


Joining Sierra Club members in Lake and Northeastern Cook Counties in Illinois

WOODS & WETLANDS News



Lake County November Endorsements

The Woods & Wetlands Group of the Sierra Club is proud to announce the endorsement of Lauren Beth Gash for US 10th Congressional District, plus four candidates for IL Assembly: Terry Link, Elizabeth Coulson, Susan Garrett and Karen May. Club members are strongly urged to volunteer for these campaigns to ensure success in the November election. Informed Sierra Club voters can make a big difference. Earlier this year we endorsed three candidates for Lake County Board. While two won by wide margins, the third lost by only sixteen votes!

Our endorsement process was thorough, and involved all levels of the Club. Questionnaires were sent to all the state and national candidates by the Chapter office. The candidates' responses were reviewed by a political committee drawn from the W&W leadership and members, the Chapter political chair, and the Chapter Director. Interviews were arranged with the best candidates, and worthy candidates were nominated. The W&W leadership considered the nominations from the committee, and voted whether to recommend endorsement. These recommendations were then voted on by the Chapter Executive Committee, and, in the case of the US 10th Congressional District candidate, the Chapter's recommendation was reviewed by the Club national election committee. While some groups' nominations were rejected, those made by W&W were all approved.

Decisions were made based on the candidates' questionnaire responses,

Candidate	Dist.	Send Contributions to	Phone/Web
Lauren Beth Gash	US 10th	Lauren Beth Gash for Congress P.O.Box 179 Deerfield, IL 60015	847/266-VOTE (8683) www.laurenbethgash.com
Terry Link	IL Senate 30th	Friends of Terry Link P.O.Box 611 Lincolnshire, IL 60069	847-266-1997 www.link30.org
Elizabeth Coulson	IL House 57th	Coulson Campaign Committee P.O.Box 2344 Glenview, IL 60025	847-486-1750 www.netpad.com/coulson
Susan Garrett	IL House 59th	Citizens for Susan Garret 825 S. Waukegan Rd. Lake Forest, IL 60045	t847-482-1998 www.garrett98.com
Karen May	IL House 60th	Committee to Elect Karen May P.O.Box 321 Highland Park, IL 60035	847-432-6234 www.karenmay.org
Woods & Wetlands		Sierra Club Political Action Comm. P.O.Box 5012 Vernon Hills, IL 60061	847-680-6437 www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w

the interviews, electability, and environmental voting records. The issues covered by the 2000 IL questionnaire included: air and water quality, protection of public open space, pollution and enforcement, transportation and land use, and finally, environmental budget priority. The US Congress questionnaire was more demanding, and covered national environmental concerns: sprawl, global warming, world population, environmentally responsible trade, and campaign finance reform.

Now it's your turn. Volunteer to help one of our candidates, or send them a contribution. Or volunteer to help us get out the vote at the end of October. Then take this newsletter with you to the polls on November 3rd and **VOTE**.

See next page for information on the Forest Preserve referendum.

FPD chooses November Referendum

When we passed the 1999 Lake County Forest Preserve referendum for \$55 million, the Forest Preserve District said that it would attempt to purchase as much property as possible from “willing sellers.” We had no idea how willing sellers would turn out to be!

Thanks to a more environmentally concerned County Board, the FPD began to focus more on acquisition in the mid 1990s. At that time, FPD officials had to look hard for willing sellers, and approached choice landowners delicately. But beginning in 1999, with additional voter-approved funds, and with the hiring of one of the Chicago area’s best land acquisition experts, many eager sellers have begun to negotiate with the District. No longer hard to find, some landowners have called and asked, “Why haven’t you called ME?”

As a result of these changes, a rich portfolio of wildlife habitat and open space is available for the FPD to

choose from. Of that, 749 acres have been purchased—accounting for \$19M from the FPD funds (supplemented by \$400,000 grant from Illinois, and \$100,000 from CorLands. The Forest Preserve District soon will send out a brochure describing its success in purchasing land using the 1999 bond funds.

Unfortunately, the FPD is now having to choose which lands will be preserved—and which will be left to the ravaging development raging across our county. Even when our referendum dollars are leveraged with private, state and federal funding, the total price of lands available is still several times more than the money remaining from the 1999 referendum. With the present lucrative development market, most sellers won’t wait years and years for the FPD any more.

To save more of these presently available precious native habitats, and meet its goal, the Forest Preserve Board of Commissioners has decided to ask voters for the additional funds *this November*. Their goal is to preserve 40 acres per 1,000 residents in Lake County. Currently, the District is at 21,545 acres, or 35 acres per 1,000

residents. With our increasing population, they project that a total of 26,000 acres are needed to maintain 40 acres per 1,000 residents, by 2010.

It might seem too soon on the tails of the last referendum for them to be asking for more money, but the same themes apply: Proven Record, Great Value. And for the average homeowner, it’s only another \$30 a year. Besides, while growing the FPD lands with human population is a palatable approach in the political arena, *our* goal is to preserve critical habitat necessary to retain our spectacular array of wildlife. **Even with a successful referendum in November, wildlife will still see their homes and feeding areas vanishing at an alarming clip. Passing this November referendum is the least we can do to retain our abundant wildlife.**

Please help pass this referendum. Write a check to W & W, noting “Friends of the FPD” on it, and send it to our P.O. box. Then call or e-mail us to volunteer for a phone bank. FPD Chair Carol Calabresa will drop in to our September 12 Public Meeting to answer any questions and to enroll volunteers.

Campaign to Build Illinois Transit

Citizen Action/Illinois is proud to announce the formation of a statewide organizing campaign to Build Illinois Transit!

This is an exciting new initiative, bringing together a broad coalition of concerned citizens, labor groups, and community organizations to build support for a world-class public transit system in Illinois, and ultimately secure the funding needed to accomplish this. The Illinois Chapter, urged by the W&W leadership, has just joined this campaign!

Illinois FIRST was a definite political victory for transit; but it didn’t go far enough. It provides much needed capital improvement funding for public transit systems statewide, but fails to address the need for system expansions, linking of system services, and providing the entire state of Illinois with a truly convenient, attractive, and affordable transit system.

The Campaign is reaching out to a number of key groups, including: Metro Seniors in Action, Environmental Law and Policy Center, the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Center for Labor and Community Research, and the Campaign for Better Transit to name a few.

The importance of transit to promote land use patterns that preserve open space makes this a priority for Sierra Club and our campaign to stop sprawl.

Inspiring solar system deal

Mark Burger of Spire Corporation spoke at our July public meeting about how they can help you easily and attractively install a solar array at your home or business. The cells produce electricity with substantially less stress to our environment.

As an added incentive to environmentally concerned members, he offered a group discount. Contact John Chambers (see back cover) if you want to participate, or couldn’t make it to the meeting and would like more information.

**Woods & Wetlands
needs your
old laptop!**

Dominick's ***BENEFIT DAY SLIP***

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 09/18/00 THRU 09/20/00 003326

ARE DOMINICK'S BENEFIT DAYS FOR: DATE:
SIERRA CLUB - WOOD & WETLANDS GROUP

ENTER SUB TOTAL
AMOUNT OF PURCHASE
DOLLARS CENTS

OPERATOR NUMBER STORE NUMBER

THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING
AT DOMINICK'S

CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE

Dominick's ***BENEFIT DAY SLIP***

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, 11/13/00 THRU 11/15/00 003326

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OPERATOR NUMBER STORE NUMBER

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AT DOMINICK'S

CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE

Neumann Homes Development still looms

Neumann Homes of Warrenville, Illinois has been submitting development plans to the Village of Antioch for a 635-acre, 1390 home community that would border some very sensitive areas. Thus far members of the Woods and Wetlands Group have assisted concerned neighbors of the proposed development with stopping a plan that would damage protected wetlands. However the developer continues to come back with other proposals. Not only has Neumann Homes been persistent in its pursuit of this poorly planned development, but the Village of Antioch also seems hell bent on having this property developed.

The former farm includes a 47-acre lake, a pine forest, mature oak tree savannas, and rolling topography— Features that the developer is eager to point out but has insufficient plans for preserving. At the northwest end of the property is the Antioch Bog and the Red Wing Slough, both designated ADID wetlands. Because of concerns raised by the group, Neumann Homes has dropped the plan to build a road right through these wetlands, but the development will still edge very close to Antioch Bog and the area will be donated to the Antioch Park District, under the latest plan.

It appears that the only reason the Village of Antioch might want this development is to raise funds for their water system, which can't handle the growth the village has already seen. Neumann Homes is willing to pay for the pipeline out to the development, as well as paying a fee for each home.

They also are willing to pay for the sewer line to connect to the county line that runs thru Mill Creek. As you may or may not know, the Lake County Forest Preserve recently purchased property between the proposed development and the county sewer line. The Village of Antioch will now have to approach the forest preserve to get an easement to run the sewer line. Without the sewer hook-up this development cannot be built. The Village of Antioch has a long history of preventing the forest preserve from purchasing land in the area... next move?

We will continue to attend the village meetings and keep our eyes on the progress of this proposed development. Members in the area are urged to come out and help any way you can. Members across the territory can write and send a check to W&W, noting on it "for ACRE." ACRE is a local Antioch group that has hired a lawyer to challenge a questionable agreement between the owner and the town for high density. If this is successful, the developer might lose interest, and preservation of the land becomes more likely. Legal fees are anticipated to approach \$10,000.

Jewel SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP

0940736 AMOUNT OF PURCHASE

GROUP NUMBER STORE NUMBER DOLLARS CENTS

GROUP: **Sierra Club Woods & Wetlands Group**
 YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: 10/23/2000, 10/24/2000, 10/25/2000

SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE SIGN THIS SLIP AND TURN IT IN TO YOUR CHECKER WHEN YOU SHOP. PARTICIPANTS CAN MAKE PURCHASES AT ANY JEWEL STORE ON THE DATE ABOVE. IDENTIFICATION SLIPS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED IN FRONT OF ANY JEWEL STORE.

Give this to a Friend!! Join Sierra Club Today

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Check enclosed Mastercard Visa

Cardholder: _____

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Membership Categories:

	Individual	Joint
Introductory	\$25	—
Regular	\$40	\$50
Supporting	\$75	\$100
Contributing	\$150	\$175
Life	\$1000	\$1250
Senior	\$24	\$32
Student	\$24	\$32
Limited Income	\$24	\$32

Enclose check and mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT.
For our families, for our future.

Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.



November Election Information Enclosed

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MUNDELEIN, IL 60060
PERMIT NO. 42

**Sierra Club
Woods & Wetlands Group
P. O. Box 5012
Vernon Hills, IL 60061**

Meetings

Exploring Nepal with the Sierra Club Tuesday, September 12th, 7:15 pm

Life Sierra Club member Werner Neuman will show slides from his 1999 Sierra Club Trip to Nepal trekking in the Annapurna range. The trip to Nepal was Werner's first foreign Sierra Club trip although he has traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa, South America and Antarctica. His Nepal slides will give you a sense of the place and what it is like to trek in the Himalayas.

Lake County's Wetland Development Ordinance: How to use it Tuesday, Oct 10th, 7:15 pm

Using the County's new Wetlands Development Ordinance to protect our wetlands from encroaching development. Presented by Mike Talbett, who takes a seat on the County Board this winter with our endorsement, and who helped write the WDO. Other veterans will be on hand to help you understand how this applies to your case.

Wind Power! Tuesday, November 14th, 7:15 pm

Details to be announced.

Where meetings are held

Vernon Hills Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Dr.; (847)367-3700. From Libertyville, go south on Butterfield to end; left on Rt. 45; right on Evergreen (1st light); left into golf course parking lot. Cross street to Village Hall. See website for map to meeting.

Lunch with the Group Chairs September 19, October 17, November 21, 11:45 am

Please join Bob Hollar, the Chair of the Lake County Conservation Alliance and Evan Craig, our Group Chair, for lunch on the third Tuesday of each month (except December) at 11:45 at the Tasty Thai lunch buffet in the Hawthorn Commons at Lakeview and Rt. 60 in Vernon Hills. Let us know you're coming by e-mail or phone. Lunch is about \$7. Conversation? Priceless!

Monthly planning meetings

Monthly planning meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month at Caribou Coffee House, 725 N Milwaukee Ave, Libertyville, 573-8271; near METRA station. See website for map to meeting. All members are welcome.

For meetings and outing updates see www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w

**Cast your Vote
for the Environment
in November—
See front page for details!**

Sierra Club Woods & Wetlands Group

www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w

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