COOL CITY

Piasa Palisades Group Vice Chair Dave Gocken, right, congratulates Edwardsville Mayor Gary Niebur for signing the Cool Cities agreement in January and promising the city will take steps to reduce global warming.



Many Piasa Palisades Group members, including Outings Chair Jim Bensman, have been involved in helping to protect the Shawnee for years.

Please join us for the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 9, in the community room of First Unitarian Church at Third and Alby streets in Alton.

Volunteers needed to help with spring projects

Volunteering for the Sierra Club makes you feel like you're doing something concrete to help protect the environment, even if it's only for a few hours. It's also a way to make new friends, educate yourself and have fun.

For more information, call Three Rivers Coordinator Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net. Volunteers are needed for the following projects or events in

the next couple of months:

1) Downtown Alton recycling pick-up – Stroll among historic buildings and gather recycled materials from 20 small businesses. Get to know local shop owners. Once a month on Thursdays.

2) Upper Mississippi High School Education Day – Time-keepers and general helpers are needed for a critical-thinking skills session. Three-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, March 13.

3) Wings of Spring School Day – Help fourth-graders dissect owl pellets at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Mo. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, April 24.

4) Water Stewardship Festival – Work with fifth-graders at a fish-related art booth to emphasize the importance of healthy river systems. No previous knowledge required. Two-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, May 8.

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Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery.

*Haiku poetry by
Gretchen Batz*

thin ice –

a pink-trailed jet

skims across

*Published in South by
Southeast, 2006*

Children can enter art contest

An art contest is being held for students in sixth through 12th grades in conjunction with this year's Mississippi Earthtones Festival in Alton.

Students are invited to submit black line drawings suitable for a coloring book called "The Watershed and Me!" (Use marker, crayon or ink; no collages or computer-generated images.)

Each entry must include a 50-word or less explanation of the de-

sign and how it relates to the watershed and people. This can be presented in the form of a conservation tip, but it should be in the student's own words.

The 10 winning drawings will be combined into a coloring book to be handed out at the festival on Saturday, Sept. 19.

For complete guidelines, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

2009 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
Secretary	Laura Asher	1406 Liberty St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 465-8586
Membership	Gayle Borman	510 Hamilton Blvd., Wood River, IL 62095	(618) 254-2250
Political action	Everett Loy	221 Ladd, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-5919
Outings/chapter	Jim Bensman	1802 Main St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0714
Conservation	Virginia Woulfe-Beile	616 E. 16th St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 465-1842
Personnel	Sandy Wood	1719 Central Ave., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0358
Member	Joseph Michlitsch	44 Sunset Hills, Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 659-0181

OTHER COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Treasurer	Jill Mellenthin	447 E. 15th St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 465-5490
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
Personnel	Bob Larson	909 McKinley, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-4448
Hospitality	Audrey Wiseman	3941 Sarah Lane, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 259-5997
Merchandising	Jennifer Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Newsletter mailing	Carole Massalone	400 Jefferson, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-0288
Three Rivers staff	Christine Favilla	christine.favilla@sierraclub.org	(618) 462-6802

SIERRA CLUB OFFICES

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C A L E N D A R

Mondays, March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 Voluntary Simplicity Discussion Course at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Join a stimulating and important discussion. Find motivation to examine and transform your personal values and habits, accept responsibility for the Earth and act on that commitment. Hours are 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 4300 Levis Lane. The discussion guidebook costs \$20. To register, call (618) 466-5004.

Monday, March 2 Storm Water Patrol Committee meeting. Meet at 6 p.m. in the Sierra Club's office at 223 Market St. in Alton to review construction-related stormwater complaints. To RSVP, call (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to Christine Favilla at cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, March 7 Spring prairie burn at Heartland Prairie at Gordon Moore Park in Alton. Volunteers are needed to assist The Nature Institute. In case of rain or high winds, the project will be postponed until March 14. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

Saturday, March 7 The Children's Discovery Garden volunteer orientation. The Community Cultivators need your help in teaching children how to grow organic fruits and vegetables. Background checks required. Meet at noon at the garden in La Vista Park, 2421 W. Delmar in Godfrey. To register, call Kerri at (618) 420-5443. For more information, visit the Web site at www.thediscoverygarden.org.

Monday, March 9 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting. Sierra Club Field Representative Terri Treacy 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. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

Tuesday, March 10 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. Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

Wednesday, March 11 Knee-High Naturalists program at The Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. March's theme is "Why Animals Do Gross Things." Learn about animal-survival techniques, eat "scat cookies" and "yuck it up" during story time. 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, March 6. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

Monday, March 16 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.

Wednesday, March 18 Sierra Club Lobby Day. Travel to Springfield to talk to state legislators about global-warming solutions, adequate funding for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, greening the Illinois economy, etc. A fun, educational experience that really makes a difference! To regis-

ter or get more details, visit the Web site at <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageServer?pagename=Lobby2009>.

Saturday, March 21 Registration for Discovery Day Camp. A variety of summer camps will be offered for children in kindergarten through sixth grades at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Teachers will lead adventures in the woods and raise environmental awareness. Registration hours are 9 a.m. to noon at St. Ambrose Community Center, 820 Homer Adams Parkway in Godfrey. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930 or visit the Web site at www.thenatureinstitute.org.

Saturday, March 28 Wildflower Walkabout at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Meet at 9 a.m. at Talahi

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Palisades Views

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and about Sierra Club
members.

To submit a newsletter item:
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palisadesviews@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR APRIL:
SATURDAY, MARCH 21



C A L E N D A R

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Lodge. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

Saturday, March 28 Third-annual Confluence Trash Bash, sponsored by Confluence Partnership, Trailnet and St. Louis Metropolitan Sewer District. Help bring back the Mississippi River's splendor by picking up trash and debris along its banks from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Missouri River Relief will pick up volunteers at the Missouri entrance to the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge and take them to clean-up sites by boat. Lunch will be served. To register or get more information, call (314) 436-1324 or visit the Web site at www.confluencegreenway.org.

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 Illinois state symbols, including the state grass, state

WANTED

Three Rivers Project Coordinator Christine Favilla needs the following:

1) Clean gallon or half-gallon plastic milk or water jugs for craft projects at the Wings of Spring festival on April 25.

2) Art supplies such as clay, paint and pens and random recycled items for the Wings of Springs festival.

3) Hybrid cars and trucks for display in the Hybrid Car Festival in downtown Alton for a few hours on June 14.

amphibian, state snack and state dance. 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.

Saturday, April 18 Sierra Club recycling drive for computers, electronics and appliances. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Alton Square mall (lower-level parking lot near Sears). To find out what items will be accepted, visit the Web site at <http://Illinois.sierraclub.org/piasapalisades>.

Saturday, April 18 Workshop on organic-gardening basics, sponsored by The Community Cultivators. Instruction 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, hear 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 mid-day 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 the party at Watershed Nature Center, 1591 Tower Ave. in Edwardsville. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Please RSVP by calling (618) 462-6802 or sending an e-mail to Christine Favilla at cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, April 25 Wings of Spring festival at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Mo. Fourth-annual event. Birding walks, river tours, kayak clinics, geocaching workshops, hand's-on children's activities, pelican and raptor shows, live music and vendor booths 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/>.

Environmental tip of the month

**By Zak Krug
Intern**

Has anyone ever told you to "turn off the lights when you leave a room?" That old-time saying can help you waste less electricity and save money.

Another suggestion: Buy more-efficient compact-fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They not only give off brighter light, they last for longer periods of time and use less electricity, conserving energy and making your power bill just a little more bearable to open at the end of the month.

Visit Ameren's Web site at www.ameren.com for coupons and drop off CFLs at Home Depot stores for recycling.