

Palisades Views



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October 2010

Ready to “go green” in your home or office?

Marla Esser, founder and owner of the St. Louis-based company Sustaining Spaces, will be the guest speaker at the October meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group.

Her topic is “Building a Green Team.” She will focus on how businesses, organizations and individuals can begin to “go green.”

“There are many, many green activities which are already in place and many more in the process in the business and not-for-profit community,” Esser said.

“One problem we are encountering in this growth of beneficial programs is the lack of knowledge about these green activities in the general public, as well as lack of awareness among participating entities about what their peers are doing. So communication and building of coalitions is needed.”

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 11, at the First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. Anyone is welcome to join Esser and Piasa Palisades Group members at a pre-meeting dinner at Bossanova, 112 E. Third St. in Alton.

Esser earned a bachelor’s degree in engineering and public policy and a certificate in energy from Washington University in St. Louis.

She is a steering council member for the St. Louis Home Builders Association Green Building Council and Greening Midwest Communities 2010 Conference and the U.S. Green Building Council’s St. Louis chapter.

Sustaining Spaces “offers green and sustainability services, specializing in green and energy-efficient marketing, consulting and education for the home-building industry and consumers,” according to its website.

“Our unique electronic home owners guide helps people better operate and maintain their green or yet-to-be-greener homes.

“In the home-building industry, Sustaining Spaces works with companies to build their (businesses) through strategic marketing, referrals and consumer education.”

DON'T FORGET!



The Weekend in the Woods retreat is Friday through Sunday, Oct. 15-17.

Sleep in rustic cabins, eat in a dining hall and socialize around a campfire at Pere Marquette State Park’s beautiful Camp Ouatoga.

Hiking, biking, stargazing and other outdoor activities. Park rangers will host an owl program on Friday night.

The cost is \$6 per night for lodging and \$12 for the Saturday night meal (\$7 for children). Register by Monday, Oct. 11, if possible. See CALENDAR listing.

Sierra Club can help to inform voters

**By Joe Michlitsch
ExCom member**

Be sure to vote on Nov. 2!

But before you do, please become informed with good, logical evidence, the kind that you probably cannot get from political advertisements, flyers, phone calls, etc.

There are many good sources of information about candidates. I encourage you to check out the Sierra Club’s endorsements.

Go to the Illinois Chapter website at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/>.

If you do not see a direct link on the home page, type “political endorsements” in the search box.

That will take you to a new page. Click on “View our 2010 Illinois Endorsements.”

Endorsements for state offices include Pat Quinn for governor and Robin Kelly for treasurer. The club also has endorsed Alexi Giannoulias for U.S. Senate.

See **VOTERS**/page 4

Published by the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club.
Serving the Southwestern Illinois counties of
Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery.

Stark's travel book is "highly recommended"

By **Richard C. Keating**
Group member

As an aficionado of literature on travel through natural landscapes, I was quite pleased to find this well-written book at the going-out-of-business sale at Piece of Mind Books in Edwardsville. It is also available in the larger bookstores.

The volume is written in the pattern of Heat-Moon's "Roads to Quoz" but is shorter and is just as good a read.

Stark begins with a satellite image of the United States at night. He homes in on several dark spots,

places where a lack of lights suggests very rural and unspoiled countryside.

The book is about his exploration of four such places with the goals of experiencing their essence and understanding their history.

Stark canoed down the St. Johns River in northern Maine, hiked wild lands in western Pennsylvania, visited the nearly uninhabited ranch

"The Last Empty Places: A Past and Present Journey through the Blank Spots on the American Map"
by Peter Stark
(2010, Ballantine Books, New York, 325 pages).

See **BOOK/page 4**

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CALENDAR

Saturday, Oct. 2 Alton fall clean-up. Volunteers needed for citywide litter pick-up starting at 9 a.m. Adopt an area by contacting Carolyn Dooley at (618) 465-3026 or jt.dooley@sbcglobal.net.

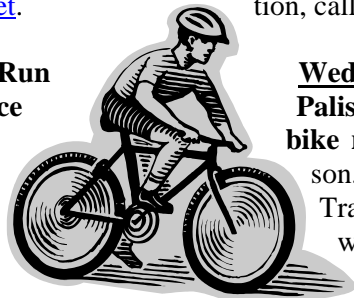
Saturday, Oct. 2 Run Wild 5-kilometer race and 1-mile walk at Watershed Nature Center. The course includes paved and mulched trails in the Madison County Transit system. Starting time is 9 a.m. For more information, call (618) 692-7578 or send an e-mail to watershed@cityofedwardsville.com.

Saturday, Oct. 2 Medicinal herbs workshop at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey (note date correction). Head farmer Eric Stevens and his wife, herbalist Crystal Moore-Stevens, will give tips on soil preparation, planting and harvesting and show how to make tinctures, salves, balms and teas. Some will be available for purchase. Hours are 1 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$15. For more information, call (618) 466-5004.

Tuesdays, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26 Weekly Heartland Prairie walks at Gordon Moore Park in Alton. Guides will discuss topics such as prairie history, habitat, plants, birds, insects, photography and ecology. Hours are 6 to 7 p.m. Bring water, notepads, guidebooks, cameras and snacks to share, if desired. For more information, call Nan Adams at (618) 655-0170.

Monday, Oct. 11 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting. Marla

Esser of Sustaining Spaces will be the guest speaker (see related article). Meet at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.



Wednesday, Oct. 13 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride. Last ride of the season. Take the Watershed Trail from Wanda to Edwardsville and go into town for food. Easy, 11-mile round trip. The

new extension from Union Street to downtown Edwardsville is open. Meet at 6 p. m. in the trailhead parking lot off Wanda Road. Helmet and light required. For more information, contact Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or jbensman@charter.net. If you are not on our outings listserv (e-mail me to be added), please let me know if you are coming.

Friday through Saturday, Oct. 15-17 Weekend in the Woods retreat at Pere Marquette State Park, near Grafton (see related notice). Sleep in cabins, participate in outdoor activities and enjoy nature at Camp Ouatoga. The cost is \$6 per person for lodging and \$12 for the Saturday night meal. For more information, call Teri Maddox at (618) 656-8132.

Monday, Oct. 18 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.

Friday, Oct. 22 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 7:30 p.m. at Tahahi 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. 23 Get Outdoors Saturday at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Volunteer docents will share information and answer questions from 10 a.m. to noon on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Welcome Center. This month's topic is trees! For more information, call (618) 692-7578.

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

**DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER
SATURDAY, OCT. 23**



BOOK

Continued from page 1

country of southeast Oregon and finally backpacked through the Gila Wilderness area of New Mexico.

Stark's wife, Amy, and children ages 10 and 14, accompanied him on the first and fourth of these adventures. How they worked as a family is sure to interest those who contemplate taking youngsters on significant expeditions. The two Stark kids, at least, won't suffer from "nature deficit disorder."

The book intersperses narratives of personal and family discoveries with fascinating stories of historical events in each region.

For example, Stark describes the history of the French and Indian Wars and their effect on the settlement of Western Pennsylvania; the role of young George Washington in General Braddock's ill-fated army, the betrayal of the Indians and the contributions of John and William Bartram to the exploration of the colonial empire.

Stark's description of his pack trip through the Gila Wilderness is gripping. Readers also learn much of Aldo Leopold's professional life, his near-death experience and his role in the establishment of this, the country's oldest wilderness area.

We are treated to a discussion of the writings of Cabeza de Vaca, his strange 16th century-expedition of Coronado and his obtuse attitudes toward the southwestern natives.

Even for parts of history I thought I knew, Stark provided much interesting information that filled many gaps in my knowledge. Highly recommended.



THANKS

A gigantic thank you goes out to part-time staff member Amitie Flynn, who helped on a variety of Three Rivers Project issues and programs.

That included planning and implementing four solar seminars this summer; developing kids' solar activities for the Mississippi Earth-tones Festival; participating in many nature and/or river days where we do Japanese Fish Printing; and gathering random supplies.

Her incredible public-relations skills have been tremendously helpful and necessary to pull off these events!

CONGRATS

Congratulations to the following artists, who won awards in conjunction with the Mississippi Earth-tones Festival photo contest in the color category:

"Quiet Sailing" by Chassedy Saffel Pratt, first place; "Foggy Day" by Debbie Kindig, second; "Winters Day Repose" by Howard Hosifus, third; "Spirit of Eagles in Rock" by Howard Hosifus, honorable mention; and "Winters Day Repose" by Howard Hosifus, People's Choice Award.

The following won in the black and white category:

"Nineteenth Century Illinois Gothic" by Howard Hosifus, first place; "Life on the River" by Chassedy Saffel Pratt, second; "Hang Time" by Nathan Hoefert, third; "Water Jump" by Nathan Hoefert, honorable mention; and "Nineteenth Century Illinois Gothic" by Howard Hosifus, People's Choice Award.

FOR SALE

The Piasa Palisades Group will again sell Sierra Club calendars to raise money for local programs and activities. Members save by not having to pay sales tax.

These beautiful calendars are filled with spectacular photography, and they make great Christmas gifts! The cost is \$14 for engagement calendars and \$13 for wilderness wall calendars.

Merchandising chair Jennifer Politsch will sell calendars at group meetings in October, November and December.

For more information, call her at (618) 466-6150.

VOTERS

Continued from page 1

Scroll down to find endorsements for other races in your district.

For each candidate, you will find information that is the basis of the Sierra Club's endorsement. For many, you will also find links to individual candidate websites.

Endorsements for local offices begin at the Sierra Club's group level. Candidates are reviewed by state chapters, then the national organization.

Candidates for state and national offices originate with chapter political committees and are reviewed by national.

In all cases, the club follows a thorough process. That includes information-gathering through questionnaires, interviews and other sources.

So check out the Sierra Club's endorsements. Then vote on Nov. 2.

