

Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 10

October 2009

SIUE's Conley will speak on green spaces

Public green spaces such as gardens, nature centers and parks are becoming more and more important as the U.S. population becomes more and more urban. They're frequently people's only contact with the natural world.

Doug Conley, director of The Gardens at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, will discuss



"The Importance of Green Space" at the October meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group.

Conley will explain how "constructed environments" help address the crisis of human detachment from nature. He will address social, philosophical and environmental issues, using The Gardens master plan as a case study.

The Gardens is a 35-acre public botanical garden on the SIUE campus that's a Signature Garden of Missouri Botanical Garden. It includes natural areas, gardens, water features and sculptures in landscaped settings.

A one-mile walking path meanders through woodlands, grasslands and gardens, including the Hardy Family Wind Forest, Edward Chase Garvey Memorial Gardens and Donald Myer Arboretum. An arched bridge over the north pond leads to a new venue called The Lantern for weddings and special events.

Conley became the first director of The Gardens in 2005. He holds bachelor's degrees in ornamental horticulture and applied biology from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., and a master's degree in public horticulture from University of Delaware.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 12, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton.

NOTICE

SAVE THE DATE — The 7th Annual Green Gift Bazaar will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19, at Alton Square Mall. If you want to vend your eco-friendly goods, call (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED

CANDIDATES — The Illinois Stewardship Alliance needs new board members to serve three-year terms beginning Jan. 15, 2010.

The alliance was founded in 1974. It promotes ecologically sustainable, economically viable, socially just local food systems through policy development, advocacy and education.

Sierra Club staff person Christine Favilla has served on the board for six years and needs to find some like-minded people to run for election, starting Oct. 15. If interested, please e-mail her at cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

WANTED

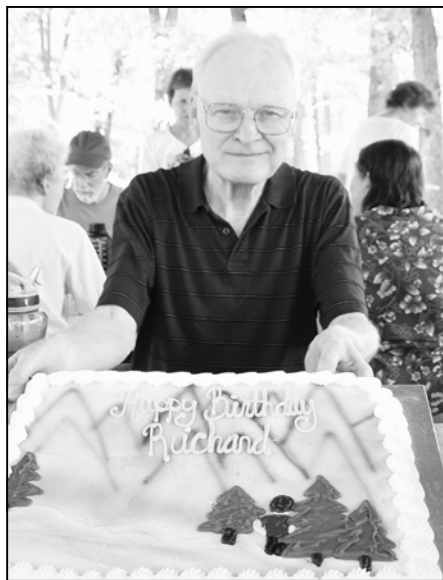
VOLUNTEERS — Volunteers are needed to plant trees at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey on Saturday, Oct. 3. Shifts begin at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Stay for both and get a free lunch.

Meet in the north rear parking lot near the new retention pond. Wear closed-toe shoes, layers of appropriate clothing, sunscreen and a hat. Materials, gloves and water provided. R.S.V.P. to (618) 462-6802.

NOTICE

FAX LINE — The Sierra Club has cancelled its fax line in the Alton office to save funds. Please note that (618) 462-0282 is no longer functioning.

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Beaver Dam summer picnic

About 25 members of the Piasa Palisades Group gathered at Beaver Dam State Park in August for their annual summer picnic. They hiked, canoed, played horseshoes, socialized and enjoyed a potluck meal. A few even camped and stargazed the night before. Clockwise, from upper left, are Jennifer Politsch cutting Rich Keating's birthday cake; Keating showing off the cake's mountain motif; Sandy Wood making fresh lemonade; Wayne Politsch and Bob Larson grilling the meat and veggie burgers; and Virginia Woulfe-Beile and Carol Klinger playing horseshoes.

CALENDAR

Saturday, Oct. 3 Economy, Ecology and Spirituality Conference, sponsored by the Sierra Club and United Congregations of Metro East. Key-note speech and breakout sessions. The fee is \$20 for adults or \$10 for students. For more information, contact Jan Hines at (618) 377-8257 or jhines519@charter.net.

Saturday, Oct. 3 Tree-planting at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey (see related notice). For more information, call the Sierra Club office in Alton at (618) 462-6802.

Saturday, Oct. 3 Watershed Nature Center 5K Trail Run and 1 Mile Trail Walk on paved and mulched trails. Show time is 9 a.m. at the center, 1591 Tower Road in Edwardsville (registration begins at 8). Fees range from \$10 to \$20. To access a registration form and route map in advance, visit www.watershednaturecenter.com or call (618) 692-7578.

Saturday, Oct. 3 Monthly Walkabout at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. October's theme is "Stories of a Leaf Peeper." Meet at 5 p.m. at Talahi Lodge for an easy-to-moderate hike through Mississippi Sanctuary. End with fall spirits and light snacks. Free. Donations accepted. Wear clothing suitable for walking and weather. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

Sunday, Oct. 4 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. 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. Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.



Saturday, Oct. 10 Watershed Nature Center Fallfest. The center will be open from 4 to 9 p.m. so people can explore nature in the dark.

Bring a flashlight for a naturalist-led hike on trails or go inside to learn about how worms work at night. Make your own vermicomposting bin to keep for \$15. For more information, call (618) 692-7578 or visit www.watershednaturecenter.com.

Monday, Oct. 12 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting. Doug Conley of The Gardens at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 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.

Wednesday, Oct. 14 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride. Last ride of the season, beginning at 6 p.m. Specifics to be determined based on weather conditions. If you want to participate but you're not on the outings listserv, contact Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or jbensman1@charter.net. He will let people know if the trip has to be canceled or rescheduled.

Friday, Oct. 16 Enchanted Forest

at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Fall event for the whole family! Meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at Talahi Lodge, 2213 S. Levis Lane. The \$5 fee includes chili, hot dogs, punch, games, crafts and treats. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

Sunday, Oct. 18 Discover The Gardens at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (see related article). Nature-based and family friendly activities. Performances by the Suzuki Strings and Taiko Drummers. Hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Free. For more information, call Doug Conley at (618) 650-3070 or visit www.siu.edu/gardens/.

Monday, Oct. 19 Piasa Palisades Group Executive Committee meeting. All members are welcome to

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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
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palisadesviews@gmail.com

**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER:
SATURDAY, OCT. 24**



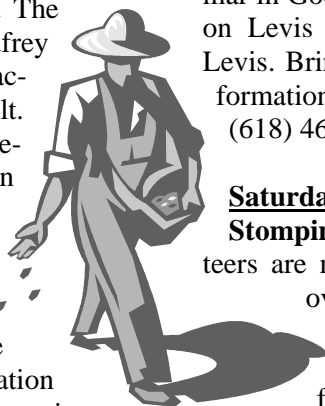
CALENDAR

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attend! Meet at 7 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 223 Market St. in Alton.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 **Knee-High Naturalists Program** at The

Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. October's theme is "Bone-a-Parts." Morning session from 10 to 11 a.m. and afternoon session from 1 to 2 p.m. The \$5 cost includes a nature hike, snack and craft to take home. Advance registration required. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.



Wednesday, Oct. 21 **Screening of the documentary "King Corn"** at

La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey followed by discussion. Develop a better understanding of government policies behind the corn industry and ethanol movement. Part of the 2009 Fall Film Series. Meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at 4300 Levis Lane. To register, call (618) 466-5004. For more information, visit www.lavistaelc.org.

Saturday, Oct. 24 **Chili Cook-off and Lunch** at McCully Heritage Project in Calhoun County. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Same day as the

Center for American Archaeology Reunion and Calhoun County Quilt and Church Tour. For more information, call Michelle at (618) 653-4687.

Monday, Nov. 2 **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. 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. Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

Saturday, Nov. 7 **Sowing and Stomping at the Prairie.** Volun-

teers are needed to broadcast seed over a two-acre extension of the Heartland Prairie, across Illinois 140 from Gordon Moore Park in Alton. Starting time is 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Nan Adams of The Nature Institute at (618) 655-0170.

Saturday, Nov. 7 **Monthly Walk-about** at The Nature Institute in

Godfrey. November's theme is "Going Dormant." Meet at 5 p.m. at Talahi Lodge for an easy-to-moderate hike through Mississippi Sanctuary. End with fall spirits and light snacks. Free. Donations accepted. Wear clothing suitable for walking and weather. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 **Knee-High Naturalists Program** at The

Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. November's theme is "Good Vibrations." Morning session from 10 to 11 a.m. and afternoon session from 1 to 2 p.m. The \$5 cost includes a nature hike, snack and craft to take home. Advance registration required. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

Wednesday, Nov. 18 **Screening of the documentary "The 11th Hour"**

at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey followed by discussion. Learn why the filmmakers see this as a critical last moment for planet Earth and what they think we can do to change course and stop the rush toward global ecological collapse. Part of the 2009 Fall Film Series. Hours are 7 to 9 p.m. at 4300 Levis Lane. To register, call (618) 466-5004. For more information, visit www.lavistaelc.org.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to the following artists, who won contests held in conjunction with the Mississippi Earthtones Festival.

Coloring Book Design Contest/Alton Public and Private sixth through 12th graders: Abby Sanders, Kelsey Walsh, Alan Hill, Melissa Liles, Emily Brodz, Skylar Cox, Kateri Vaughn, Brandon Sweeney, Adam Schwegel and Mariah Huelsman.

Plein Air Painting: David Ottinger of St. Louis, first place; Craig Thomas of Cape Girardeau, Mo., second place and people's choice; Konstantin Kublanov of Ballwin, Mo., third place; and Jen Weigel of Affton, Mo., honorable mention.

Photography: Carolyn Schlueter of St. Charles, Mo., first place; Nick Jones of Brighton, second place; and Jane O'Neil of Golden Eagle, Mo., third place and people's choice.