



**SIERRA CLUB**  
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## Woods & Wetlands News

Serving Lake and Northeastern Cook Counties

### Antioch Adopts Phosphorous Ban

By John Massman

On October 15th the Village of Antioch took the first step in cleaning up Lake Marie and the Chain O'Lakes in north-western Lake County. After several meetings with representatives of the Woods and Wetlands Group, along with Illinois Chapter staff, the Village saw the light and passed a ban on the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. It is our hope that Antioch will be the first of many communities in the area to take this positive action to improve the water quality of the lakes and streams of Lake County.

The Woods and Wetlands Group worked with the Village of Antioch to enact a ban on the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus in the village to reduce pollution in Lake Marie, one of the Chain O'Lakes. Antioch will be the first community in the state to ban lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. Phosphorus encourages plant growth, which is good

for the grass but not good for the rivers and lakes when rain washes it into the water. Phosphorus can also fuel algae growth, often to the point where algae sucks oxygen out of the water, killing fish and other aquatic life. Unnatural "blooms" of algae and other plant life can also cause odor problems and obstructions for boaters.

The Illinois EPA says that most soils in Lake County contain sufficient quantities of phosphorus to support healthy lawns. The Woods and Wetlands Group has been working with the Village on their expansion plans for the sewage treatment plant, whose discharge to Sequoit Creek ends up in Lake Marie (see Lake & Prairie 2nd Quarter 2007 "Sequit Under Siege" and "IEPA Hearing Ex-

pected: Antioch vs. Lake Marie"). During meetings with the Village we brought up the fact that Lake Marie and the Chain O'Lakes already show signs of suffering from phosphorus overload, and an increase in outflow from the treatment plant was cause for concern. This phosphorus ban is just one step in improving conditions in the lakes. As part of the permitting process for the WWTP expansion, the Village has agreed to work with us to further reduce phosphorus and nitrogen loading.



The discharge permit requires: monitoring of total nitrogen, limiting yearly average maximum phosphorus loading to 13.3 lbs/day, and UV disinfection. Additionally, the Village will participate actively with W&W in the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study that the IEPA is conducting in Lake Marie and many of the lakes in the Chain, provide a metered tap on its finished wastewater for irrigation water haulers, and work with W&W to explore opportunities and funding for habitat restoration on Sequoit Creek.

A special thanks goes out to IL Chapter staffer and Clean Water Advocate, Cindy Skrukud for her great efforts toward this victory. 🌿

### Woods and Wetlands Calendar

#### Sunday Jan. 27th, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

Holiday Blues Party,  
Warm up with cool music. Potluck.  
Details and RSVP at:  
[illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w)

#### Tuesday, February 12, 6:45 p.m.

General Meeting  
**Plenty of Fish in the Sea?**  
Cecelia Ungari, Conservation Programs  
Shedd Aquarium. See next page.

#### Sunday March 2nd, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Sierra Club Presents  
**A Green Film Festival**  
College of Lake County, Grayslake  
[illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w)

#### Wednesday, March 19th, 6:45 p.m.

General Meeting  
**Building Green**  
Jill Russell and Victor Wolbrink  
Wolbrink Architects  
See next page.

#### Wednesday, April 30th, 6:45 p.m.

General Meeting  
**Protecting the Peruvian Rainforest**  
David Meyer, President  
Rainforest Conservation Fund  
See next page.

#### Conservation Meetings

Conservation meetings are held at 6:00 pm in advance of General Meetings. Members and guests welcome.

#### Directions

General Meetings are held at Vernon Area Library, 300 Olde Half Day Road in Lincolnshire. Take Route 22 (Half Day Rd) west from Milwaukee Ave (Rt 21), turn north (right) at the first stop light, then left into the Library parking lot. Maps and details are available at:

[illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/meet](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/meet)

## Winter Sierra Club Meetings

by Larry Marvet

### Plenty of Fish in the Sea?

Cecelia Ungari, Conservation Programs  
Shedd Aquarium  
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 6:45pm  
Vernon Area Library, Lincolnshire

By now we all know how our energy use and driving habits are affecting climate change, but do our eating habits also alter our environment? In the case of ocean life and seafood, eating the wrong fish can damage wild populations. Cecelia Ungari is leading an effort by Chicago's world famous Shedd Aquarium to promote sustainable seafood and the careful protection of fragile sea animals.

Ms. Ungari will describe the current state of fishing, bycatch and aquaculture and how our seafood choices can have a big impact on these practices and the health of our waters worldwide. After Cecelia's presentation, you'll be able to choose more wisely at your next seafood dinner.

## Equestrian Olympics Go Cross-Country

by Larry Marvet, Conservation Chair

Since last we wrote about the misguided efforts of the Lake County Board to host the 2016 Olympic horse events in the center of Lakewood Forest Preserve, much has happened. Unfortunately, no decision has been made to actually move the games to a less sensitive place, but the Board may have fumbled the Olympics into DuPage County hands.

In case you don't know the issue, the Lake County Board gleefully snagged part of the (proposed) 2016 Chicago Olympics, specifically the equestrian events. Negotiating in secret and approving unanimously with a single public meeting, they chose the Lakewood Forest Preserve as the location for this massive event, expected to draw hundreds of thousands of people to a rural Lake County forest preserve known for many endangered animals and plants. The most famous residents (due to a headline article in the Tribune) are a nesting pair of Sandhill cranes, possibly the most beautiful and endangered bird in Illinois.

To be clear, we like the Olympics, but we think it harmful to place such a gigantic event in, or even adjacent to, a natural area like Lakewood FP. Were our Lake County officials and Chicago to change their planned location to an industrial area or to a developed equestrian center (like Tempel Farms in Wadsworth), we

### Building Green

Jill Russell and Victor Wolbrink  
Wolbrink Architects  
Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 6:45pm  
Vernon Area Library, Lincolnshire

Construction and use of homes and other structures has an unquestionable effect on nature, through the use of materials, land and energy. Luckily, there is a trend among leading architects towards sustainable designs and low impact construction practices, including the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) program gaining wide acceptance in the industry.

Our speakers, Jill Russell, LEED certified general contractor, and Victor Wolbrink, principal architect, received Mayor Daley's 2006 Greenworks Award for Market Transformation and designed and built the first Energy Star three-flat in Chicago.

At our March meeting, Russell and Wolbrink will explain environmentally friendly building and industry improvements, much of which can be applied to your own homes and workplaces.

would support them to make this the greenest Olympics possible.

Apparently our outrage about this has been heard, both by the Board and by the Chicago Olympic people. During a July 25 County Board meeting, both director (Doug Arnot) and chairman (Patrick Ryan) of Chicago 2016 spoke words of understanding regarding this issue. Among other things, Arnot said, "Environmental assessments will be looked at all the way down the line. If we were to determine that [this] would have a [negative] impact ... our partners wouldn't want to go forward, and we wouldn't want to go forward."

During this meeting, some of the Board members braved a few good comments, suggesting that maybe we should think about this a little more. Then, about a week later, the Forest Preserve District announced that they were rerouting the cross-country trail away from an oak forest and Sandhill nest. (Though the cranes likely will be scared off when bulldozers grind up the land 100 feet away or starve when the 15,000 seat stadium is built on their foraging grounds.)

Maybe it was too little, too late to paper over the obvious controversy. Chicago has enough trouble competing with the likes of Madrid and Rio de Janeiro—they don't need to compound things through bad local publicity and a reputation for poor environmental stewardship. So in October, Chicago started discussing an equestrian move to a different Lake

### Protecting the Peruvian Rainforest

David Meyer, President  
Rainforest Conservation Fund  
Wednesday, April 30, 2007, 6:45pm  
Vernon Area Library, Lincolnshire

The Rainforest Conservation Fund (RCF) is an all volunteer organization founded by a small group of Chicago-land residents concerned about rainforest destruction. Since its beginning in 1988, they've focused their efforts on Peru's one million acre Reserva Comunal Tamshiyacu Tahuayo (RCTT), home to the most diverse assembly of primate species on any protected land in the world.

Mr. Meyer will tell us how RCF works with the adjacent communities to limit destructive activities through alternative methods and industries. By protecting the Reserva, the Rainforest Conservation Fund is protecting numerous unique and endangered animals, including jaguar, pink river dolphin, harpy eagle, red uakari monkey, giant otter, and the giant anteater. ➔

County preserve (Raven Glen), or out of the county altogether, to ready-made horse facilities in DuPage County.

DuPage has 3 equestrian facilities available, Danada, St. James Farm and Lamplight (which hosts many international events), making one wonder why they weren't the original choice. (Lake County offered a forest preserve with no equestrian facilities.) It may be that Olympic co-sponsor Abbot Laboratories—headquartered in Lake County—had some say in handing out potential opportunities. Unfortunately, as Chicago football fans know, if you fumble the hand off you may be taken out of the game.

No decision has been made, leaving us today where we were a few months ago—the Lake County Board still fully intends to bulldoze and develop hundreds of acres of the Lakewood (or Raven Glen) Forest Preserve for the 2 week long 2016 Olympics.

It's important that we make our thoughts heard now, while this issue is still in discussion—perhaps at a tipping point—by writing to or calling these people:

1. Your Lake County Board Member.  
See: <http://www.co.lake.il.us/officials/board.asp>
2. Doug Arnot,  
Chicago 2016 Committee  
180 North Stetson Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60601 Ph: 312.552.2016  
E-mail [info@chicago2016.org](mailto:info@chicago2016.org)

(Continued on page 4)

## Lake County's Broken Water Protection System, Part 1

An Interview with Eric Roe, by Larry Marvet

Lake County has the best remaining lakes, rivers, and streams in Illinois, and many of us live here because of that natural beauty. So protection of our waters should be a high priority, right? Maybe not. In a recent interview with one of the County's toughest volunteer activists, I learned that a straightforward municipal construction project flushed tons of dirt (see photo) into one of our most pristine lake systems, even though the city had been warned for months about the danger. It's a sordid story, best told by Antioch resident and Sierra Club member Eric Roe. Sadly, it seems that this incident is not isolated and may be symptomatic of the County trend to "delegate" responsibility for water protection to lightly staffed, development oriented towns in our area. The following is my discussion with Mr. Roe.

**LM:** Can you describe the construction project that led to this pollution incident?

**ER:** Osmond Sports Park is a joint project between the Village of Antioch and Antioch Township to build a youth sports complex on 37 acres along the northern edge of the H.O.D., EPA Superfund site. It is also adjacent to Sequoit Creek, with access to the park property off Depot Street east of downtown Antioch.

**LM:** Were you concerned when you first heard about the construction proposal?

**ER:** Yes and no. Many residents have seen the development as an enhancement to that which it was, a dump site. The idea that there is open space at the location which could be converted to youth athletic fields seemed like a good idea to many, especially in our rapidly-urbanizing community. Adjacent property owners were happy to learn there would be landscaped fields in their backyards. I think the idea is fine, but my concern was, and is, stormwater discharge from the site, and the potential for flooding and pollution of our glacial-lake community.

After Lake Marie turned completely brown in 2000, several studies identified flooding and water pollution problems that were the responsibility of the Village of Antioch. The Village has known about these problems for years, but has done little to correct the stormwater problems in our basin lake. The Village has never really addressed the documented failures in our area, which they

created by allowing poorly functioning stormwater practices in developments under their control. The developer goes broke, takes whatever money is left and leaves the community with many problems.

Infrastructure failure is now becoming a major concern of the public since many developments go bankrupt in Antioch before they are completed. The Village has allowed - or has not disallowed -



Osmond Sports Park looking north-east from discharge. Very turbid waters. 12:15PM 8/7/2007

incomplete inspection practices as many sites in our area are missing, or have incomplete, inspection reports, even though inspection reports are required by law, for the benefit of the public.

**LM:** Were you able to evaluate the Osmond Park plans, to see whether your worries were founded?

**ER:** No, I tried several times and I was

told that I could see them by Township Supervisor Steve Smouse, but he never followed through. I called and asked for information many times. I attended meetings and asked for the information many times.

**LM:** Did you try to warn anyone?

**ER:** Yes, for months! At the Park site I witnessed a steady flow of dump trucks entering the property during the week of Thanksgiving 2006. I found this to be odd because I had not heard of any issued permits. What I observed was the mixing of at least 2 different materials on site, which were then being spread by a bulldozer. There were many piles of spoil that had been left by the dump trucks. There were also many piles of dark-brown colored material that looked to me like dredge spoils around the area too. There was no silt fence at or near the mixing/spreading location, and later I found that there were no permits for the activity either. I called the Village of Antioch Administrator, Mike Haley, and asked for information about the site development activities. He said it was nothing and that "If I thought he was doing something wrong I should report him."

A few days later, at the Antioch Park Committee meeting dated 11/29/06, confusion was obvious regarding the type, use and placement of spoil for the park. Apparently, material was dumped on the proposed construction area without wetlands or erosion control concern or documentation, and apparently against the advice of the contractor, too.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## US Mail Slow, Switch to E-Mail

by Evan Craig

It's gotten so bad, it's on the evening news. We just can't count on having this newsletter delivered, and it regularly takes weeks. Meanwhile, the cost of postage just keeps going up.

Our solution? Sign up to get your newsletter by e-mail. It's fast, and it's free! We'll send you these same great stories and events, with better pictures and richer content - in time to respond and participate! To sign up, address an e-mail message to

**LISTSERV@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG**

and then include the following commands in the body of the message :

**SUBSCRIBE IL-WWG-ALERTS firstname lastname**

(inserting your first name and last name).

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Worried that you might have missed an issue? We post this newsletter on our website too. Bookmark our website:

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w>



## Time to Vote for W&W ExCom!

by Larry Marvet, W&W Election Committee

The Woods & Wetlands Group executive committee, or ExCom, is our small band of activists who have taken on additional responsibility to assure the Group runs smoothly. The seven people on ExCom run the organization, including the Chair who leads ExCom and is the group's main contact, the Conservation Chair who leads on local and other issues, and the Treasurer who tracks our finances. This group shares the important work, both exciting and mundane, needed to keep Woods & Wetlands Sierra Club going. ExCom has 7 members, with about half elected every year for two year terms. This time around we have three posi-

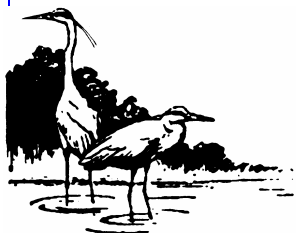
tions available. (The other 4 spots will be voted on next year.) Below are statements from the 4 members running for these openings.

**To vote**, rank the candidates 1 through 4 (with 1 being your top choice) by listing their names on a scrap of paper. Both members with a joint membership may vote. Put your ballots in an envelope and write your name(s) and address only the outside of the envelope (as the return address). Mail the envelope to: Sierra Club W&W Elections P. O. Box 876Grayslake, IL 60030. Or just go to website: [illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/vote/ExCom2007.asp](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/vote/ExCom2007.asp) to vote online. Vote by January 25, 2008.

Evan Craig has served on the Executive Committee as Chair for 9 years. He still believes that our Group's ability to protect the environment depends upon involving members locally. To achieve this, he informs members through the W&W News, the Group website and e-mail networks; involves them in committees, campaigns, legislative visits and wilderness outings; and trains new leaders. Meanwhile, he represents the Club to battle the impacts of sprawl, sewage treatment plants and wetland destruction. Under his leadership, W&W members on the Illinois Grassroots Lobbying Committee helped win landmark environmental legislation this year. He also formed the W&W LobbyCom to initiate a similar effort at the county level. Evan runs again with the hope that more members will take the challenge to address global warming where we live.

### Jeff Maras

I am a recent member of the Sierra Club and have lived in Lake County for almost twenty years. I have seen Lake County change drastically and believe the club makes a strong environmental impact in the county. I have a strong scientific background that aids me in understanding the issues we currently face and the ability to positively influence leaders in our county. My long-time interest in sustainable and renewable energy gives me the background to step up our efforts to phase out fossil fuels.



### Eric Roe

Antioch

Education: New Trier High School Northfield, IL. 1972-1976; Oakton College, Des Plaines, IL. 1984-1986

Environmentalist since 1975

Studies:

Birds of Prey & Falconry 1975 -  
Clean Water Advocate 1998 - current

I am single with two sons, named Mark (8) and Luke (5).

### Mike Wagner

Lifelong resident of Lake County and a long-time member and supporter of the Sierra Club. Dedicated supporter of environmental and habitat preservation. Volunteered on numerous projects such as trail rebuilding in the Porcupine Mountains, the dunes restoration at Sleeping Bear Dunes and worked on the Wolf Park, Indiana protection projects.

My true passions are Great Lakes issues and fresh water sustainability, having grown up on the lakes as a sailor and even working on fishing boats as a kid. I've reached a point in my life and career that I truly desire a more hands-on involvement dealing with the issues that mean the most to me, which is the reasoning behind my involvement with the Sierra Club, and more specifically the Woods and Wetland group. I look forward to being a more involved member and contributing to the growth and expansion of the group.

(Equestrian, continued from page W2)

3. Chicago Tribune, Letter to the Editor  
435 N. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60611-4041  
email: [ctc-tribletter@tribune.com](mailto:ctc-tribletter@tribune.com)
4. Lake County News-Sun--LTE  
2383 N Delany Rd  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
email: [CSelle@scn1.com](mailto:CSelle@scn1.com)
5. Daily Herald--Letters to the Editor  
[fencepost@dailyherald.com](mailto:fencepost@dailyherald.com)

To get more involved, or for more information, please write me at [LEMARVET@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LEMARVET@GMAIL.COM)

(Water, continued from page W3)

I called Judy Martini of the Lake County Board and explained what I learned at the 1/31/2007 committee meeting. Judy brought forth some of the information I provided, about the Osmond Park property, to the Stormwater Management Commission at their regular meeting on 2/7/07. Coincidentally, the Village of Antioch was up for re-certification that night and as a result of the information Judy supplied to the commission, the Village did not receive their expected re-certification.

In early February, personnel from the Stormwater Management District (SMC, Lake County's water protection organization) visited the site and documented that no silt fence was surrounding the aggregate of erodible, and potentially toxic, spoil material that were stored and graded around the site.

Interview continues next time. Or see it at: [illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/wwnews](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w/wwnews)

### Group Executive Committee

Group Chair	Evan Craig	847-573-6536
Outings Chair	<a href="mailto:ww-chair@illinois.sierraclub.org">ww-chair@illinois.sierraclub.org</a>	
Conservation	Larry Marvet	847-537-2083
	<a href="mailto:ww-cons@illinois.sierraclub.org">ww-cons@illinois.sierraclub.org</a>	
Treasurer	John Massman	847-838-9440
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Fundraising	Barbara Bell	847-367-4253
	<a href="mailto:barbara.bell@illinois.sierraclub.org">barbara.bell@illinois.sierraclub.org</a>	
Secretary	Doug Ower	847-872-8328
	<a href="mailto:doug.ower@illinois.sierraclub.org">doug.ower@illinois.sierraclub.org</a>	

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