

# Palisades Views



Volume XXXX No. 11

November 2011

## Speaker helped bring wind and solar power to SIUE

The guest speaker for the November meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group is Paul Shetley, director of the Environmental Resources Training Center, which is part of the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville School of Engineering.

The center was designated in 1977 by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency as the headquarters for continuing education of personnel involved in the operation, maintenance and management of drinking-water and wastewater-treatment systems.

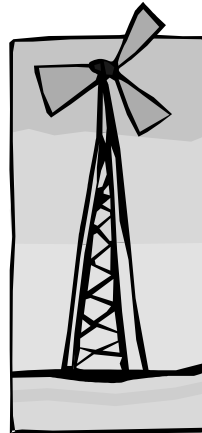
In the early 1980s, its mission was

expanded to include the training of licensed plumbers and certified water operators to become IEPA-certified Cross Connection Control Device Inspectors.

The center recently installed a 120-foot wind turbine and 140 photovoltaic (solar) panels, which are expected to generate up to 40 percent of the electricity needed to operate its wastewater and drinking-water treatment plants, laboratories and research offices.

“As our world changes and time goes on, the importance of finding alternative, affordable energy resources is huge,” Shetley said.

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and the IEPA funded installation of the wind turbine and solar panels. The idea was not only to produce electricity but to “empower minds” and provide educational opportunities for SIUE



**FOR SALE**

**SIERRA CLUB CALENDARS** make great Christmas gifts! Piasa Palisades Group merchandising chair Jennifer Politsch will sell them at the group’s monthly meetings at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 at First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 26 at the Green Gift Bazaar at Riverbender.com Community Center, 200 W. Third St. in Alton. The cost is \$14 for engagement desk calendars or \$13 for wilderness wall calendars. No tax!

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## About 40 people enjoyed weekend at Camp Ouatoga

By Gayle Borman  
ExCom member

Were you at Weekend in the Woods last month?

If so, consider this a happy reminder of all the fun we had staying and playing at Camp Ouatoga in Pere Marquette State Park.

The weather was perfect. The leaves were colorful. It was just a great weekend!

The arrival always is exciting. Which cabin do I want? One near the bathhouse? Dining hall? Beautiful vista of woods and river?

Should I sleep on the north end, where great horned owls rule the night? Or the south end, where barred owls hang out?

We checked the lights in our cabin and made our bunks before heading to the dining hall to meet with fellow nature lovers.

Friday night’s Owl Walk was informative and fun, as usual. It’s good practice for Hallow-

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

## Welcome to new Piasa Palisades Group members

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

Dustin Braswell, Eric Stueber, Alvin Harper, Joel Lein, Carolyn Potter, D. Felts, Patricia Jones and James Bridwell of Edwardsville; Steven Byland, Nicolas French and Magie Stephens of Troy; Jarad Corzine, Cathy Greenman, Bill F. McMaster, Nell Presson, David Stacy and Cindy Lalla of Granite City; Ray Hunter and Merrill Thull of Vandalia; Sarah

Cotter, Sherry Sidwell, Debby Whitney and Janice Joiner of Alton; Chris Logue of St. Elmo; Linda Yancy of Sorento; John and Elizabeth Slosar, Stephanie and Peter McAndrews, Grace Garin, Shirley Eaves and Christine Leopold of Glen Carbon; Sarah Fry of Tallula; Virginia Gruenenfelder of Litchfield; Kendall Huffmaster, Bruce Loveless and Chris Morlin of Carlinville; Sharon Pohek, Phillip Steelman, Ronald Casillas, Suzie

Scott, Barbara Purlee, Clement Shirutes, Andrea Mull and Christine Clark of Collinsville; David Stege and Ronald Smith of Hillsboro; Lawrence Strubhart, Susan Faupel and Russell Lee Burton of Pleasant Plains; Jennifer Tapen of Carrolton; Roger Zipprich and Michael Allway of Jerseyville; Ronald Herren of Kampsville; Carol Lord, Lucille Stevenson and Randy Massey of Godfrey; Shirley Mattes and David Pat-

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### 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair/Nelson Foundation	Wayne Politsch	politschw@aol.com	(618) 466-6150
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### SIERRA CLUB OFFICE

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## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**Thursday, Nov. 10 Piasa Palisades Group monthly moonlight hike** at the Nature Institute in Godfrey. Explore Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve by the light of the full moon. Dress warm. Bring a friend! Meet at Talahi Lodge, 2213 S. Levis Lane. From Homer Adams Parkway in Alton (Illinois 3), turn right on West Delmar in Godfrey, left on Levis Lane and left on South Levis. For more information, call Gayle Borman at (618) 254-2250.

**Monday, Nov. 14 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting** (see related article). The guest speaker is Paul Shetley, director of the SIUE Environmental Resources Training Center. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the community room of First Unitarian Church, 110 E. Third St. in Alton. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

### NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, Nov. 5 Healthy Vegetarian Harvest Soups program** at La Vista Ecological Learning Center. Learn to make soups that are good for your family and the planet. Commercially prepared soups commonly contain wheat, gluten, corn, soy, MSG and way too much sodium. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. The cost is \$25. For more information, call (618) 466-5004 or visit [www.lavistaelc.org](http://www.lavistaelc.org).

**Saturday, Nov. 12 Fall tree identification walk** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville as part of its Get Outdoors! series. A naturalist will lead a hike to help people learn how to identify trees and enjoy remaining fall colors. Hours are 10

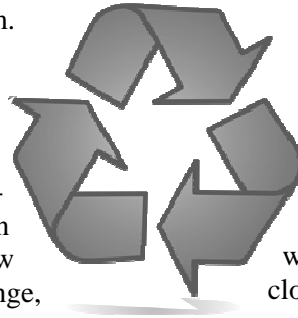
a.m. to noon. Cost is \$3 per person. Space is limited. Registration is required. For more information, call (618) 692-7578 or e-mail [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com).

**Saturday, Nov. 12 Awakening the Dreamer: Changing the Dream annual symposium** at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Develop a new dream that embraces change, justice, peace and ecological sustainability instead of consumerism and competition. Includes viewing of inspirational DVDs and group interaction. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon (registration begins at 8:30 a.m.). The cost is \$15. For more information, call (618) 466-5004. Register at [www.lavistaelc.org](http://www.lavistaelc.org).

**Saturday, Nov. 12 America Recycles Day** at Goshen Elementary School in Edwardsville. WITS and partnering organizations will collect electronics, appliances, Styrofoam, books, newspapers, magazines, clothes, shoes, toys in good condition (for families in need), household batteries, holiday lights and other decorations, medical equipment (for handicapped programs), scrap metal and parts, baby items (for shelters) reusable dishes, silverware, linens, small household items and secure documents (to be shredded by Always Green at later date).

**Saturday, Nov. 26 Ninth-annual Green Gift Bazaar.** Thirty eco-friendly artists will sell high-quality wares from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Riverbender.com Community Center, 200 W. Third St. in Alton. Free

admission. Kids and Elves Craft Zone. Screenings of the environmental films "Thirst" at 11 a.m., "Fresh" at 12:30 p.m. and "Bag It!" at 2 p.m. in the theater. Recycling of Christmas lights, household batteries, cell phones, shoes, D-ring belts, jewelry, white and off-white napkins, tablecloths and other material, sewing notions, eyeglasses, tote bags, etc.



**Saturday, Nov. 26 Get Outdoors! program** on why leaves change color at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, call (618) 692-7578, e-mail [watershed@cityofedwardsville.com](mailto:watershed@cityofedwardsville.com).

### Palisades Views

is a monthly publication for and about Sierra Club members.

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[palisadesviews@gmail.com](mailto:palisadesviews@gmail.com)

**DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER:  
SATURDAY, NOV. 26**



## WEEKEND

Continued from page 1

een walks in the dark.

Saturday's canoe gloat was handled expertly by outing leader Jill Mellenthin (Bet you couldn't tell it was her first!) and Dick Worthen.

Happy hands prepared a delicious Saturday evening dinner with veggies and desserts by Jennifer Politsch, Virginia Woulf-Beile, Carol Masalone and others volunteering in the kitchen.

"Chef Bob" Larson was in charge of the big, honkin' grill out back. He produced excellent barbecue pork steaks with help (and banter) from his able assistants.

Chairman Wayne Politsch said a few heartfelt words about the recent loss of our visionary and devoted leaders, Louise and Bob Freeman, and our beloved Sandy Wood. We felt their spirit and guidance throughout the weekend.

After dinner, we headed up the hill to the open area where astronomer Steve Sands had set up his awesome, computer-driven reflector telescope.

He treated us to amazing views of the moon's surface, planets, galaxies and nebulas, all with easy humor that kept us laughing and entertained.

Meanwhile, behind the dining hall, newcomer "King Rick" was building one of the most architecturally handsome campfires we'd ever seen.

Nothing encourages camaraderie like a great campfire. Flames rose high and wild while members and guests beat drums, shook tambourines and whirled hula-hoops.

For many of us, it was difficult to leave the camp on Sunday morning. We lingered to absorb as many of nature's gifts as possible.

Another memorable Weekend in the Woods. See you next year!

## SIUE

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students in engineering and other fields.

Shetley has more than 20 years of experience in water quality and environmental science. He has been involved in groundwater and surface water-quality investigations, wetlands determinations and envi-

## WELCOME

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terson of Brownstown; Val Sherfy-Warren of Staunton; George Bedrava, Keith Gregory, Kevin Tait and Vickie Taylor of Girard; Pamela Velter of Hamburg; Peggy J. Davenport of New Douglas; Lindell Loveless of Gillespie; Joseph and Patricia Roti Roti and Valerie Mollet of Highland; S. Taylor of Hillview; Elaine Kassak of Wood River; Jarred Lapeire of Maryville; Dennis Steele of Beecher City; Jean Weatherford-Nolle of Cottage Hills; and Kristina Manwaring of St. Jacob.

## WANTED

The Sierra Club is seeking an associate organizing representative in Illinois to build grassroots power for effort to eliminate coal's contribution to global warming no later than 2030 and create an economy fueled by clean and plentiful wind, solar and geothermal energy. The employee will be based in Springfield or some other Central Illinois location. Please send a cover letter and resume to resumes@sierraclub.org. Specify job code Assoc. Organizing Rep., Coal (IL) — SCIL 77-11 in the subject line.

ronmental impact analyses all over the country for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Energy and Illinois Department of Transportation and at many industrial facilities.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, 110 E. Third St. in Alton. Everyone is invited to join the speaker for dinner at 5:45 p.m. at Bossanova, 112 W. Third St. in Alton.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

**WANTED**

The Sierra Club is helping the Cottage Hills House of Hope create a garden to provide its soup kitchen with fresh produce. The land needs to be appraised for a grant proposal. We're looking appraisers who would be willing to donate their services. Please send an e-mail to Christine Favilla at cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net as soon as possible.

**NOTICE**

The Piasa Palisades Group has an e-mail action list for members who want to receive breaking news, announcements and action alerts on local and regional environmental issues. Why not join this effort? You always can unsubscribe later, if desired. Send your name and e-mail address to Chris Krusa at clkruza@charter.net. For more information, call him at (618) 288-2681 (home) or (410) 490-5024 (cell).