

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

# WOODS & WETLANDS News



## Observations from a New Member

by Jay Glenn, Sierra Club Wauconda Township Agent

*"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that things are difficult"*—Seneca

*Four months ago I became an active member of the Sierra Club. Each day we make difficult choices trying to accommodate family, social and professional responsibilities into an already burdened schedule. I knew I wanted work in a small area, talk to residents, research the issues, talk to elected officials, set goals and develop a transparent collaborative plan of action. A new member—an "outsider"—looks at things differently. I thought it reasonable to identify and speak to other environmental and conservation groups in and near the township. That routine decision is the keystone of this article.*

I believe we should open a dialogue and revisit our methods, focus and message. I also believe that we should set goals and develop action plans resulting in success. The following three observations demonstrate why I feel the effort is important.

### Observation 1

As a new member (my membership card hadn't even arrived yet) and an outsider to the ways of the Sierra Club, I thought it appropriate to get maps of the area. I went to the Cuba Township Office for a township map and the secretary wanted to know what I had in mind. I told her that I was a member of the Sierra Club (without membership card) and I was

going to be working in Wauconda Township. She thought that was wonderful and she told me that there was another group working in the Barrington area and I should speak to them. Citizens for Conservation had their current newsletter on the counter and the township employee gave me directions to their new headquarters. I sat in my car and thought about what had just happened: A township employee, knowledgeable about conservation, had friends working for a local conservation group and had that group's literature available at the counter. This is a good thing. CFC is located on Route 22 in an old farmhouse and barn across from Good Shepherd Hospital. I had never heard of this group and I drove over to talk to them. Their office was a beehive of activity and they were most kind in sharing their time. This group has an active membership and they own and/or work in 2,000 acres of habitat. They focus their efforts in School District 220 and they complement this stewardship with outreach to their district schools. All their printed materials were carefully designed and of the highest quality. I encourage everyone to visit them.

### Observation 2

Encouraged by this experience, I continued a search for other groups within my township. I had a meeting with one of the leaders of a group of approximately 200 residents who banded together to fight a new power plant. I then heard about a proposal to build an inland dewatering facility in Island Lake. The next Sunday I

*continued next page*

## Environmental Tax Rebate!

Shortly after the first round of tax rebate checks began arriving from the IRS, a small envelope arrived in the Woods & Wetlands post office box. It contained a note and check for \$600. One of our members, a woman named Mary, had sent her entire tax rebate to our local group.

The irony is delightful. After all, the Bush administration had argued that Americans needed this rebate money to buy new things. Instead, Mary's share of this money has been invested in a group that actively encourages people to buy less and reuse more. The administration claimed Americans needed a rebate to help pay their heating bills after a winter of sky-high gas prices. But instead of lining the pockets of oil producers, Mary sent her check to a group advocating conservation and alternative energy production, no matter the current price of petroleum products.

In short, Mary took a lemon from the Bush administration and turned it into environmental lemonade. The Woods & Wetlands group will use Mary's donation to communicate with our membership about environmental issues in our community. Her donation will also help fund our restoration project at Sun Lake Forest Preserve.

Over the next few weeks, most of us will receive rebate checks. Whether or not you supported the tax cut, you will get a check, and it will be all yours to save, or spend or invest. How will you use it?

# Observations

*continued from front*

drove over to the site and drove around the neighborhood. I spoke to residents while they cut their lawns or washed their cars. They directed me to one of their leaders and I learned that two local groups had formed and were working to stop the project. They have named their group "POET" ( Preserving Our E Together).

This group has collected 1,300 signatures, demanded and received a public meeting with their state senator, state representative, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Corps of Engineers, and Fox Waterway Agency. They have submitted detailed questions which their state representative has turned over to the agencies. The follow-up meeting was scheduled for August 30th and the agencies have promised to have their answers to these citizen groups five days before the meeting. These two groups are homeowners in seven housing developments which surround this project.

In addition to monitoring the Village of Island Lake, these residents have contacted neighboring subdivisions in Fox River Valley Gardens and they are developing a grass roots organization. These groups asked for a web site to list all village meetings, minutes of meetings, how their representatives voted and other matters of local interest. Neither Island Lake nor Fox River Valley Gardens televises their village proceedings. I was just advised that the Village of Island Lake instructed their police department to remove their protest signs. The group went to their village hall and worked out a compromise permitting five signs.

This example of an informal group, using self-help, organized and moved in a focused and effective manner and may ultimately stop this project. Additionally this situation demonstrated the potential of a project to develop unexpected political and legal consequences.

## Observation 3

The Internet is a marvelous tool and can provide quick and accurate information. Sprawl is the major issue in this township. Village trustees are unaware of the hidden long term costs of sprawl.

An executive summary dated a few years ago stated that every new resident gets an annual subsidy from federal, state, county, township, village and school boards equal to \$16,800. This annual subsidy of \$67,200 for a family of four goes a long way to explain the financial stress on our school districts. I have handed out dozens of these surveys and I am asked why they haven't heard about the survey until now. Actually we believe the subsidy is far higher in Lake County but we cannot prove it. This cost-benefit type of analysis should be incorporated into the traditional arguments against sprawl.

Every study I have seen indicates that government doesn't have the financial ability to support sprawl development and tremendous evidence


exists that challenges the ability of new roads to deliver relief from congestion. These messages have relevance beyond this township. We have access to the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and numerous other universities—why not call upon them to partner with us and analyze the data and publicize the results? I know taxpayers are interested.

## Summary

These three current examples hint that we can do a better job in reaching and expanding our membership and reaching residents as well. I feel our message and the way we deliver the message could be more focused and improved. I believe we can and should be encouraged to get results.

I invite dialogue, and recognize that the process may be difficult. This should not stop us from trying. Our finite resources are sand in an hour-glass—each day more sand passes for other uses. Once the land is used it cannot be reclaimed. The time has come for action, which will lead to results.

## Use these coupons to raise money for YOUR Sierra Club!

<b>Jewel</b>		<b>SHOP &amp; SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP</b>			
094-0736		AMOUNT OF PURCHASE			
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GROUP: <b>Sierra Club Woods &amp; Wetlands Group</b>					
YOUR SHOP & SHARE DAYS: 10/23/2001, 10/24/2001, 10/25/2001					
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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.					

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09/18 THRU 09/20/01		ARE DOMINICK'S BENEFIT DAYS FOR:		DATE:	
		<b>SIERRA CLUB - WOOD &amp; WETLANDS GROUP</b>			
OPERATOR NUMBER		STORE NUMBER		ENTER SUB TOTAL	
				AMOUNT OF PURCHASE	
				DOLLARS	
				CENTS	
<b>THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT DOMINICK'S</b>				CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE _____	

# Sun Lake Forest Preserve Restoration Progress Report

Your Woods & Wetlands Sierra Club Chapter has teamed up with the Lake County Forest Preserve to restore Sun Lake Forest Preserve to its natural beauty.

This is a worthwhile hands-on project which includes restoration days at the site every second Saturday morning of the month at 9 am: September 8, October 13, November 10 and December 8.

Go north on Deep Lake Road from Route 132—Grand Avenue, west on Painted Lake Road, left on Spring Farm Road, right on Longwood Drive, and park in the cul de sac. Look for a friendly group to join.

Lately, we have worked to control the growth of non-native buckthorn to allow for the natural propagation of the prairie and the growth of new oak trees surrounding the majestic old growth oaks on site.

If you are interested in the planning process, our Sun Lake Restoration Committee welcomes you for your cognitive support also. We usually meet at the 21 East Coffee House in Grayslake at 9 am on Saturdays. This is at the southeast corner of Lake Street and Route 120.

Call or e-mail John Massman at 838-9440 (e-mail to [beritz@earthlink.com](mailto:beritz@earthlink.com)) or Mike Quinn 367-1267 (e-mail [DRNGO11@aol.com](mailto:DRNGO11@aol.com)).

This committee is for the person with a love for the environment who is willing to help reach the goal of site restoration and achieve—with some time and patience—the concrete result of returning 189 acres to its natural condition for the enjoyment for generations to come.

Restoration will be a boon to bird and animal populations—we do know that sandhill cranes, coyotes and deer are now home at Sun Lake.

## W&W Needs YOU!!

We are always glad to have members volunteer to help protect our environment—and there are many ways to get involved. As our new Wauconda Township open space agent, Jay Glenn is bringing together people and concern for sprawl and our environment, and we need more members willing to help us rally our communities for environmental protection.

Other roles for member volunteers include:

**Membership Committee:** Welcome new members. Invite them to come on outings and get involved. Help activate more of our over 2,000 to members join in our important work. Call or e-mail John Chambers.

**Outings Committee:** Learn to lead outings, or just register on our participants list. Enjoyment of our environment is our goal. The next meeting is October 6 at the Lake County Forest Preserve Museum. It's at Lakewood FPD on Fairfield and 176. We'll take a hike, and then retreat to the museum to plan a calendar of outings. Wilderness First Aid training available in 2002. Call or e-mail Evan Craig.

**Leadership:** Our group elections occur every fall. Attend an "ExCom" executive committee meeting and contribute your ideas for growing our group! First Tuesdays at Caribou Coffee in Libertyville. Call or e-mail George Etu.

**Stewardship:** The Sun Lake Restoration Campaign is gaining momentum, but we need more members to help plan, and to do the hands-on work. Call or e-mail Mike Quinn or John Massman.

**Local Endorsement Committees:** Join at least one other member from your community to help us do local endorsements. All politics is local. Help us make a difference! See the last W&W News on the website for details.

**Financial Support:** Sprawl rages in Lake County, and the environmental damage is severe and long lasting. With sufficient resources we could benefit from local staff support to research threats and represent us at critical meetings. Please give to your local W&W Group.

*Please see the box on the back cover for contact information.*

## Energy Ecotip



### Lower your hot water to 120 degrees and drain any sediment

Heating cold water is energy intensive—and a great place to save energy. Though you need to keep your water heater above 120 degrees to prevent bacteria from building up, many hot water heaters are set too high. Experts also recommend draining a pint of water from the water heater twice year to reduce sediment and increase efficiency.

# 2001 Spring Legislative Report

*Our legislators can't read our minds. They can't tell whether or why we vote for or against them. So it's important for us to contact our elected representatives and ask them to help protect our environment.*

This spring W&W organized member visits with several state legislators to do just that. Each visit consisted of the group chair and two to six member volunteers who were invited by e-mail and by phone. Thanks to those who took the time and made the effort! Before each visit we got together to discuss the issues chosen by the chapter leadership. Members don't have to be experts on the topics—their role is to understand why it's important to the environment and to explain that it's important to them. Citing a local example is ideal.

This year we met with Reps. May, Beaubien and Osmond, and Sen. Peterson. We raised issues on sprawl, water quality, and polluting energy sources. We would like to be able to meet with all of our representatives, and encourage members to join us on a lobbying visit. Here is what was discussed:

## **Sprawl**

**Tollway accountability:** One of the most potent stimulants for sprawl is new highway construction. Once these heavily subsidized roads lay open our sensitive natural habitat and farm lands, the lure to development is irresistible. Only after communities begin to form does the lack of other infrastructure become unbearable. New suburbs struggle to afford schools, and grow haphazardly in open space. Meanwhile existing cities languish for investment. To help prevent subsidizing sprawl with new highways, we asked legislators to support accountability measures for the maverick Toll Highway Authority.

**HB2361—The Fair Share Tollway Bill:** Fondly known as “the 75% solution,” this bill would require that a new toll-road recoup 75% of its cost from its own tolls. Because of the extreme expense of building tollways in wet-

lands the Route 53 extension is not expected to pass this test. Rather than flunk the road, some of our legislators refuse to administer this test. *Thanks to sponsors Rep. Jack Franks, Beth Coulson and Susan Garrett.*

**HB135—Tollway Oversight:** The Toll Authority gets free land from IDOT to build its roads, but is not responsible to the voters for its operation. This bill would give legislators a say in the tollway's budget to prevent spending billions on sprawl boondoggles. *Thanks to Reps. May and Garrett, and also to Senator Terry Link for his efforts in the Senate. Without the support of Reps. Osmond, Moore, Beaubien and Mathias these bills never made it to a vote. Jeers go to Rep Sid Mathias who made an unsuccessful attempt to swipe \$830M from IDOT's strained budget in order to fund the Route 53 nightmare.*

**Sewer Facility Expansion Guidelines:** Many of our rivers, including the Des Plaines, receive a significant fraction of their flow from sewage treatment plants. These plants are required to remove pathogens and solids from their effluent, but not pollutants like phosphorus that degrade the water quality. Moreover, because of the sprawling growth in Lake County, the sheer volume of water from these facilities changes or even overwhelms the creeks and rivers that receive their flow. We proposed legislation to strengthen the EPA's role in preventing new sewer-line extensions from damaging local streams. For instance, new development in Richmond would burden the north branch of the Nippersink Creek with five times its normal flow. Rep. Beth Coulson co-sponsored HB604, and it passed in the House by 71 to 39, with our own Rep. Tim Osmond thumbing his nose. Sen. Peterson is the chief sponsor of this bill in the senate, and was joined by over a dozen senator co-sponsors, including our Sens. Terry Link and Adeline Geo-Karis. Unfortunately, the senate leadership is letting it languish in the Rules Committee.

**Local Planning Technical Assistance for Municipalities:** Many small communities tempted by sprawl are doomed to repeat past mistakes without help. HB505 would enable the distribution and implementation of *model ordinances. Thanks to Rep. Mark Beaubien, Sid Mathias and Sens. Peterson and Geo-Karis for cosponsoring this. It passed the House unanimously and is stuck in the Senate.*

**Live-Near-Work Compact:** Mixed development is a good antidote to sprawl. HB504 provides state matching funds for programs to bring employees closer to work. We asked for residency requirement for the employer to prevent new companies from subsidizing their exodus from cities, and supported this bill. *The bill earned cosponsorships by Reps. Garrett, Mathias and Beaubien before winning unanimous approval in the house, and is still in the senate where Sen. Peterson is a chief co-sponsor.*

**Local Legacy Act:** The first step in protecting our natural resources is to identify and catalog them. HB2358 would fund county-municipal partnerships for the purpose of inventorying and protecting natural areas, farmland, and cultural resources. *Thanks to co-sponsorship by Reps. Moore, May and Coulson, the bill passed the House 109 to 5, and was welcomed in the senate by Adeline Geo-Karis as a chief co-sponsor.*

## **Water**

**Establish the Illinois Clean Water Fund:** Most people are shocked to find out that the Clean Water Act allows polluters to dump into our waters. Each year, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issues approximately 800 permits to discharge industrial wastewater, treated sewage, and other forms of pollution into Illinois rivers, lakes, and streams. Issuing these licenses to pollute uses taxpayer dollars that should be spent cleaning up pollution, and there is no charge for the service. Think of it—when you get something from the state, such as a driver's license, campsite or license plates, you pay a fee to cover the costs. Unless, that is, you're a water polluter—in that case, no charge! At least 39 other

states, and all of our neighbor states, charge a fee for water-pollution permits. And here in Illinois, industries pay for air-pollution permits, waste-disposal permits and others. But water-pollution permits are subsidized by our tax dollars. And while the state spends our money on polluters, they have not spent the money on enforcement of the Clean Water Act to clean up our waters. Over 300 polluted watersheds across our state are on a cleanup waiting list due to a lack of funds. These fees would generate about \$12 million annually for efforts to improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat and fishing, and to continue IEPA's work to protect Illinois' waters from the harmful effects of water pollution. Rep. *Andrea Moore supports this legislation, but this year she introduced other legislation for us. We asked our other representatives to pick it up, but none did, so we will push it again next year.*

**Permits for Water Withdrawals:** One of the threats from new power plants, including "peakers," is the severe stress they place on our water supply. The problem is acute because of the exploding needs of our sprawling population, and wasteful uses like watering lawns. The bottom line is that these withdrawals threaten to dry up our aquifers, lakes and stream habitats. Even our account with Lake Michigan is overdrawn, so all fresh-water sources are at their limit. We supported legislation to regulate new requirements that exceed 2,000,000 gallons per day or that stress the community supply. Fresh water is likely to be the most valuable commodity of this century, and it's time to implement a stewardship program for citizens and wildlife. *This legislation was initiated by our best county board members, and sponsored by Rep Jack Franks of McHenry. It passed the house, and like HB604, got lost in the Senate Rules Committee. We would like to see all of our representatives and senators support this bill next session.*

## Illinois' Electric Power Demand & Supply

### Demand

ComEd's expected peak for a "one year in ten" hot summer: 23,600. MW  
*Larry Leonard, ComEd's director of energy acquisition, March 19, 2001*

### Supply

Nuclear Contracts	10,000. MW
Midwest Coal & Gas Contracts	10,000. MW
DSM Efficiency	1,000. MW
Outside Contracts	2,600. MW
<b>Total ComEd Planned Supply</b>	<b>23,600. MW</b>

### Simple cycle gas "Peakers"

Permitted and Operating	4,167. MW
Owned by 11 different companies.	
Permitted and Under Construction	2,585. MW
Owned by 5 different companies.	
Combined cycle gas "intermediates"	
Permitted and Under Construction:	4,279. MW
Owned by 7 different companies.	
<b>Total Gas, Operating and Under Construction</b>	<b>11,031. MW</b>
Owned by 16 different companies.	

<b>Total ComEd Availability</b>	<b>34,631. MW</b>
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ComEd serves only 2/3 of the load in the state.

There are plenty of Wholesale Power Providers.

There are 16,000 additional Peaker MW permitted.

Efficiency "DSM" measures could account for much more.

Wind power deploys in only a few months.

Coal pollution causes Global Warming, and deaths.

## Energy

**\$3.5 billion Subsidies for Coal and New Power Plants:** With the commotion whipped up by the energy extortion crisis in California, our legislators panicked. A rash of legislation intended to stimulate more power-plant construction included such ominous titles as: HB63-Coal Mining and Burning Subsidies: \$500M; SB392 (passed S)-Tax Exemptions for Power Plants: \$500M; SB601-Tax Exemptions for Power Plants: \$185M and were even sponsored by Sen. Bill Peterson. We showed them how construction of new power plants in Illinois has already provided at least a 50 percent electricity surplus, but to no avail. Christmas came in June for the coal and electricity industry when in the extended days of the spring session HB1599 surfed a wave of California blackouts through the assembly, right past Governor Ryan, into law. We

*salute Rep. Susan Garrett for being the only legislator from our territory with a cool head who voted No. We wonder who the others were representing on this vote?*

The only bright spot in this dark picture was the passage of SB372. After strong requirements were gutted the bill was reconstructed to begin the process of enforcing clean-up of 24 1977 vintage coal fired power plants in our state, including one in Waukegan. These plants have been exceeding limits set by the Clean Air Act for almost three decades, and are a primary source of smog-acid rain-poisonous-metals-toxic-soup-air-pollution. *Thanks to chief cosponsors Rep. Moore and Sen. Link, and Rep. Garrett, Rep. Beth Coulson, and Sen. Geo-Karis for their support from W&W territory. The bill was passed unanimously, and will take effect over the next five to 10 years.*

# Comments from the Chair on the Bush-Cheney Energy Plan

The Woods & Wetlands Group of the Sierra Club represents the environmental concerns of over 2000 members in the northeast Illinois region. We suffer from regular ozone action alerts that urge us to stay inside and restrict our activities. Poor air quality strikes at those least able cope: asthmatics and children. In the long run, the consequences of the energy choices we have made will be intolerable if we repeat poor energy choices of the past: fossil fuel and nuclear energy. These sources burden Illinois with poor air, and a continuing and unresolved acute threat from high level radioactive waste incorrectly stored at our large number of reactors.

Illinois has seen a huge surge in the construction of natural gas power plants, and presently has access to a 50 percent surplus beyond the requirements of a one year in 10 high energy usage. In addition, an additional 50 percent surplus beyond that is permitted, and may be built within

two years. These sources place us beyond an emergency situation, but they were permitted with compromised clean air regulation (the NOx waiver). We expect more from our government to protect our clean air. In addition, we oppose the environmental destruction that has unavoidably accompanied the extraction of fossil and nuclear fuels. We oppose "streamlining" our environmental protection laws to serve the electric power industry, including the construction of distribution lines.

Yucca mountain is an unacceptable, political remedy for a serious problem. Although we are burdened with a dangerous presence of HLRW, we favor proper—not so presently—onsite storage methods while a science based long term storage method is implemented. No additional permitting that will result in additional production of radioactive waste should be granted until the disposal issue is resolved. Operating permits on existing plants should not be extended or renewed.

Focusing on domestic fossil-fuel supply is wrong when most of our supply is foreign. Tapping ANWR would be a tragic gesture to industry that would be an insignificant factor in dealing with our energy needs. Instead, we need to focus on conservation, and research and deployment of renewable energy like wind, and put an end to government subsidies for fossil and nuclear energy. Funding for renewables and conservation should be increased, not decreased, and funding for these programs should not be tied to funding or revenues from environmentally destructive industry. Renewables are quicker to market, politically reliable, cheaper, and safer solutions. Clean-coal subsidies should be eliminated until the grandfathered permits of all coal power plants are sunset, and these plants outfitted with the Best Available Control Technology. Voluntary compliance is no compliance. Further, we strongly believe that we need immediate and significant action by the U.S. to curb our production of greenhouse gases. It is irresponsible and cowardly to be the source of most of the world's emissions, but blame developing nations for our refusal to reduce our emissions.

If we lack supply for oil, we should increase CAFE standards. If we lack for electricity, we need higher efficiency standards for air conditioners. And we need a national renewable energy portfolio standard of at least 20 percent by 2020.

Finally, we object to the cavalier, misleading and intellectually insulting conduct of the administration. The California crisis could have been averted. Illinois' knee-jerk \$3.5 billion legislation to support more coal power would never have happened if the Bush-Cheney administration were not fanning fears. We need real public hearings on these serious topics, where the citizenry is allowed the opportunity to ask questions of those guiding such misdirected policies, and get answers that are shared in a public forum.

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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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# Open letter to U.S. Representative Kirk

Dear Representative Kirk:

We recently read that Excelon, the owner of the closed Zion nuclear power plant, might be planning to build a new nuclear power plant on that site.

As you know, all nuclear power plants produce high level nuclear radioactive waste (HLRW), and if built, this one would add to the dangerous quantities of these materials already stored at that site.

We contacted you previously to express our grave concerns about the threat this material poses to Lake Michigan and the thousands of people who live near that facility and the millions who drink Lake Michigan water. We know you share our concerns about this.

In my last letter to you I pointed out that HLRW that has been stored at the Zion facility for decades is still regulated by the NRC under of 10 CFR Part 50. These regulations were intended to address on-site storage of the HLRW for only a few months while the reactors were in operation. I suggested that 10 CFR Part 72, developed in the early 1980s specifically to provide reasonable assurance of public health and safety against the dangers of spent fuel storage, should be imposed instead.

Now the Bush administration is pushing for new deployment of nuclear power on our soil. We have not determined a safe, science-based, long-term storage solution for the radioactive waste already generated. Shouldn't we at least be properly enforcing safety regulations for long term on-site storage of this dangerous material before allowing the construction or operation of new nuclear power plants?

We feel strongly that the nuclear industry should not be allowed to sacrifice safety in a futile attempt to become more competitive. With a NRC clearly disposed to relaxing safety requirements, we feel just as strongly that the public should not be obligated to shield the nuclear industry from the liability for the consequences of these bad decisions.

Thank you for opposing the extension of the Price Anderson Act that would have laid this burden on the public. We appreciate your support for safe and clean energy sources for our future, and your concern for the dangerous legacy of the nuclear era.

Please work with us to change business as usual in the electric power industry.

Evan Craig  
Sierra Club Woods & Wetlands Group Chair

Review our previous letter at <http://illinois.sierra-club.org/w&w/ppzionnukewwtokirkL1.htm>

There is something you can do...



Sierra Club's **ENVIRONMENTAL 911 PROGRAM** provides you with a convenient, accessible, personal resource for obtaining information about actions you can take to address local environmental issues.

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## **Group Meetings**

### **Protecting Lake County's Isolated Wetlands** **Tuesday, September 11 7:15 - 9:30 pm Vernon Hills**

On January 9, 2001, the Supreme Court forfeited the authority of federal agencies to protect isolated wetlands, jeopardizing over 5,000 acres of Lake County wetlands. Joe Hmieleski, wetland specialist for the Lake County Stormwater Commission, will describe how the recently adopted ordinance restores protection for these wetlands. We will also discuss improvements for this new ordinance. Visit [illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/mm200109.htm](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/mm200109.htm) for a poster you can print and post.

### **Global Warming and the Bush Administration** **Tuesday, October 9 7:15 - 9:30 pm Vernon Hills**

Jennifer Johnson is a national Sierra Club coordinator on Global Warming. Her recent appearance on WTTW's *Chicago Tonight* has helped her spread the word about the negligence of the Bush administration to correct this looming planet-sized problem. She will discuss present problems and what we need to do to change this for the future. Visit [illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/mm200110.htm](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/mm200110.htm) for a poster you can print and post.

### **Where Group Meetings are held**

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

### **Monthly Planning Meetings**

All members are invited to the Group's Planning Meetings, now held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Caribou Coffee House, 725 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, 573-8271; near METRA station on Milwaukee Ave. (not the Vernon Hills Village Hall), in Libertyville.

**For meetings and outing updates see [www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w)**

## **Sierra Club** **Woods & Wetlands Group**

[www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w)

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*Woods & Wetlands News is a publication of the Sierra Club Woods & Wetlands Group, involving members in Lake and northeastern Cook counties in Illinois. It is published four times per year and is free to Woods & Wetlands Group members. Address: Woods & Wetlands News, Woods & Wetlands Group, 200 N. Michigan Avenue, St. 505, Chicago, IL 60601.*