

Palisades Views



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September 2009

Festival celebrates the Mississippi

The third-annual Mississippi Earthtones Festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Alton Riverfront Park amphitheater. It is a free and family friendly event that allows the public to celebrate the river through art, music and conservation.

Festivalgoers can learn about area

conservation-based programs and local businesses working to help us all become "greener."

Groups such as the Sierra Club, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center and McCully Heritage Project will teach consumers how to incorporate more sustainable practices in their daily lives. The Nature Institute, American Water and Alton's Cool Cities Committee will display educational exhibits.

Organizers will purchase wind-power credits to offset energy used at this sustainable event, and festivalgoers will have chances to positively affect the environment all day.

A two-hour river clean-up will depart at 9 a.m. from Piasa Harbor to remove litter from banks and islands. Please call 462-6802 to R.S.V.P.

People can bring plastic gardening pots and old cell phones to be recycled. The Alton Fire Department will do safety checks on child car seats from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fun outdoor activities for families will include nature-related arts-and-crafts projects and solar-power experiments.

Bicyclists can participate in two organized rides on the Mississippi River levee and country roads, leaving anytime between 9 and 11 a.m.

See FESTIVAL/ page 4

Speaker is sold on geothermal

John Freitag will be the guest speaker at the Piasa Palisades Group's September meeting. He is founder and secretary-treasurer of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois, a statewide trade association for the geothermal industry.

Freitag will talk about geothermal heat pumps, how they work and how they save major amounts of energy in homes, businesses, schools and other buildings.

He has had a geothermal heat pump in his home for 10 years and works in an office that is heated and cooled with geothermal, so he has both theoretical and practical knowledge.

Freitag also will bring his 2007 Prius plug-in hybrid electric vehicle to the meeting. It's one of only a handful of PHEVs in downstate Illinois. It will be available for test drives and "show-and-tell."

The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 14, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. It will be followed by refreshments and conversation.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, Sept 12 — Calhoun County Recycling Drive in the Hardin high school parking lot. Two-hour shifts from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19 — Mississippi River clean-up from 9 to 11 a.m. Remove litter from islands and banks using Illinois Natural Survey boats leaving from Alton Riverfront Park.

Saturday, Sept. 19 — Mississippi Earthtones Festival at Alton Riverfront Park. Three-hour shifts for a variety of tasks from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19 — Mississippi Earthtones Festival photography contest. Person needed to be in charge, monitoring public judging and keeping displays upright.

Saturday, Oct. 3 — Economy, Ecology and Spirituality Conference at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey. One-hour shifts.

For more information, call Christine Favilla at the Sierra Club office at (618) 462-6802.

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.

WEEKEND IN THE WOODS

(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. Come and enjoy the fall colors!

When: Friday afternoon, Sept. 25, through noon Sunday, Sept. 27. You can stay one night or two, or just come Saturday evening for the cookout and campfire.



Where: Beautiful Pere Marquette State Park, 7 miles west of Grafton along the Illinois River. We've reserved Camp Ouatoga for the weekend.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

You can take advantage of guided activities, explore the park on your own or just hang out around camp.

Little Giant City hike: The name says it all. Led by Rich Keating. Meet at the dining hall at 10 a.m. Saturday.

"Lost-cabin" hike: Hike to a 19th-century log cabin and barn that are gradually being taken over by nature. Led by Virginia Woulfe-Beile. Meet at the dining hall at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Canoe trip: Explore shallow back-water lakes along the Illinois River. Suitable for all skill levels. Canoes, paddles and life jackets provided. Meet at the dining hall at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Stargazing: Look at stars with astronomy guru Steve Sands through a telescope after the

Saturday night cookout. Bring a flashlight.

Nature photography workshop: Get tips on how to capture images of scenery, plants and animals. Led by Rich Keating. Meet at the dining hall at 10 a.m. Sunday. Bring your camera.

Bicycle ride: Bike on a paved trail along the scenic Great River Road. Led by Jim Bensman. Time and day to be determined. Bring your bicycle.

CAMP FACILITIES

Camp Ouatoga was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. It is rustic, wooded and isolated from the rest of the park, high on the Mississippi River bluffs.

Lodging: Single-room, enclosed cabins with screened and shuttered windows, electric lights and steel bunk beds with mattresses. Bring sleeping bags or sheets, blankets and pillows.

There also are several unit lodges that can house families, groups and single men or women who want to share. If you have health problems or other special needs, please indicate this when you make your reservation.

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

Bath house: Yes, the bath house is a modern, concrete-block facility with electricity, flush toilets, sinks, mirrors and private showers with hot water.

MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Meals: Just like home. You supply and prepare your own breakfasts and lunches and Friday evening meal (some people like to go out to eat in Grafton on Friday). The bad news is, you have to wash your own dishes.

Saturday night cookout: Volunteers will prepare a delicious meal of grilled chicken (or veggie burgers for vegetarians), vegetables and other side dishes, salad, garlic and French breads, coffee, iced tea, lemonade, pie and ice cream. Eat at 5:30 p.m.

Entertainment: Gather around a campfire, roast marshmallows and make s'mores both nights. We'll have live music on Saturday after the cookout.

OTHER INFORMATION

Bring: Bicycles, cameras, books, binoculars, day packs, rain gear, water bottles, flashlights, musical instruments, breakfast and lunch supplies and other beverages, if desired.

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

Cost: Only \$6 per person per night for the cabins and \$12 per person for the meal; \$7 for children under 10.

To register: Fill out the form on the opposite page and mail it with payment by Monday, Sept. 21, to Weekend in the Woods, 440 W. Union St., Edwardsville, IL 62025. Directions and a map can be sent on request.

Questions: Call (618) 656-8132 or send an e-mail to palisades-views@gmail.com. We'll get back to you!

C A L E N D A R

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. 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.

Monday, Sept. 14 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting. John Freitag of the Geothermal Alliance of Illinois will be the guest speaker (see related article).

Wednesday, Sept. 16 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride. Easy, 9.5-mile ride from Wanda to Edwardsville and back on Madison County Transit's Watershed Trail. Meet at 6 p.m. at the trailhead off Wanda Road. Stop in Edwardsville for ice cream. Return after dark, so bring a light. For more information, call Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or send an e-mail to jbensman@charter.net.

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. 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 Riv-

erfront Park, sponsored by the Sierra Club, Alton Marketplace Association and National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (see related article).

Saturday, Sept. 19 Autumn Equi-

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WEEKEND IN THE WOODS REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

NUMBER OF CABIN CAMPERS:

Friday	Saturday	Total	X \$6	Cost
_____	_____	_____		_____

SATURDAY EVENING COOKOUT:

Number of people

Chicken or veggie dinner (circle one)	_____	X \$12	_____
Children under 10	_____	X \$7	_____

GRAND TOTAL: _____

**Mail with payment by Monday, Sept. 21, to:
Weekend in the Woods, 440 W. Union St., Edwardsville, IL 62025
Directions and a map can be sent on request.**

CALENDAR

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nox Celebration at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. Join us on the bluffs at 4:30 p.m. to celebrate the changing of the seasons with poetry, ponderings and the turning of the sun staff. Bring a covered dish to share for a potluck at the lodge. Optional donation appreciated. The center is at 4300 Levis Lane. Park and meet near the white barn. To register, call (618) 466-5004.

Monday, Sept. 21 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.

Friday through Sunday, Sept. 25-27 Weekend in the Woods retreat, sponsored by the Piasa Palisades Group (see information sheet and registration form).

Saturday, Sept. 26 Madison County household hazardous-waste collection. Free for Madison County residents with valid identification. Hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Madison County Wood River Facility, formerly Wood River Hospital, 101 E. Edwardville Road. Accepted items include herbicides, pesticides, insecticides, compact-fluorescent light bulbs, oil and latex paint, spray paint, lead-acid batteries, fluorescent tubes, lawn and hobby chemicals, thermometers and other mercury, arsenic, gasoline, pool chemicals, antifreeze, cooking oil and grease, cleaning products, thermostats, motor oil, household batteries and drain cleaners. Non-accepted items include tires, fire extinguishers, fireworks and other explosives, biomedical waste, agricultural waste, electronics, appli-

ances, propane tanks and business or contractor waste. For more information, call the Madison County recycling hotline at (618) 296-6647 visit the Web site at www.madisoncountyclecyles.com.

Sunday, Sept. 27 Heartland Prairie picnic, sponsored by The Nature Institute. Enjoy the work of volunteers who plant and maintain the native prairie across Illinois 140 from Gordon Moore Park in Alton. Hours are 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Take a sunset walk. A telescope will be available for stargazing. Bring your own dinner, chairs or a blanket. Soft drinks, chips and dessert provided. For more information, call Nan Adams at (618) 655-0170.

Saturday, Oct. 3 Economy, Ecology and Spirituality Conference at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey, highlighting the diversity of the green movement, including how African Americans and blue-collar workers are involved. Sponsored by the Sierra Club and United Congregations of Metro East. Keynote speech on "I Am My Vision Fulfilled" by Naomi Davis, president and founder of Blacks in Green (BIG). Spiritual component led by Sister Maxine Pohlman of the La Vista Ecological Learning Center. Breakout sessions on Green Jobs, Green Legislation and Eat Fresh, Eat Local. Register by Sept. 27 by sending your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to College Avenue Presbyterian Church/United Congregations of Metro East, Attention Vicki, P.O. Box 1081, Alton, IL 62002. The fee is \$20 for adults or \$10 for students. For more information, contact Jan Hines at (618)

377-8257 or jhines519@charter.net.

Sunday, Oct. 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 p.m. at Talahi Lodge, 2213 S. Levis Lane. Bring a friend! For more information, call Sandy Wood at (618) 463-0358.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more information on a Madison County electronics and computer recycling event on Oct. 17 and a possible tire collection on Oct. 3, call Leah at (618) 692-6200, ext. 4666.

FESTIVAL —

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(helmets required).

People can preorder 55-gallon Prairie Rain Harvester recycled rain barrels and pick them up at the festival between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. as part of a partnership with the Sierra Club and Alton Marketplace. The discounted price is \$65 (regularly \$90). To order, call (217) 621-1273 or visit the Web site at <http://prairierainharvester.com/earthtones/index.html> by Sept. 16.

Also at the festival, nature crafters and artists will display their work, and citizens will vote for their favorite river-related paintings and photographs.

Children can enter artwork in a contest by Sept. 4 for a chance to have it published in a coloring book distributed at the festival. For more information, call (618) 463-1016.

Food vendors will serve lunch and dinner, and great music will fill the air all day!