

Palisades Views



Volume XXXVII No. 4

April 2007

Worthen works to hold corporations accountable

Dick Worthen, long-time political activist and Piasa Palisades Group member, will speak on “corporate accountability” at the April meeting.

At first thought, the topic may not seem to fit in with traditional environmental issues such as wilderness protection, endangered species, clean air and clean water, but they are closely related.

The presentation will be a perfect follow-up to the group’s energy film series, which included movies on global warming, the electric car, genetic food manipulation and drilling for oil in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Did you know that within the lifetime of older people

you knew:

1) Corporations could not legally give money to politicians, own other corporations, live forever, claim the rights of living people or accumulate unlimited power or money?

2) Corporations were required to pay taxes and obey the law, owners were jointly and severally accountable for all corporate debts, and corporations could not declare bankruptcy?

“Our world would be considerably different if we had the laws that our grandparents had,” Worthen said.

Worthen is a former Madison County Board member and former Madison County stormwater coordinator. He has served on the Illinois River Coordinating Council and other boards and committees. He lives in Alton.

“I have been speaking, organizing, battling in politics, fighting in the regulatory system and working and witnessing for sane environmental (policies) for many years,” he said.

At times, the situation seemed hopeless. But Worthen found a renewed sense of purpose and determination in 2005, when he became a member of the national Sierra Club’s Corporate Accountability Committee.

“It seems that everything in my

life has been in preparation for this work in corporate accountability,” he said. “This is a battle worth fighting, and there is hope and light at the end of the path.”

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 9, at the First Unitarian Church at Third and Alby streets in Alton. The talk will be followed by refreshments and discussion.

Group to celebrate Muir’s birthday

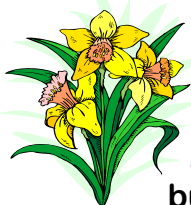
Need a “jump start” to energize yourself for spring? The Piasa Palisades Group will celebrate Sierra Club founder John Muir’s birthday and Earth Day at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 21, at The Nature Institute headquarters at Mississippi Sanctuary in Godfrey.

The event was moved from its normal location at Talahi Lodge because of a scheduling conflict. The upside is, we’ll probably see a spectacular sunset from the Mississippi River bluff.

Activities will include a wildflower hike, tree planting, potluck meal, inspirational “green” readings and music. Soft drinks, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, plates and utensils (see the calendar for directions).

Happy spring!

A time to dust off your hiking boots, dig out your tent, air up your bicycle tires, listen to birds sing, plant a garden and watch buds pop out on tree branches. Mother Nature is waking up from her winter nap!



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.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Lovins to speak at energy conference

The Piasa Palisades Group will co-sponsor the second-annual Clean Energy Conference April 5-6 with three presentations by Hunter Lovins. She is an expert on sustainable development, co-founder of the Colorado-based organization Natural Capitalism, co-author of nine books, a professor, corporate consultant and trained lawyer.

Lovins will speak on "The Business Case for Protecting the Climate" at 10 a.m. Thursday at Gargoyle Auditorium in Mallinckrodt Student Center at Washington University in St. Louis, 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Wanamaker Hall at Principia College in Elsah and 1 p.m. Friday in the Meridian Ballroom of Morris University Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

After Thursday morning's presentation, a panel discussion on "Greening Our Lives for the Future" will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1

p.m. at Washington University. A Sierra Club representative will join university officials to raise awareness of what's being done on local college campuses to reduce and modify energy use.

All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

More "green" films to be shown

Did you enjoy the Piasa Palisades Group's energy film series in February and March?

If so, you might consider seeing three more "green" movies that will be shown as Friday matinees at the Senior Services Plus Center, 2603 N. Rodgers Ave. in Alton.

Titles include "Being Caribou" (72 minutes) on April 13, "Hurricanes on the Brink" (40 minutes) on April 20 and "Out of Balance" (60 minutes) on May 25.

Show time is 1:30 p.m. all three days. A short discussion will follow. Admission is free. Organic popcorn will be served.

Hike planned for Alton golf course

In late April or May, the Piasa Palisades Group will lead a hike at Robert Wadlow Golf Course in Alton so Sierra Club members who don't play golf can see why this beautiful piece of endangered property should be preserved as public open space.

The hike will begin after the last golfer tees off from the first hole so the group won't interfere with golf games or get hit by balls. For more information, call Larry Tucker at (618) 462-0649 or the Alton office at (618) 462-6802.

Group to discuss "walkable" cities

The Campaign for Balanced Growth will discuss how to make local communities more "walkable" and "bikeable" at a Metro East Eye Opener meeting from 8 to 9:45 a.m. Wednesday, April 11, at the Collinsville Area Recreation District office, 10 Gateway Drive in Collinsville.

The Campaign is a metro-east committee of University of Illinois Extension Service. It's working to accommodate a growing number of people who are walking and biking for recreation and exercise. A Sierra Club representative sits on the board. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

Environmental bits and bytes

By Richard C. Keating
Group member

This is the first article in an occasional series listing Web sites with either good analysis of assaults on the Earth's environmental systems or useful ideas for improved stewardship. Feel free to submit your favorites.

www.climatecrisis.net — The official site of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." It contains general information about the climate crisis and some sources.

www.epa.gov/climatechange

— This is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's site. It's very detailed with a surprisingly accurate and timely review of the problem, given the current political situation in Washington.

www.ilinoissolar.org — The site of the Illinois Solar Energy Association, a non-profit organization. It discusses all options for solar energy in Illinois and provides lots of links.

CALENDAR

Monday, April 2 Monthly moonlight hike at The Nature Institute's Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve, 2213 S. Levis Lane in Godfrey. Meet at 7 p.m. at Talahi Lodge. Take Godfrey Road (Illinois 3) northwest about 2 miles from Homer Adams Parkway (Illinois 111). Turn left on Levis Lane and veer left on South Levis. Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

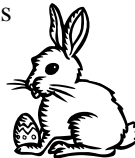
Wednesday, April 4 Earth-Conscious Art Bazaar in Edwardsville. Local artisans and shop owners will sell environmentally friendly goods from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Goshen Lounge of Morris University Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Free and open to the public. Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Wednesday, April 4 "Songs of Frogs and Toads" program, sponsored by The Nature Institute in Godfrey for ages 5 to adult. Expert Paul Shetley will give a slide presentation on amphibians and teach participants how to identify them by sounds and key features. The group will walk to a pond and catch and release leopard frogs and American toads. Bring a flashlight, camera and waders or extra clothing and shoes. Meet at 7 p.m. at Talahi Lodge (see directions for the moonlight hike). The cost is \$3 with a limit of 30 people. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.



ment, will speak on "The Business Case for Protecting the Climate" in St. Louis, Elsah and Edwardsville (see related article). Co-sponsored by the Sierra Club. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Friday, April 6 Annual Easter egg hunt, sponsored by The Nature Institute in Godfrey for children up to 9 years old. Activities include a continental breakfast with the Easter Bunny at 9 a.m. at Talahi Lodge, followed by egg-hunting at 10 a.m. rain or shine (see directions for the moonlight hike). The cost is \$5 per child with a limit of 80 children. Dress for the weather and bring your own basket. Registration required. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.



Wednesday, April 11 Metro East Eye Opener, sponsored by the Campaign for Balanced Growth. This metro-east committee of the University of Illinois Extension Service will discuss how to make local communities more "walkable" and "bikeable" from 8 to 9:45 a.m. at the Collinsville Area Recreation District office, 10 Gateway Drive in Collinsville. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Wednesday, April 11 Knee-High Naturalists program at The Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. April's theme is "Home Sweet Home." Participants will learn about spring babies in the natural world, including eagles, bats and frogs. Morning session from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and afternoon session from

12:30 to 2 p.m. (see directions for the moonlight hike). The \$5 cost includes a nature walk, snack and take-home craft. To register, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

Thursday, April 12 "Illinois Reptiles" program, sponsored by The Nature Institute in Godfrey for ages 12 to adult. Chris Phillips, Further Studies coordinator and herpetologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign, will discuss the biology, history and conservation of native species and bring some live specimens. The cost is \$3 per person. Meet at 8 a.m. at Talahi Lodge (see directions for moonlight hike). For more information, call Patti Brown at 466-9930.

Friday, April 13 "Green" matinee series at the Senior Services Plus

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Palisades Views

is a monthly publication for
and about Sierra Club
members.

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DEADLINE FOR MAY:
SATURDAY, APRIL 28



CALENDAR

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Center, 2603 N. Rodgers Ave. in Alton. The 72-minute film "Being Caribou" will be shown at 1:30 p.m. Free admission. Organic popcorn will be served. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Saturday and Sunday, April 14-15

Weekend retreat at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. The theme is "Silent Spring: Listening to the Voices of Extinction." Presentations by a local scientist and group discussions. Deepen your commemoration of Earth Day, align with the energy of the sixth extinction spasm and discover how to pursue lives of integrity at this critical junction in the Universe. Hours are 10

WELCOME

The following people recently joined the Sierra Club and the Piasa Palisades Group:

Dallas Bergman of Litchfield, Jesika Bolling and Debra Marler of Granite City, Edward Croxford and Loretta Dawdy of Godfrey, Cathleen Davidson of Troy, Diane Doerr and Susan Schwartzkopf of Alton, Tom Drewer of Highland, Tollie Evans of Roodhouse, Roberta Fahey, Brad Walker, Katie Sill and Glendora Lanning of Edwardsville, Gary True of Glen Carbon, Louis Hernandez and Pat Grant Schapp of Collinsville, Rajneesh Jain of Staunton, Kenneth Kahl of Bunker Hill, Heath Yakstis of Maryville, Nikki S. Kaul of Frederick, David Westerhold of White Hall and Scott Ray of Vandalia.

Welcome! We hope to see you at meetings, potlucks and other events in the future.

a.m. Saturday through brunch on Sunday. The cost is \$55 for lodging and meals or \$35 for meals only. The center is at 4300 Levis Lane (see directions for the moonlight hike, except stay on Levis instead of veering left on South Levis). For more information, call Sister Maxine Pohlman at (618) 466-5004.

Monday, April 16 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. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

Tuesday, April 17 Watershed Trail bike ride from Wanda to Edwardsville. An easy 9-mile round trip for your first ride of the year. Meet at 6 p.m. in the trailhead parking lot on Wanda Road. Sunset will occur at 7:39 p.m. so bring light. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to jbensman1@charter.net.

Friday, April 20 "Green" matinee series at the Senior Services Plus Center, 2603 N. Rodgers Ave. in Alton. The 40-minute film "Hurricanes on the Brink" will be shown at 1:30 p.m. Free admission. Organic popcorn will be served. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Saturday, April 21 Annual John Muir birthday party and Earth Day celebration of the Piasa Palisades Group. Meet at 6 p.m. at The Nature Institute's headquarters at Mississippi Sanctuary in Godfrey (see related article). Activities include a wildflower hike, tree planting, potluck meal, inspirational

"green" readings and music. Drinks, hot dogs and veggie burgers provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, plates and utensils (see directions for the moonlight hike, except continue on South Levis until the road ends). For more information, call the Sierra Club office at (618) 462-6802.



Sunday, April 22 and 29 Bird migration hikes. The first two in a series of six bird-watching hikes sponsored by The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Edna Alexander, naturalist and Audubon Society member, will talk about migrating songbirds at Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. Meet at 8 a.m. at Talahi Lodge (see directions for the moonlight hike). Moderate walking. Wear good shoes and bring binoculars, water and a journal, if desired. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

Wednesday, May 2 Monthly moonlight hike at The Nature Institute's Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve, 2213 S. Levis Lane in Godfrey. Meet at 7 p.m. at Talahi Lodge (see directions above). Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

Saturday, May 5 Heartland Prairie walk, sponsored by The Nature Institute. Meet at 9:30 a.m. for a two-hour exploration of the native prairie at Gordon Moore Park on Illinois 140 in Alton. Take the north soccer-field entrance (same side of the road as Alton Mental Health Center). Moderate walking. Wear good shoes and bring binoculars, water, a journal and field guides, if desired. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.