

Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 8

August 2009

Conference to tackle river issues

A major river conference in the metro-east this month will bring together diverse groups of people who have an interest in protecting the Mississippi as a cultural, economic, recreational and natural resource.

It would be great if a few Piasa Palisades Group members could attend.

The National Great Rivers Research and Education Center is organizing "Visions of a Sustainable Mississippi River: Merging Ecological, Economic and Cultural Values" with help from The Nature Conservancy, University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign, the Illinois Natural History Survey, Lewis and Clark Community College, the Sierra Club and other agencies and organizations.

The conference will be held Monday through Thursday, Aug. 10-13. Most presentations, panel discussions, workshops and other activities will take place at the Doubletree hotel in Collinsville.

A keynote address will be delivered at 8 p.m. Aug. 12 at Lewis and Clark by Alexandra Cousteau, founder of Blue Legacy International and granddaughter of the legendary underwater explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

The conference will end with a policy forum, where recommendations will be delivered to key elected officials and other decision-makers.

Fees vary, depending on number of activities. Online registration ends Aug. 4. For more information, visit the Web site at www.conferences.uluc.edu/mississippiriver/.

NOTICE

As is traditional, the Piasa Palisades Group will not hold a monthly meeting in August.

Meetings will resume the second Monday in September.

Don't forget!

If you've never attended the Piasa Palisades Group summer picnic, give it a try this year!

The date is Saturday, Aug. 8, at Beaver Dam State Park, near Carlinville, a very cool place.

Organized activities will include hiking and canoeing at 10 a.m., followed by a potluck meal at 1 p.m. in Pavilion No. 3 (same as last year).

People are welcome to show up earlier. The pavilion reservation begins at 8 a.m.

Horseshoes and Frisbees also will be available.

The club will provide burgers, brats and vegetarian alternatives, buns, condiments and freshly squeezed lemonade.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well as plates and eating utensils.

Carol Klinger and Jim Bensman are leading a campout at Beaver Dam the same weekend.

People can stay overnight or just check out the Perseid's meteor shower (see the CALENDAR listing).



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, Sept. 25-27 (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.

Foundation renews important Sierra Club grant

By Christine Favilla
Staff person

This summer finds our nation in high anxiety as the economy continues to be strained. Yet we know any crisis that poses a threat also presents an opportunity. It creates the possibility for a profound shift in thinking and increased understanding of how we live, work and play.

Despite uncertain economic times, the Sierra Club will lead this shift, guiding the region toward a more

sustainable future.

In the past, the generous support of the Nelson Foundation has made it possible for the Three Rivers Project of the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club to address issues of reducing the carbon footprint and creating green-collar jobs in Southwestern Illinois, as well as river management and water quality.

The foundation recently approved continued funding of the

Three Rivers Project through Aug. 31, 2011.

Funds will be matched by Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Project, Jersey County, Collinsville Township, Rotary Clubs and incredible Sierra Club members!

Recycling update

Volunteers collected 21.5 tons of computer and electronic equipment in Alton, 21 tons in Collinsville and 11 tons in Jerseyville during this summer's recycling drives.

2009 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Wayne Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Vice chair/programs	Dave Gocken	435 E. Schwarz, Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 656-8304
Secretary	Laura Asher	1406 Liberty St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 465-8586
Membership	Gayle Borman	510 Hamilton Blvd., Wood River, IL 62095	(618) 254-2250
Political action	Everett Loy	221 Ladd, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-5919
Outings/chapter	Jim Bensman	1802 Main St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0714
Conservation	Virginia Woulfe-Beile	616 E. 16th St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 465-1842
Personnel	Sandy Wood	1719 Central Ave., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0358
Chapter representative	Joseph Michlitsch	44 Sunset Hills, Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 659-0181

OTHER COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Treasurer	Jill Mellenthin	447 E. 15th St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 465-5490
Outings	Larry Tucker	1822 Park Ave., Apt. A, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-0649
Fund-raising	Bob Freeman	4813 Kaskaskia Trail, Godfrey, IL 62035	(618) 466-0656
Personnel	Bob Larson	909 McKinley, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-4448
Hospitality	Audrey Wiseman	3941 Sarah Lane, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 259-5997
Merchandising	Jennifer Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Newsletter mailing	Carole Massalone	400 Jefferson, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-0288
Three Rivers staff	Christine Favilla	christine.favilla@sierraclub.org	(618) 462-6802

SIERRA CLUB OFFICES

Piasa Palisades Group	223 Market St.	Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-6802
	E-Mail	Home Page	(618) 462-0282
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CALENDAR

Wednesday, Aug. 5 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.



Wednesdays, Aug. 5-26 Prairie walks at Gordon Moore Park's Heartland Prairie in Alton, sponsored by The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Spend about an hour in a restored native prairie, beginning at 6:30 p.m. A guide will identify flowers in bloom. Bring family and friends. The prairie is across Illinois 140 from the main park property. For more information, call Nan Adams at (618) 655-0170.

Friday through Sunday, Aug. 7-9 Camping and stargazing at Beaver Dam State Park, near Carlinville, in conjunction with the Piasa Palisades Group summer picnic (see below). View the Perseid's meteor shower from an open field. An "amazing" experience last year. Led by Carol Klinger and Jim Bensman. For more information, contact Klinger at ciklinger@yahoo.com or (618) 288-5630.

Saturday, Aug. 8 Piasa Palisades Group summer picnic at Beaver Dam State Park, near Carlinville (see related notice). Hiking and canoeing at 10 a.m. and a potluck meal at 1

p.m. in Pavilion No. 3. Show up earlier if you want. Horseshoes and Frisbees will be available. The club will provide burgers, brats and vegetarian alternatives, buns, condiments and fresh-squeezed lemonade. Bring plates and eating utensils and a side dish or dessert to share. For more information, call Gayle Borman at (618) 254-2250 or Bob Larson at (618) 462-4448.

Monday through Thursday, Aug. 10-13 Visions of a Sustainable Mississippi River conference, sponsored by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and supported by other agencies and organizations, including the Sierra Club. Most activities will take place at the Doubletree hotel in Collinsville with a keynote address by Alexandra Cousteau on Aug. 12 at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey. For more information, visit the Web site at www.conferences.ulus.edu/mississippiriver/location.html.

Saturday, Aug. 15 Rain-barrel pick-up from 8 a.m. to noon at the Alton Farmers & Artisans Market, behind Third Street, for those who have placed orders.

Monday, Aug. 17 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.

Wednesday, Aug. 19 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride. Explore the expansion of the Quercus Grove Trail, which runs south of Hamel to Staunton. A nice trail that is flat and paved (except for 6/10 of a mile) and goes by some wetlands. Meet at 6 p.m. Details still being developed. Contact Jim Bensman at 463-0714 or jbensman1@charter.net, unless you are on the group's listserv, where information will be posted.

Thursday, Aug. 20 Green and Healthy Home Energy Savings workshop at the McCully Heritage Project in Calhoun County. Co-sponsored by University of Illinois Extension Calhoun/Jersey Unit and Illinois Stewardship Alliance. Extension engineers Jay Solomon and Ted Funk will lead hand's-on activities

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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**DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER:
SATURDAY, AUG. 29**



CALENDAR

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from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Conduct an energy audit on the century-old farmhouse and discuss improvement options. Learn how to apply green concepts to existing homes. Discuss pay-back period, indoor air quality and occupant health and comfort. The fee is \$15 for adults (\$25 with spouse or friend). For more information, call (618) 576-2293 or (618) 498-2913 or visit the Web site at web.extension.uiuc.edu/calhounjersey.

Saturday, Aug. 22 Canning the

Harvest workshop, sponsored by the Community Cultivators. Hand's-on activities from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Talahi Lodge at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Led by Carol Schlitt, nutrition and wellness educator for University of Illinois Extension. She will discuss and demonstrate fruit and vegetable canning (both boiling-water bath and pressure method). Designed for beginners, but also for experienced canners interested in USDA recommendation updates. Cost is \$15 (\$20 after Aug. 15). For more information, call (618) 420-5443.



Friday, Sept. 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 7:30 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.

Saturday, Sept. 12 Recycling drive for computers and electronics, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Calhoun County High School parking lot on Illinois 100 in Hardin. Free, except \$20 for TV sets and \$10 for laptops and computer monitors. For more information, call Christine Favilla at (618) 462-6802.

Thursday, Sept. 17 Seed Saving and Heirloom Vegetable Gardening workshop at McCully Heritage Project in Calhoun County. Hand's-on activities from 6 to 8:30 p.m. led by University of Illinois Extension Calhoun/Jersey Unit. Cover techniques for saving seeds from garden plants, what plants are good candidates and how to garden with seed-saving in mind. Take home seeds from a heirloom vegetable garden. The fee is \$15 for adults (\$25 if you bring a spouse or friend). For more information, call (618) 576-2293 or (618) 498-2913 or visit the Web site at web.extension.uiuc.edu/calhounjersey.

Saturday, Sept. 19 Mississippi Earthtones Festival at Alton Riverfront Park, sponsored by the Sierra Club, Alton Marketplace Association and National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. A celebration of Illinois watersheds through education, recreation and conservation. Live folk and bluegrass, informational booths, hand's-on nature activities, arts and crafts, local food, river litter clean-up and

organized bike rides from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the amphitheater. Space still available for food vendors and nature-related exhibitors. Registration deadline is Sept. 4 for amateur photographers and plein-air art contests. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

Friday, Sept. 25 Illinois Stewardship Alliance fundraiser. Local organic dinner and silent auction at 7 p.m. at the Pasfield House in Springfield. Keynote address by Terra Brockman, fifth-generation Illinois small farmer and author of "The Seasons on Henry's Farm." Illinois wine and light appetizers from 6 to 7 p.m. at the ISA office nearby. Tickets cost \$50 per person. Sign up by Sept. 18. E-mail Christine Favilla at cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net to order tickets, get more information or donate auc-

NOTICE

You can begin receiving Palisades Views electronically, if desired, saving trees and money on postage and printing.

We would stop mailing paper copies and e-mail notices that new issues have been published. The notices would include links to pdf files on the Piasa Palisades Group Web site.

This is optional. We want you to read the newsletter! If the print version works best for you, don't do anything.

If the electronic method sounds good, send your name, mailing address and e-mail address to christine.favilla@sierraclub.org.