

Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 9

September 2008

Sierrans to hear Ameren's take on renewables

Environmentalists have been talking about renewable energy for decades, but only now does it seem to



be moving to the forefront of U.S. political and economic discussion.

If you want to know what's being done by utility companies in this region, you won't want to miss the September meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group. The guest speaker is William Barbieri, manager of Ameren's renewable-energy program.

He and his staff are responsible for corporate strategy on renewable

energy for all the utility companies that make up Ameren Corp. They're involved in procurement, development and construction of renewable-energy generation resources for 2.4 million electric customers in Missouri and Illinois.

Barbieri also assists Ameren's legislative and government relations staff in addressing renewable-energy issues at state and federal levels and is responsible for customer-program development related to renewables.

Barbieri joined Ameren in 1999 as director of coal business development. He previously worked 19 years for Peabody Energy, serving

as director of contract administration for the Eastern Division then vice president of sales for Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana and Illinois.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 8, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. Refreshments and discussion will follow the presentation.

This is the group's first meeting after summer vacation, so you can get reconnected with Sierra Club friends. For more information, call the Alton office at (618) 462-6802.

Are you good with numbers?

Last fall, Piasa Palisades Group member Sharon Freeman stepped in as interim treasurer after the death of her mother-in-law, Louise Freeman, a dedicated volunteer who held the position for 16 years.

Sharon has done a tremendous job, and the group is very, very grateful. But the time has come for her to turn over responsibilities to someone else.

The Executive Committee is seeking a new treasurer.

He or she will be responsible for overseeing bank accounts, paying bills and reimbursements, helping to

develop budgets, preparing monthly reports and serving as a financial liaison with the national Sierra Club.

It's the perfect opportunity for a person who's good with numbers to contribute to the environmental cause.

Sharon Freeman promises to provide plenty of help, and training is available through the Illinois Chapter and national Sierra Club.

For more information, call Ex-Com chair Wayne Politsch at (618) 466-6150.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The Piasa Palisades Group will host its annual Weekend in the Woods retreat at Pere Marquette State Park near



Grafton Friday through Sunday, Oct. 24-26 (look for more details in next month's newsletter).

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.

Madison County to collect hazardous waste

The Madison County Recycling Program is sponsoring a household hazardous-waste collection on Saturday, Sept. 27, at the county's Wood River Facility.

Officials will accept herbicides, pesticides and insecticides, compact-fluorescent bulbs, oil



and latex paint, spray paint, lead-acid batteries, fluorescent tubes, lawn and hobby chemicals, mercury, arsenic, gasoline, pool chemicals, antifreeze, cooking oils and grease, mercury thermometers, cleaning products, thermostats, motor oil, household batteries and drain cleaners.

Officials will not accept tires, fire extinguishers, explosives or

fireworks, biomedical waste, agricultural waste, electronics, large appliances or propane tanks.

Collection hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. People must show proof of Madison County residency. Business and contractor waste will not be accepted.

The Wood River Facility is at 101 E. Edwardsville Road (formerly Wood River Township Hospital). For more information, call the Madison County recycling hotline at (618) 296-6647 or visit the Web site at www.madisoncountyclecycling.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville Volunteer Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 17 – Two volunteers are needed at the Sierra Club information booth. Call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Alhambra Elementary School Nature Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 18 – Two volunteers are needed at the Sierra Club eco-craft booth. Call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Mississippi Earthtones Festival in Alton, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 20 – Twelve volunteers are needed at Sierra Club booths related to solar education, eco-crafts and river clean-up. Call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Mississippi River Clean-up near Alton, 9 to 11 a.m. or 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sept. 20 – Twelve volunteers are needed to

board boats at the festival and clean islands and banks of debris. Call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Girl Scout Field Day at the Children's Discovery Garden, La Vista Park in Godfrey, 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 4 – Two volunteers are needed for each shift (background checks required). Call (618) 374-9974.

Alton Litter Clean-up, 9 to 11 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 11 – Volunteers can report to one of five registration sites. Call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

Horseshoe Lake State Park Clean-up, 9 a.m. to noon, Friday, Oct. 17 – Six volunteers are needed to clean the woodland area near the lake of trash and debris. Call Madison County Planning and Development Department at (618) 692-7040, ext. 4984.

NOTICE

HOTMAIL FUNDRAISING —

You may or may not know the Sierra Club partnered with Microsoft last year for a program called "I'm Making a Difference." Now, you can start raising money for the club just by using your Hotmail or Windows Live account.

Here's how it works: Sign up for the program at <http://im.live.com>. Choose Sierra Club as your "cause," and follow directions on the screen.

From that point on, a donation will be made to the club each time you send an e-mail using your hotmail.com or live.com account. It's that easy!

ETHANOL-PLANT TOUR —

Last month's tour of the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville was cancelled because of an unexpected government audit. Piasa Palisades Group Vice Chair Dave Gocken is working to reschedule in October (look for more details in next month's newsletter).

CALENDAR

Monday, Sept. 8 **Monthly meeting** of the Piasa Palisades Group (see related article). The guest speaker is William Barbieri, manager of Ameren's renewable-energy program. Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

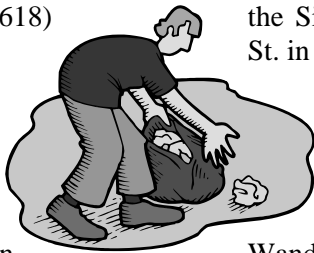
Friday and Saturday, Sept. 12-13 **Confluence clean-up** at Columbia Bottoms Conservation

Area in Missouri. Help beautify the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers after a riverside education program for students from St. Louis and Hazelwood, Mo. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Sunday, Sept. 14 **Monthly moonlight hike** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group (note change from actual full-moon date on the 15th). Explore Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. Meet at 7:30 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.

Monday, Sept. 15 **Executive Committee meeting** of the Piasa Palisades Group. All members are welcome to attend! Meet at 7 p.m. at the Sierra Club office, 223 Market St. in Alton.



Wednesday, Sept. 17 **Monthly bike ride** of the Piasa Palisades Group. Easy, 9.5-mile ride from

Wanda to Edwardsville and back on Madison County Transit's Watershed Trail. Meet at 6 p.m. at the trailhead off Wanda Road. Stop in town for ice cream. Return after dark, so bring a light. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to jbensman1@charter.net.

Saturday, Sept. 20 **Mississippi Earthtones Festival in Alton.** A celebration of Illinois watersheds through education, recreation and conservation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about native plants and animals, address threats to ecosystem health and help protect the history and culture of life on the river. More than 15 educational booths. Live music by four bands, all solar-powered, including Jake's Leg. A River Art village, plein-air contest, food and craft vendors, bike rides, litter clean-ups, etc. Fun for the whole family. For more information, call (618) 463-1016 or (618) 462-6802 or visit the Web site at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/piasapalisades/mef%20details%20complete.htm>.

Friday, Sept. 26 **Professional landscaping workshop** at Alberici Enterprises, 8800 Page Ave. in St. Louis (near Page and Interstate 170 intersection). Second in a two-part series for professionals in landscape management, architecture and horticulture. The topic is "Landscape Planning and Design for Prairie and Savanna." Four-hour session from 1 to 5 p.m. with lecture, discussion, questions and answers and site tour. Free. For more information, call (314) 733-2000.

Saturday, Sept. 27 **Household hazardous-waste collection** at Madison County's Wood River Facility, 101 E. Edwardsville Road in Wood River (see related article). Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For Madison County residents with proper identification

See CALENDAR/page 4

Palisades Views

is a monthly publication for and about Sierra Club members.

To submit a newsletter item:
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palisadesviews@gmail.com

**DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER:
SATURDAY, SEPT. 27**



**JOIN
THE
FUN!**

www.myspace.com/piasapalisades

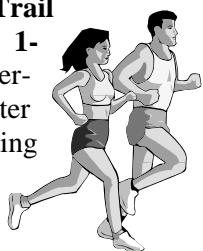
CALENDAR

Continued from page 3

only. No business or contractor waste accepted. For more information, call the Madison County recycling hotline at (618) 296-6647 or visit the Web site at www.madisoncountyclecyles.com.

Saturday, Oct. 4 5K Trail

Run/Walk and Kids 1-mile Fun Run at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Starting times are 9 a.m. for the Fun Run and 9:30 a.m. for the run/walk. Followed by an exposition on healthy bodies and a healthy environment. Registration fees are \$10 for the Fun Run and \$20 for the



run/walk (\$15 in advance). The center is at 1591 Tower Ave., across from Hoppe Park. For more information, visit the Web site at www.watershednaturecenter.com or send an e-mail to watershed@cityofedwardsville.com or call Michaelen Gerken at (618) 692-7578.

Saturday, Oct. 11 Alton fall litter and debris clean-up. Register at one of five sites with coffee and donuts or stay close to home and beautify your own neighborhood. For more information, call (618) 467-2375.

Saturday, Oct. 11 Cool City Treasures Communitywide Sale

to benefit United Congregations of Metro East Alton Cluster, a peace and justice organization. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the old St. Patrick's School, Fifth and Central in Alton, one of five registration sites for the city clean-up (see listing above). Vendors will sell artwork, crafts, plants, books and other new and "gently used" items. Space rental is \$25 for a table and two chairs. For more information, call Mary Lu McManus at (618) 660-5223 or Jan Hines at (618) 377-8257 before Sept. 20.

Friday through Sunday, Oct. 24-26

Weekend in the Woods at Pere Marquette State Park near Grafton. The Piasa Palisades Group's annual retreat at Camp Ouatoga. As usual, rates will be extremely reasonable for lodging in rustic cabins. Organized activities include hiking, biking, canoeing, birding, stargazing, roasting marshmallows around a campfire, etc. (look for more details in next month's newsletter).

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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

Virginia Woulfe-Belle, Duane Mossman, Cheryl Rossfeld and Cynthia Lewis of Alton; Jerry Hurt of Pleasant Plains; Paula Shelton of Donnellson; Glenn Dodds of Frederick; Stephen Belchik of Staunton; Bert Cheatham, Keith Hattle, Harold Nelson, Christina Santiago, Rita Schwarz and Kathleen Sneider of Collinsville; Joyce Clark of Carrollton; Dr. and Mrs. Albert M. Crider of Maryville; Beverly Harrison and Christopher Krusa of Glen Carbon; Margaret Haseltine and Edward Douglas of Godfrey; Pamela Perlmutter, Xun Xu, Ruth Sutton and Nancy Hoffman of Edwardsville; Maylene Harris and Roxy Thompson of Troy; and Ann Zahnise of Greenville.

Welcome! We hope to see you at meetings, picnics, hikes, bike rides, clean-ups and canoe trips. If you have questions, call the Alton office at (618) 462-6802.

Join Us on the Beautiful Alton Riverfront from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20



Informational booths & educational activities will be provided by:

World Bird Sanctuary ◆ National Great River Research & Education Center ◆ Sierra Club
The Nature Institute ◆ Jacoby Arts Center ◆ American Water
Prairie Rivers Network ◆ Wild Trak Bikes ◆ Alton Marketplace Association
Mineral Springs Haunted Tours ◆ Community Cultivators ◆ Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge
Alton Beautification & Clean City Committee ◆ Mustard Seed Project ◆ More!!

