

# Palisades Views



Volume XXXVIII No. 6

June 2008

## *Wood River is getting greener*

Chris Schroeder and Mary Ann Fink will be the guest speakers at the June meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group. They will discuss Rock Hills Trail, a "green" subdivision that's being developed in Wood River, adjacent to Belk Park.

Schroeder, his brother, Anthony, and sister, Barb, are developing the 170-acre site under the company name Wellspring Development.

The builder, Belcher Homes, is working with an environmental consultant to incorporate green technology and building concepts. They will use recycled materials and focus on energy efficiency.



Fink is an environmental horticulturalist. She has been hired to help the

subdivision conserve water and maintain water quality by using native plants in landscaping and providing open space for storm-water management.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 9, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton.

## Sierra Club office gets facelift

By Sandy Wood  
ExCom member

The Piasa Palisades Group is unique among Sierra Club groups to have its own office and staff person. The office is in an historic storefront at 223 Market St. in Alton, near the Stratford Hotel.

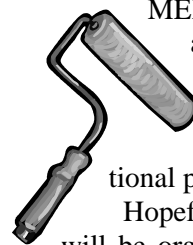
Although most of the group's 600-plus members have never been to the office, it's an important part of our activities and expanding action.

The office has been in need of reorganization and other improvements for some time, and those improvements are being made now.

One of our goals is to keep everything as "green" as possible. The new refrigerator has the Energy Star seal of approval. The paint is low-VOC (volatile organic compounds). The filing cabinets are recycled, and they even match!

Some of the improvements are being funded by a special grant.

It's been neat to see old photos and records of everything from our belt-buckle project to our "dirty



MERF" testimony. There is a small "nature library," as well as great posters and other tools for children's educational programs.

Hopefully, all these resources will be organized for better access by members, and improvements will provide a better working environment for staff.

We'll need volunteers to help maintain the new "systems" and handle increasing phone calls and public requests for information and assistance.

Stop by the office sometime to see our new look and possibly say, "I'll be a monthly (or weekly) volunteer!"

## C A L E N D A R

**Saturday, June 7 Recycling drive** for old computers, small and large appliances, electronics and lawn equipment, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Marine Senior Citizens Center, 101 W. Silver. No Freon-containing large appliances or household hazardous waste accepted. Recycling of most items is

free. Exceptions include \$15 for TV sets, \$10 for computer monitors and \$5 for large appliances. Volunteers needed.

**Saturday, June 7 Hiking in Meramec State Park** in Missouri. A great way to spend a summer day. Start at Hamilton Hollow, wade, swim or

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# C A L E N D A R

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walk down spring-fed Hamilton Creek to the Meramec River, explore Green Cave (one of the neatest caves around) then continue to an overlook with one of the most scenic views in Missouri before heading back. About 5 miles of hiking total. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to [jbensman@charter.net](mailto:jbensman@charter.net).

**Saturday, June 7 Native Prairie Plant Sale and Expo** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Prices range from \$1 per plant to \$6 per six-pack. Local vendors will be on hand to provide information. Staff will give free tours and demonstrate how to create a prairie in your yard. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon at the greenhouse, near Talahi Lodge, 2213 Levis Lane. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

**Monday, June 9 Monthly meeting** of the Piasa Palisades Group. Chris Schroeder and Mary Ann Fink will speak on Rock Hills Trail, a new "green" subdivision in Wood River (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.

**Tuesday, June 10 Monthly bike ride** of the Piasa Palisades Group. Cover 10 to 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 the intersection of 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 463-0714 or send an e-mail to [jbensman1@charter.net](mailto:jbensman1@charter.net).

**Monday, June 16 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.

**Wednesday, June 18 Monthly moonlight 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.

**Saturday, June 21 Recycling drive** for old computers, small and large appliances, electronics and lawn equipment, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Collinsville Memorial Public Library, 408 W. Main St. No Freon-containing large appliances or household hazardous waste accepted. Recycling of most items is free. Exceptions include \$15 for TV sets, \$10 for computer monitors and \$5 for large appliances. Volunteers needed.

**Monday through Friday, June 23-27 Camp Read-and-Write A Lot!** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. For children in fourth through eighth grades who love the outdoors. Tutoring provided by graduate students in the Southern

Illinois University Edwardsville Literacy Program. Nature will be used as a catalyst for reading and writing. Hours are 9 to 11 a.m. The cost is \$20. For more information, call Claudia McVicker at (618) 650-3508 or (618) 974-9873 or e-mail her at [cmcvick@siue.edu](mailto:cmcvick@siue.edu).

**Saturday, June 28 Recycling drive** for old computers, small and large appliances, electronics and lawn equipment, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Southwestern Illinois College's Sam Wolf Granite City Campus, 4950 Maryville Road. No Freon-containing large appliances or household hazardous waste accepted. Recycling of most items is free. Exceptions include \$15 for TV sets, \$10 for computer monitors and \$5 for large appliances. Volunteers needed.

## Palisades Views

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To submit a newsletter item:  
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**DEADLINE FOR JULY:  
SATURDAY, JUNE 28**

