

# Palisades Views



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July 2008

## *Group to tour ethanol plant*

Remember John Caupert? He's director of the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.



Caupert was supposed to speak at the Piasa Palisades Group's May meeting, but he had to cancel at the last minute after getting called out of town on business.

Dave Gocken, the group's Executive Committee vice chair, has arranged for members to tour the plant on Thursday, Aug. 21 (look for more details in next month's newsletter). It should be very interesting!

## NOTICE

As is traditional, the Piasa Palisades Group will not hold monthly meetings in July and August. Hope you are getting a chance to enjoy the great outdoors this

## Plaque placed on historic oak

Sierrans recently attended a ceremony in honor of the "bicentennial white oak tree" at Haskell Park in Alton, according to Piasa Palisades Group Executive Committee member Sandy Wood.

The tree is more than 250 years old. It was recognized during the U.S. and Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebrations.

The Piasa Palisades Group helped the Oak Tree Committee of the Lewis and Clark celebration gather acorns from the white oak, grow seedlings and plant them in groups of seven, representing seven aspects of the Lewis and Clark expedition. They also sold seedlings to the public.

Mark Hall, Gene Sands and John Becker were key participants in the project.

Now there's a plaque at the giant tree's base. It reads, "May this tree serve to remind us of our history and our natural heritage, as well as our responsibility to protect and preserve both for future generations. Long may we gaze upon and celebrate the beauty and strength of the White Oak Tree as a living connection to the Lewis and Clark Expedition and our past."

The Friends of Haskell Park brought closure to the project by holding the tree ceremony,

which opened with seven Lewis and Clark re-enactors and comments by Jim Struff.

Wood urges Sierra Club members to take a walk in the park and look for the tree on the Liberty Street side.

## WELCOME

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 and picnics and on hikes and canoe trips in the future.

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Bond, Calhoun, Fayette, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison and Montgomery.

# CALENDAR

**Tuesday, July 8** **Sierra Club Stormwater Construction Site Committee meeting.** Meet at 6 p.m. in the Alton office, 223 Market Street. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.

**Wednesday, July 16** **Monthly bike ride** of the Piasa Palisades Group (note date change). Cover about 15 miles on Madison County Transit's Schoolhouse Trail. Meet at 6 p.m. at the YMCA of Southwest Illinois, 1 Town Center Drive in Maryville (near Illinois 159 and Interstate 55/70). Ride to Horseshoe Lake in Granite City and back. Stop for ice cream at Culver's in Collinsville. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to [jbensman1@charter.net](mailto:jbensman1@charter.net).



**hike** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. 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, July 21** **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.

**Thursday, July 24** **Potato harvest party** hosted by the Community Cultivators. It's free! Meet from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Discovery Garden at La Vista Park, 2421 W. Delmar in Godfrey. For more information, call (618) 374-9974.

**Sunday, Aug. 10** **Annual summer picnic** at Beaver Dam State Park, seven miles southwest of Carlinville. Members and guests are invited to go hiking or boating in the early afternoon or just show up for the potluck meal at 3 p.m. at Pavilion No. 3 (look for details in next month's newsletter). Some people may camp the night before. For more information, call Wayne Politsch at (618) 466-6150 or Bob Larson at (618) 462-2925.

**Saturday, Aug. 16** **Monthly moonlight hike** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group (see direc-

tions and other details above).

**Monday, Aug. 18** **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.

**Thursday, Aug. 21** **Tour of the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center** at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (look for details in next month's newsletter). For more information, call Dave Gocken at (618) 656-8304.

**Friday to Sunday, Aug. 22-24** **Overnight float trip** on Big Piney River in Missouri (look for details in next month's newsletter). For more information, call Larry Tucker at (618) 462-0649.

## WANTED

**CONTRIBUTORS** — All members are invited to submit news items, feature stories, announcements, photographs, letters to the editor, cartoons, artwork, poems or quotes to Palisades Views. This is your newsletter!



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FUN!**

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## Palisades Views

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members.

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**DEADLINE FOR AUGUST:  
SATURDAY, JULY 26**

