

Palisades Views



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ATTENTION

The date of the Piasa Palisades Group's Weekend in the Wilderness at Pere Marquette State Park has been changed. It will be held Friday through Sunday, Sept. 14-16, instead of Sept. 21-23. See inside for details on all the fun!

Get an eScrip card at Schnucks

Schnucks has started a new program that could generate income for the Piasa Palisades Group.

The supermarket chain is issuing eScrip Community Cards to customers. Each time they go grocery shopping, they can swipe their cards and Schnucks will donate 3 percent of purchases to non-profit organizations of their choice.

Everything is set up and ready to go for the Piasa Palisades Group, thanks to Executive Committee member Jon Byrd. Stop by any Schnucks location, ask for an eScrip card and call an 800 to activate it. You will be asked for your name, address and organization (Sierra Club, Piasa Palisades Group).

From that point on, your grocery shopping will raise money for environmental causes as long as you present your card to Schnucks checkers. It's that easy!

Environmentalists win appeal in Horseshoe Lake pollution case

By Edward J. Heisel
Washington University

In January, the Illinois Pollution Control Board ruled in favor of the American Bottom Conservancy in its appeal of a permit that would allow U.S. Steel to continue discharging pollution into Horseshoe Lake at Horseshoe Lake State Park in Granite City.

U.S. Steel's Granite City Works facility discharges literally hundreds of tons of pollutants into the lake each year. That includes lead, zinc, ammonia and cyanide.

The conservancy's challenge focused on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's failure

to hold a public hearing before issuing the permit in early 2006. Because the lake is heavily used by the public and located in a state park, the board concluded a significant amount of interest in the permit existed and a hearing should have been held.

U.S. Steel has appealed the ruling to state court. If the court denies the company's appeal, the public will be able to weigh in on the large amount of pollution entering Horseshoe Lake.

Editor's note: *Heisel is an attorney with the Interdisciplinary Environmental Clinic at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis.*

Picnic to include hiking, boating

The Piasa Palisades Group's annual picnic will be held Aug. 12 at Beaver Dam State Park, 7 miles southwest of Carlinville.

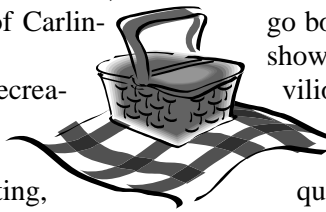
The park is a recreational treasure with a lake for fishing and boating, hiking trails, a wooded campground, marsh overlook and playground equipment on 750 acres.

The menu will be potluck, with the Sierra Club providing brats,

burgers (both meat and vegetarian) and accouterments.

Members and guests are invited to go boating or hiking at 2 p.m. Or just show up for the meal at 5 p.m. in Pavilion No. 3. Some people usually take a walk afterward.

R.S.V.P.'s are not required, but please bring plates, utensils and a covered dish to share. If you'd like to get directions through MapQuest, the park's address is 14548 Beaver Dam Lane, Plainview, Ill.



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Serving the Southwestern Illinois counties of
Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery.

WEEKEND IN THE WILDERNESS

(FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES)

YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION

The Sierra Club's Piasa Palisades Group cordially invites members, prospective members, families and friends to escape for a weekend in the woods. This is in keeping with the club's mission to "explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth."

When: Friday afternoon, Sept. 14, through noon Sunday, Sept. 16. You can stay one night or two. Or just come Saturday evening for the cookout and bonfire.



Where: Pere Marquette State Park, 7 miles west of Grafton on the Great River Road (Illinois 100). Illinois' largest and prettiest state park with more than 8,000 acres along the Illinois River. We have reserved Camp Ouatoga for the weekend.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

You can explore on your own or just hang around the camp and enjoy nature. We'll offer several guided activities, including:

Hiking on major trails in the park. Visit native hilltop prairies, the last real remnants in what we falsely boast is "The "Prairie State."

Birding at nearby Gilbert Lake, a unit of beautiful Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge, the only wildlife refuge in the area.

Bicycling along the paved Sam Vadalabene Bike Trail, which parallels the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers between Pere Marquette, Grafton and Alton. Or cross the free Brussels Ferry and bike in really rural Calhoun County.

Canoeing on shallow backwater lakes of Calhoun and Jersey counties. Ideal for the novice and experienced alike. We'll furnish canoes, paddles, life preservers, etc.

Geology field trip to explore this fascinating region of bluffs and ravines, old river terraces and the Cap au Gris faulted flexure, which extends from Winfield, Mo., across Calhoun County into Pere Marquette.

Hoot-owl hikes along gravel roads to hear sounds of the night.

CAMP FACILITIES

Camp Ouatoga was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the Great Depression. It is remote and isolated from the rest of the park, high on bluffs overlooking the stunningly scenic Illinois and Mississippi River valleys.

Lodging: Single-room, enclosed cabins with screened and shuttered windows and electric lights. Most have four steel bunk beds with mattresses. Beds can be added for families with children. Bring sleeping bags or sheets, blankets and pillows.

There also are several unit lodges that can house families or larger groups, as well as multi-room staff cabins with bathrooms.

Dining hall: A large dining hall will serve as our headquarters. It has tables, benches and a fully equipped kitchen with dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, pots and pans, sinks, a microwave, coffee pot and great old gas range and oven.

Bath house: Yes, the new bath

house is a modern facility with electricity, flush toilets, sinks, mirrors and showers with hot water.

MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Meals: Just like home. You supply and prepare your own breakfasts and lunches. There's a refrigerator, freezer and walk-in cooler in the dining hall. The bad news: You have to wash your own dishes.

Saturday night cookout: Volunteers will prepare a meal of grilled pork steaks, baked potatoes, cauliflower with cheese, green beans, garlic and French breads, coffee, iced tea, Kool-aid, baked pies and ice cream. An all-vegetarian menu (veggie burgers) is available.

Entertainment: We'll eat popcorn and roast marshmallows for s'mores on Friday and Saturday nights. Wayne Schell of Jerseyville will perform rowdy river music on Saturday night.

OTHER INFORMATION

Bring (if you want): Bicycles, cameras, binoculars, day packs, rain gear, flashlights, breakfast and lunch makings and beverages.

Don't bring: Guns, radios or pets. Tent camping is not allowed.

Cost: Only \$5 per person per night for the cabins, \$10 per person for the pork-steak dinner and \$8 per person for the veggie dinner (\$6 for children under 10).

To register: Fill out the form on page 3 and mail it with payment to Sierra Club, 224 Market St., Alton, IL 62002 by Monday, Sept. 10. A road map and camp layout will be sent upon request. For more information, call Bob Freeman at (618) 466-0656.

CALENDAR

Wednesday, Aug. 8 Wildflower walk at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. See summer's display of native wildflowers. Learn what makes a prairie special and how to identify prairie flowers from the natural resources educator. Meet at 7 p.m. The center is at 1591 Tower Ave., across from Hoppe Park. For more information, call Michaeleen Gerken at (618) 692-7578.

Sunday, Aug. 12 Annual summer picnic, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Gather at Beaver Dam State Park, near Carlinville (see related notice). Boating and hiking at 2 p.m. Barbecue and potluck meal at Pavilion No. 3 at 5 p.m. Bring plates, utensils and a covered dish. Meat and veggie burgers provided. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

Monday, Aug. 20 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, Aug. 21 Monthly bike ride, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Cover about 15 miles on trails in the Edwardsville area. Meet at 6 p.m. at Madison County Transit's Watershed Trail parking lot in Roxana. From Illinois 255, take Exit No. 5, turn right on Madison Avenue, left on Wanda Road and right on Russell Drive. Stop for ice cream. Bring a headlamp or light. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to jbensman1@charter.net.

Wednesday, Aug. 22 Monthly eve-

ning walk at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Conversation and exercise beginning at 7 p.m. The natural resources educator will answer questions. Dogs are welcome on a leash. The center is at 1591 Tower Ave., across from Hoppe Park. For more information, call Michaeleen

Gerken at (618) 692-7578.

Saturday, Aug. 25 Canoe trip on three Missouri waterways, including Courtois Creek, which flows into Huzzah Creek, which flows into the Meramec River. Meet Saturday morning along Courtois Creek and

See CALENDAR/page 4

WEEKEND IN THE WILDERNESS REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

NUMBER OF CABIN CAMPERS:

Friday	Saturday	Total	X \$5	Cost
_____	_____	_____	X \$5	_____

SATURDAY EVENING COOKOUT:

	Number of people			
Grilled pork-steak dinner	_____	X	\$10	_____
Vegetarian dinner	_____	X	\$8	_____
Children under 10	_____	X	\$6	_____
GRAND TOTAL:				_____

Mail by Monday, Sept. 10, to:
Sierra Club, 224 Market St., Alton, IL 62002

A road map and camp layout will be sent to you upon request.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 3

take out that afternoon near Onondaga Cave. Possibly spend Friday night at a nearby campground. Sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. For more information, call Larry Tucker at (618) 462-0649 or Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714.

Saturday, Aug. 25 Fund-raising bike ride in Northern Illinois. The Favillas are organizing a team for the 15-mile option of Rolling on the River: Illinois Ride for the Environment. Other options include 25, 45, 62 or 100 miles along the scenic Fox River. Sponsored by Prairie Rivers Network, Illinois Environmental Council and Illinois Stewardship Alliance. Other weekend activities include a post-ride party, environmental festival, organic cookout, live music, camping, bonfires, hiking, canoeing, kayaking, birding and stargazing. Sierra Club volunteers needed to operate an informational/art booth. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802 or visit the Web site at <http://www.rollingriverride.org/main.php>.



Tuesday, Aug. 28 Monthly moonlight hike at Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve on South Levis Lane in Godfrey. Sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Meet at 7:30 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.

Monday, Sept. 10 Piasa Palisades

Group monthly meeting. Speaker to be announced. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby Streets in Alton.

Tuesday, Sept. 11 Monthly bike ride, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Details to be determined. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to jbensman1@charter.net.

Wednesday, Sept. 12 Knee-High Naturalists program at The Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. September's theme is "Charlotte's Web Design." Participants will learn about spider anatomy and physiology, their intricate webs and role in the environment. Morning session from 9:30 to 11 a.m. and afternoon session from 12:30 to 2 p.m. The \$5 cost includes a nature walk, snack and hand's-on activity. To register, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

Friday through Sunday, Sept. 14-16 Annual Weekend in the Wilerness at Pere Marquette State Park, north of Grafton (see related article and registration form). Sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Activities include hiking, bicycling, canoeing, birding, a cookout on Saturday evening and socializing around a bonfire. Stay in rustic cabins at Camp Ouatoga. For more information, call Bob Freeman at (618) 466-0656.

Saturday, Sept. 15 It's Our River Day festival in Alton. Activities that promote education, recreation and conservation of Illinois waterways. Alton is one of many communities across the state par-

ticipating in the annual event, sponsored by the Illinois lieutenant governor's office. For more information, visit the Web site at www.cleanwaterillinois.org.

Wednesday, Sept. 26 Monthly moonlight hike at Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve on South Levis Lane in Godfrey (see directions above). Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

Wednesday, Sept. 26 Monthly evening walk at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Conversation and exercise beginning at 6 p.m. The natural resources educator will answer questions. Dogs are welcome on a leash. The center is at 1591 Tower Ave., across from Hoppe Park. For more information, call Michaeleen Gerken at (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 SEPTEMBER:
SATURDAY, AUG. 25**

