

# Palisades Views



Volume XXXX No. 5

May 2011

## Green is going mainstream

Piasa Palisades Group members will learn more about how “green is going mainstream” at the May 9 meeting.

The speaker will be Christen Gates, a Sierran who is part of a new generation of sustainable business professionals.

She works for the technology and geospatial company VSolvit and volunteers for the non-profit organization St. Louis Green.

“Our objective is to give you the opportunity to learn more about sustainability and how you can simply change your daily decisions for a greener lifestyle,” according to the website at [www.stlouisgreen.com](http://www.stlouisgreen.com).

Gates holds a bachelor’s degree in

anthropology and sociology and a master’s degree in environmental science.

Gates formerly worked for Day and Night Solar.

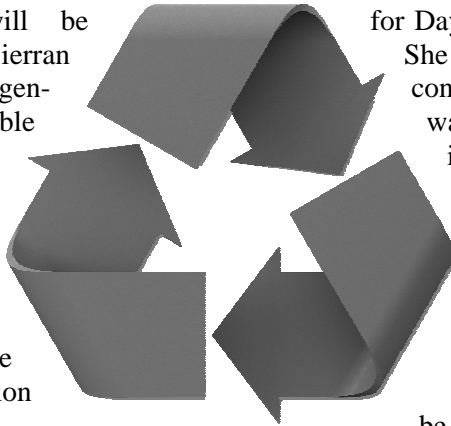
She has been a tireless contributor to the Edwardsville Cool Cities program.

When Gates isn’t working, she’s scuba diving off a reef somewhere in the world.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 9, at the First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton.

Anyone is welcome to join the speaker for a pre-meeting dinner at 5:45 p.m. at Bossanova, 112 E. Third St. in Alton.



## Stay informed on a regular basis

Last month, Palisades Views promoted three ways Piasa Palisades Group members can connect without paper: Facebook, an outings listserv and online versions of the newsletter.

A fourth way is being developed: An e-mail action list.

Members on the list will be sent news, announcements and “action alerts” on local and regional environ-

mental issues.

Why not join this effort? You always can unsubscribe later.

Send your name and e-mail address to Piasa Palisades Group Executive Committee member Chris Krusa at [ckrusa@charter.net](mailto:ckrusa@charter.net).

For more information, call him at (618) 288-2681 (home) or (410) 490-5024 (cell).

## Good news

By Sara McGibany  
Alton Marketplace

Alton Marketplace and the Piasa Palisades Group have for years teamed up to provide an earth-friendly celebration of the Mississippi River through the Mississippi Earthtones Festival and to help local stores, offices and restaurants “green” their operations through a program called Downtown Recycles!

In 2010, we partnered on the Green Gift Bazaar on Small Business Saturday and promoted it as a fun way to spend the day downtown and support local businesses. We facilitated recycling of 225 pounds of burned-out holiday lights, 378 pounds of electronics and 546 pounds of batteries saved from the landfill.

The Environmental Protection Agency recently informed us we have been named fiscal agent of a \$1,000 grant for a river clean-up, which will be led by the Sierra Club in conjunction with the 2011 Mississippi Earthtones Festival on Sept. 17. Last year, 80 volunteers turned out to remove 4,000 pounds of litter from river banks, about half of that recyclable. Way to go!

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

# Experts offer sources on energy-efficient homes

By **Richard C. Keating**  
Group member

The idea that I should consider living in an advanced, energy-efficient home has been lurking in my mind for many years.

But before one engages a contractor or architect, it seems obvious he or she should become well-informed on the talking points.

My search for magazines or books in the larger bookstores of the region has been disappointing. The technol-

ogy on alternative energy and other aspects of materials is moving quickly. A book published three years ago, for instance, is just not up on what you need to know.

So I asked my friend, Lynn Warren, who in turn asked her friend, Wanda Evans, to provide a list of sources for those of us who would like to stay better informed.

Both women are LEED-certified architects. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental

Design, a certification program of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Some of the six offerings they kindly furnished are not solely home-oriented, but I have found all most helpful in laying out the issues. I also added a seventh.

For sustainable homes:

**H o m e E n e r g y** at <http://www.homeenergy.org>.

**H o m e P o w e r** at <http://>

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## 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair/Nelson Foundation	Wayne Politsch	politschw@aol.com	(618) 466-6150
Vice chair/programs	Dave Gocken	daverun2yahoo.com	(618) 656-8304
Secretary	Laura Asher	llasher@sbcglobal.net	(618) 465-8586
Membership/office	Gayle Borman	cgborman@hotmail.com	(618) 254-2250
Conservation	Amitie Flynn	alflynn@mail.lc.edu	(618) 639-0828
Conservation	Chris Krusa	clkrusa@charter.net	(618) 288-2681
Personnel	Virginia Woulfe-Beile	coexist1221@aol.com	(618) 465-1842
Outings/technology	Jim Bensman	jbensman1@charter.net	(618) 463-0714
Chapter/ personnel	Joseph Michlitsch	jmichli3325@att.net	(618) 659-0181

## OTHER COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Treasurer	Jill Mellenthin	jmellenthin@yahoo.com	(618) 465-5490
Sales	Jennifer Politsch	politschw@aol.com	(618) 466-6150
Newsletter mailing	Carole Massalone	carolem3@charter.net	(618) 462-0288
Hospitality	Gayle Borman	cgborman@hotmail.com	(618) 254-2250
Hospitality	Virginia Woulfe-Beile	coexist1221@aol.com	(618) 465-1842
Three Rivers staff	Christine Favilla	christine.favilla@sierraclub.org	(618) 462-6802

## SIERRA CLUB OFFICE

Piasa Palisades Group	223 Market St.	Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-6802
	E-mail:	Website:	FAX:
	ppg_sc@yahoo.com	www.illinois.sierraclub.org/piasapalisades	(618) 462-0282

## MAY CALENDAR

**Friday through Sunday, May 6-8 Camp Ondessonk weekend.** Stay in cabins and hike in beautiful Shawnee National Forest amid wildflowers and other signs of spring. Hopefully, the Piasa Palisades Group will join members of the Kaskaskia and Shawnee groups. The cost is \$10 per night (\$5 for students). Meals on your own. Jim Bensman is group leader. For more information, e-mail coordinator Carol Klinger at ciklinger@yahoo.com.

**Monday, May 9 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting.** Christen Gates of VSolvit and St. Louis Green will be the guest speaker (see related article). Meet at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. Pre-meeting dinner at 5:45 p.m. at Bossanova. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

**Wednesday, May 11 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride** on the Schoolhouse Trail from Collinsville to Horseshoe Lake State Park and back. About 10 flat miles. Start at 6 p.m. at the Metro East Park and Recreation District office on United Drive, off Illinois 157, a half mile north of Interstate 55/70 (Google N38 41.301 W90 00.682 for map). Helmet required. Also bring a light as it may get dark before we return. End the evening with treats at Culver's. For more information, contact Jim Bensman at jbensman1@charter.net or (618) 463-0714. In case of questionable weather, call first.

**Saturday, May 14 Columbia Bottom Appreciation Day** at Becherer's Farm on Riverview Drive, a quarter mile from Columbia Bottoms Conservation Area, north of St. Louis.

Classes by the Sierra Club, St. Louis Audubon Society, Missouri Department of Conservation and others. Start at 1 p.m. Bring chairs. No pets (there are lots of frogs). Volunteers needed for serving lemonade, directing cars to parking and manning the registration table. For more information, call Gloria Broderick at (314) 741-4588.

**Tuesday, May 17 Piasa Palisades Group monthly moonlight hike** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville (Google N38 49.021 W89 58.455 for map). For more information, call trip leader Virginia Woulfe-Beile at (618) 977-2319 or e-mail to coxist1221@aol.com.

### NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Thursday, May 5 Colin Beavan talk** at Principia College in Elsah. Part of spring speakers series. Beavan is a New York City writer and self-proclaimed "guilty liberal" who based his recent book, "The No Impact Man," on a grand experiment to live one year with as little environmental impact as possible. It proved trying for family members accustomed to their "comforts." Meet at 7:30 p.m. in Wanamaker Hall, 1 Maybeck Place. For more information, call (618) 374-2131 or visit [www.principiaspeakers.com](http://www.principiaspeakers.com).

**Saturday, May 7 Wings of Spring Migratory Bird Festival** at Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary in West Alton, Mo. Volunteers needed to run a Sierra Club booth. Help

kids make "eco-heads" (like reusable Chia pets) then enjoy the festival. Two-hour shifts from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Event sponsored by the Audubon Center at Riverlands. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

**Sunday, May 8 Birding with Audubon** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. A unique bird-watching adventure with John James Audubon re-enactor Brian "Fox" Ellis. Audubon (1785-1851) was an artist and naturalist who published seven volumes of field notes, an "ornithological biography" of all 465 bird species he painted. Local birding expert Lane Richter will co-lead. Meet at 8 a.m. at Talahi Lodge. Free. Moderate terrain. Wear good walking shoes. Bring bin-

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### 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 JUNE:  
SATURDAY, MAY 28**



## CALENDAR

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oculars, a journal and water. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

### **Friday and Saturday, May 13-14**

**BioBlitz and Festival of the Bluffs** in Valmeyer. About 50 scientists and naturalists will converge on Salt Lick Point Land and Water Conservation Area to do a 24-hour inventory of plant, animal, bird and insect species from noon Friday to noon Saturday. The public is invited to a Friday evening field trip. Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday in Old Valmeyer with an art market, native plant sale, presentations, demonstrations, live music and food. For more information, call (618) 458-4674 or e-mail to cliffstop@htc.net.

### **Saturday, May 14**

**Solar gazing** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Safely examine details of the sun with astronomy guru Steve Sands, who has special solar telescopes. Informal (drop by anytime between 10 a.m. and noon). Must be 8 or older. For more information, call (618) 692-7578.

### **Saturday, May 14**

**Workshop on Growing and Harvesting Herbs** at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Taught by Crystal Moore-Stevens and Eric Stevens, farmers at the Community Supported Garden at La Vista. Learn basics of soil types, proper drainage, light exposure, plant maintenance, harvesting and storing. Take home herb starts, a simple grower's manual and a list of local suppliers. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$35. For more information, call (618) 466-5004.

### **Saturday, May 21**

**United Congregations of Metro East breakfast.**

Sierra Club staff person Christine Favilla will speak. Sponsored by faith-based activist group whose interests include environmental protection. Meet at 9 a.m. at Central Christian Church, 202 Johnson Road in Granite City. R.S.V.P. by calling (618) 451-1458 or e-mail to ucmetroeast@gmail.com.

### **Sunday, May 22**

**Bird hike** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey with birding expert Lane Richter, of the Audubon Center at Riverlands. Learn about and listen for songbirds during peak spring migration. Meet at 8 a.m. at Talahi Lodge. Moderate terrain. Wear good walking shoes. Bring binoculars, a journal and water. Free. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

### **Sunday, May 22**

**You Can Paddle event** at Riverlands Environmental Demonstration Area in West Alton, Mo. Volunteers needed for two-hour shifts between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Help unload canoes and kayaks, push canoeists off for clinics, reload canoes on trailer, pick up litter, etc. Organized by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### **Saturday, May 28**

**Aquatic Creatures program** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Put on your boots, venture into the wetlands to capture aquatic creatures and look at them under a microscope at the Welcome Center. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon. Families welcome. For more information, call (618) 692-7578.

NOTE: The Sierra Club is not sponsoring or administering the above activities and cannot vouch for their quality, safety, planning, supervision or management. Information is being provided because it may be of interest to members.

## WELCOME

The following people recently became members of the Sierra Club and Piasa Palisades Group:

Mary Wiseman, Alison Dreith, Michael Rudolph and Brian Aims of Godfrey, Charles DeLong and G. Johnson of Shipman, Judy Doerr of Elsay, Jacob Erickson and Ray Malter of Collinsville, Elizabeth Griggs of Bethalto, Brad Hart, Lucas Mus-salto and Sarah Bohlen of Staunton, Patrick Kovarick, Edward Small, Michael Toje and Marilou Glescking of Edwardsville, Julie Quinn and Wilma Lintz of Alton, Mary Costas of Wood River, Elmer Fenton and Jeannie Zbinden of Greenville, Mark McAm-ish and Helen Stumpe of Granite City, Janet McAtee of Greenview, Margaret Moggio of Glen Carbon, Lana Potter of St. Elmo, Dennis Ragan of Pontoon Beach, Mary Ungarelli of Benld, Jim Linksvayer of Alhambra and Bobby Vandeusen of Brighton.

Welcome! We hope to see you at meetings, picnics, bike rides, hikes and other events in the future.

## HOMES

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[homepower.com/home/](http://homepower.com/home/).

For sustainable building in general, not just homes:

**Green Source** at <http://greensource.construction.com/>.

**Eco-Structure** at <http://www.ecostructure.com/>.

**Green Building and Design** at <http://gbdmagazine.com/>.

**Solar Today** at <http://www.ases.org/index>.

**California Institute of Earth Art and Architecture** (dome houses) at [www.caleearth.org](http://www.caleearth.org).

Note: Some of these can be subscribed to as print copies.