

Palisades Views



Volume XXXVII No. 12

December 2007

Renewable energy is meeting topic

We could describe Aur J. Beck as a “powerful” man with an “electric” personality. We could say he’s “full of energy.”

We could shamelessly use puns to publicize his presentation at the December meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group.

But we won’t.

We’ll just encourage you to attend the meeting and learn more about using renewable energy in your home or business.

It could even save you money.

Beck operates a company called Advanced Energy Solutions in Pomona, south of Murphysboro. It sells and installs products that use sun, wind and water power, as well as energy efficient lighting and appliances.

Education is a big part of the company’s mission.

Employees conduct workshops, produce radio shows, publish newspaper columns and articles in trade magazines, provide demonstrations at environmental fairs and distribute solar kits for classrooms.

“Although we need to sell and

See **ENERGY**/page 3

It’s time to elect group leaders

Five incumbents and three other members are running for six open seats on the Piasa Palisades Group Executive Committee (ExCom) this month.

Five will serve two-year terms. One will serve one year, completing the unexpired term of Louise Freeman, who died in October.

The incumbents are Jim Bensman, Mike Fischer, Everett Loy, Wayne Politsch and Sandy Wood. The other candidates are Dave Gocken, Patricia Murrell and Larry Tucker.

Ballots are included with this newsletter. They’re due in the Alton office by Jan. 7. Below are statements from candidates in alphabetical order:

Jim Bensman of Alton

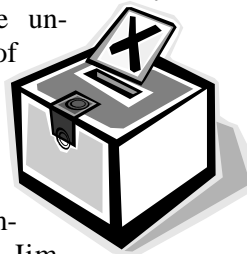
I am a current ExCom member and conservation chair for the Piasa Palisades Group and chair of the Illinois Chapter’s Shawnee National Forest Campaign. I am on the Club’s national Committee on National Forests. I joined the Sierra Club in high school in 1978. I soon became an activist, starting with our successful campaign to stop logging in Pere Marquette State Park. I’ve

worked on or led many campaigns to protect wetlands, parks, forests and the Great River Road between Alton and Grafton. I’m employed as Forest-Watch coordinator for Heartwood, a forest-protection group. I spend my paid time fighting the U.S. Forest Service. I’m particularly concerned about protecting forests, rivers and wetlands. Clean energy and lowering our use of the earth’s resources are also important to me. I favor the Sierra Club taking strong, visionary stands. My philosophy is, ‘Endless pressure, endlessly applied.’”

Mike Fischer of Alton

I would like to be reappointed to the Executive Committee, with one reservation. I have health issues that could impair my ability to help. I have just seen a neurosurgeon for brain damage secondary to a concussion, and I will be seeing a kidney transplant team Monday. Depending

See **ELECTION**/page 2



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
The annual winter gala will be held Saturday, Jan. 26, at Mississippi Sanctuary in Godfrey. More details to come.

ELECTION

Continued from page 1

on what these doctors come up with, I might have to resign. On the other hand, the news could be good. I have been very lethargic these past two years, but the doctors have changed my medicine, and I feel much better. Accordingly, if the committee decides to select another candidate, I will understand. I do have an interest in the environmental crisis. These past two years have been an education. I am surprised to find that I am very ignorant about these issues. My experience on the Board of Govern-

nors for the St. Louis Artists' Guild seems to conflict with service on this committee. Nevertheless, with more energy, I feel that I can be useful, especially with research and writing.

Dave Gocken of Edwardsville

I have been a member of the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club for more than 25 years. I have served as ExCom chair and program chair. I live in Edwardsville and retired in 2006. I currently work part time as a substitute

teacher. I am seeking to complete the term left vacant due to Louise Freeman's death. My primary interest is combating global warming through advocating reduced carbon emissions by increasing the use of mass transit, increasing use of solar and wind energy and increasing energy efficiency. I would work with those in the group who are already working with the national Sierra Club to promote the Cool Cities program. I would appreciate your vote.

See ELECTION/page 4

2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Wayne Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Vice Chair/Secretary	Sandy Wood	1719 Central Ave., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0358
Conservation	Jim Bensman	1802 Main St., Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0714
Membership	Gayle Borman	510 Hamilton Blvd., Wood River, IL 62095	(618) 254-2250
Chapter Delegate	Bob Larson	909 McKinley, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-4448
Political Action	Michael Fischer	1001 McPhearson, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-3832
Member	Everett Loy	221 Ladd, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-5919
Youth Coordinator	Jon Byrd	2065 Pinehurst Way, Maryville, IL 62062	(618) 401-9939

OTHER COMMITTEES AND STAFF

Treasurer	Sharon Freeman	P.O. Box 1031, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 463-0059
Outings	Larry Tucker	1822 Park Ave., Apt. A, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-0649
Outings	Rich Keating	P.O. Box 13, Edwardsville, IL 62025	(618) 656-3647
Fund-raising	Bob Freeman	4813 Kaskaskia Trail, Godfrey, IL 62035	(618) 466-0656
Hospitality	Audrey Wiseman	3941 Sarah Lane, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 259-5997
Merchandising	Jennifer Politsch	6424 Alpha Drive, Alton, IL 62002	(618) 466-6150
Staff Person	Christine Favilla	christine.favilla@sierraclub.org	(618) 462-0282

SIERRA CLUB OFFICES

Illinois Chapter	200 N. Michigan, Suite 505	Chicago, IL 60601	(312) 251-1680
Piasa Palisades Group	223 Market St.	Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-6802
E-Mail	ppg_sc@yahoo.com	Home Page	FAX (618) 462-0282
		www.Illinois.SierraClub.org/PiasaPalisades	

CALENDAR

Saturday, Dec. 1 Day trip to Beall Woods Nature Preserve, a National Natural Landmark near Mt. Carmel. Cover 4 to 6 miles of mostly flat terrain in one of two virgin forests in Illinois. See many big trees along the Wabash River. Some people may camp Friday or Saturday night. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714, e-mail him at jbensman1@charter.net or visit the Web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgmt/PARKS/R5/BEALL.HTM>.



The society coordinates the collection, analysis and publication of information from throughout the United States and Canada. Piasa Palisades Group members will count in the Brussels area after meeting for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. (yes, that early) at Sandy Wood's home, 1719 Central in Alton. For R.S.V.P. and directions, call her at (618) 463-0358. For more information on the count, call Bob Freeman at (618) 466-0656.

Monday, Dec. 10 Monthly program of the Piasa Palisades Group. Aur J. Beck of Advanced Energy Solutions will be the guest speaker (see related article). Meet at 7:30 p.m. in the community room at First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby Streets in Alton. For more information, call the Sierra Club office at (618) 462-6802.

Saturday, Dec. 15 Christmas bird count. The Sierra Club will again help the National Audubon Society with its annual survey of bird species.

ENERGY

Continued from page 1

install equipment to stay in business, we need to focus on the educational aspect due to a lack of knowledge within the general public," according to the company's Web site at <http://www.advancedenergysolution.com>.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton.

Monday, Dec. 17 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. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

Sunday, Dec. 23 Monthly moonlight hike, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Explore Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve, 2213 S. Levis Lane in Godfrey. Meet at 7 p.m. at Talahi Lodge. 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.

Tuesday, Jan. 1 Annual New Year's Day hike in the Pere Marquette State Park area. A long-time tradition of the Piasa Palisades Group. A time to clear cobwebs and rethink our environmental priorities. Eat breakfast in Grafton at 8 a.m. and hike until 1 p.m. with lunch on the trail. Return to town by 2 p.m. For more information,

call Bob Freeman at (618) 466-0656.

Wednesday, Jan. 9 Knee-High Naturalists program at The Nature Institute in Godfrey for children ages 3-5 accompanied by an adult. January's theme is "Snow Watch." Participants will learn about snowflakes and make a "snow snake" to measure snow. Morning session from 10 to 11 a.m. and afternoon session from 1 to 2 p.m. The \$5 cost includes a nature walk, snack and craft. Register by Jan. 4. For more information, call Patti Brown at (618) 466-9930.

Saturday, Jan. 26 Annual winter gala of the Piasa Palisades Group. Our nicest social event of the year will again be held at Mississippi Sanctuary in Godfrey. Meet at 6:30 p.m. Live music. Bring an appetizer or dessert. More details to come in next month's newsletter.

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 JANUARY:
SATURDAY, DEC. 22**



ELECTION

Continued from page 2

Everett Loy of Alton

I support the values and purpose of the Sierra Club and have enjoyed participating in the Piasa Palisades Group. I have served on the ExCom for the past two years. I have been active in the community for many years, serving on Alton City Council and the Madison County Board. I am currently chair of Alton Democratic Precinct Committeemen. I have also worked to preserve local historical features through involvement with the Alton Landmarks Society and Lewis and Clark State Historic Site in Hartford. I enjoy helping people come together to solve problems and accomplish things. I would be glad to continue lending my experience and environmental interest to the ExCom.

Patricia Murrell of Alton

My background includes being a political activist and supporter for women, all civil rights, animals and the environment. I get energy from working with like-minded people and want to join with others at this critical time for our environment. We have a closing window of opportunity to make a difference. It is this belief that has spurred me to get more

FOR SALE

CALENDARS – The Piasa Palisades Group is raising money by selling 2008 Sierra Club calendars. The desk-top engagement calendar has a weekly format and 57 stunning color photos of flora and fauna (\$13.95). The wilderness wall calendar has a monthly format with photos showing the grandeur of the North American wilderness (\$12.95). For more information, call Jennifer Politsch at (618) 466-6150.

active. I want to work at the grass-roots level to make Alton one of the “Cool Cities.” It’s important not only to educate, but also to make it easy for people to do what needs to be done. It was like Christmas for me when we got recycling in Alton. I want to be part of the solution by working with the growing mass of those who are working to create a world that works for all. Mother Earth will survive, but now we need to earn our survival.

Wayne Politsch of Alton

I have served on the ExCom board as chairperson for several years. It is a joy and an honor to work with talented Sierrans who are committed to turning around the assault on the natural environment and laws to protect it. If re-elected, my goals will be to 1) recruit like-minded citizens who care deeply about ecology and a sane energy policy to join the Sierra Club and 2) to encourage current members to roll up their sleeves and pledge to turn our club into an environmental organization that will thrive in the 21st century. I believe we have a moral obligation to leave a decent planet for the next generation. Sierra Club can provide the necessary collective action toward making our communities and country more closely resemble what we want them to be.

Larry Tucker of Alton

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1973. I have been on the ExCom several times. I have served as outings chairman and ExCom chairman. I am proud of the work our group has done in protecting the environment and providing opportunities to our members to enjoy and protect. I would consider it an honor to

serve on the ExCom again.

Sandy Wood of Alton

I have enjoyed my years of getting information, taking action and building friendships as a member of the Piasa Palisades Group of the Sierra Club. It is an adventure. I have tried to contribute a little by serving on the ExCom for the past few years and would be willing to continue that responsibility. There are so many important environmental issues. We live along the beautiful and powerful Mississippi River, which certainly dramatizes the need for habitat protection. We must find new ways to energize group members and the community and help everyone appreciate the natural world.

“River guru” dies

It is with great sadness we report the death of Mark Beorkrem on Nov. 5. Piasa Palisades Group leaders knew him because of his tireless work to protect rivers. He also was active in issues related to confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs).

Beorkrem, 55, of Farmersville was a longtime Sierra Club member in the Springfield Group. Most recently, he served as coordinator of the Nicollet Island Coalition, co-chair of the National Corps Reform Network Steering Committee and a member of the Sierra Club’s National Rivers Committee, Corps Reform Task Force and Mississippi River Basin Ecoregion Task Force.

Beorkrem had a rare blood disorder, but he died peacefully at a Springfield hospital. Condolences can be sent to his wife, Vernie, at 106 Stieren St., Farmersville, IL 62533.