

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

WOODS & WETLANDS News



Vote!

We've had enough narrow losses. We need to win — and this November we have a real chance to win *BIG*. All of our members know the importance of voting to protect our environment. We know that most of you, especially those reading these words, flocked to the polls in droves this spring to support our carefully selected candidates. But we know that at least one of you stayed home, and we won't be satisfied until each and every one of you grabs this newsletter, and heads for the polls! Consider the consequences.

Last year a paltry 16 votes blocked George Bell's bid for Lake County Board. As a result, retiring John Schulien remained to water down the wetlands protections adopted by the Storm Water Management Commission. George would have insisted on stronger protections to stop, or even reverse the continuing loss of wetlands. Schulien thought that would be undemocratic.

This spring we lost Larry Leafblad by only 17 votes to Rt. 53 sprawlway monger Don Bauer. The County can do many things to relieve traffic, but Rt. 53 isn't among them. Desperate for relief from congestion caused by sprawl, many bought Bauer's false promise of a quick fix from Rt. 53, rather than the smart path to less congestion through needed road improvements

continued inside

UNOPPOSED FOR LAKE COUNTY BOARD

Suzie Schmidt, Republican, District 3
Diana O'Kelly, Republican, District 10
Carol Calabresa, Republican, District 15
Bob Powers, Republican, District 16
Michael Talbett, Republican, District 19

Endorsed Candidates—Nov. 5 election

LAKE COUNTY BOARD

Judy Martini Republican	Dist. 1 847-838-2907	Friends of Judy Martini 42812 Janette Street, Antioch, IL 60002
Steve Carlson Republican	Dist. 7 847-356-4167	Friends of Steve Carlson 36235 Mill Court, Gurnee, IL 60031
Bob Sabonjian Democrat	Dist. 8 847-336-5154	2302 Walnut Street, Waukegan, IL 60085
Sandy Cole Republican	Dist. 11 847-548-0877	Sandy Cole for County Board 1315 Osage Orange, Grayslake, IL 60030
Ann Maine Republican	Dist. 21 847-550-9411	Ann Maine for County Board 23 Berkshire Ln., Lincolnshire, IL 60047
Anne Flanigan Bassi Democrat	Dist. 23 847-432-6291	Ann Flanigan Bassi for County Board 3325 Summit Ave., Highland Park, IL 60035

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE REFERENDUM

More land=more work—\$10.74 a year for a \$200K home

COOK COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE

Gregg Goslin Republican	Dist. 19 847-296-5060	Goslin Campaign Comm. www.netpad.com/commissioner.goslin P.O. Box 31, Glenview, IL 60025
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NORTH SHORE SANITARY DISTRICT

Harold J. Rafson Democrat	Ward 5 847-433-3026	Friends of Harold Rafson 42 Indian Tree Dr., Highland Pk, IL 60035
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ILLINOIS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Elizabeth Coulson Republican	Dist. 17 847-433-5886	Coulson Campaign Committee www.BethCoulson.org P.O. Box 2344, Glenview, IL 60025
Karen May Democrat	Dist. 58 847-433-5886	Friends of Karen May www.karenmay.org 735 Green Bay Road, Highland Park, IL 60035
Elaine Nekritz Democrat	Dist. 57 847-998-1002	Citizens for Elaine Nekritz www.nekritz4staterep.com P.O. Box 2563, Glenview, IL 60025
Kathy Ryg Democrat	Dist. 59 847-955-0055	Friends of Kathy Ryg www.kathyryg.org 185 Milwaukee Rd., Lincolnshire, IL 60069

ILLINOIS STATE SENATE

Susan Garrett Democrat	Dist. 29 847-681-1279	Citizens for Susan Garrett www.garrett98.com 1910 First St., Highland Park, IL 60035
Terry Link Democrat	Dist. 30 847-266-1997	Friends of Terry Link www.link30.org 123 N. Waukegan Road, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Melissa Bean Democrat	District 8 847-304-0056	Melissa Bean for Congress www.melissabean.com 715 Ela Rd., Lake Zurich 60047
Mark Kirk Republican	District 10 847-656-8150	Kirk For Congress www.kirkforcongress.com P.O. Box 8, Winnetka, IL 60093

ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL: Lisa Madigan (D)

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR: Rod Blagojevich (D)

UNITED STATES SENATE: Richard Durbin (D)

Write contributions to campaigns as listed, or to Sierra Club Illinois PAC, P. O. Box 5012, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 847-680-6437

Vote! *From front*

and regional planning that Leafblad has lead. If Bauer gets his way, a new wave of environmentally devastating sprawl, attracted by the extension, would raise tolls and taxes on residents for decades.

Both of our endorsed candidates for the North Shore Sanitary District were neglected by voters this spring, leaving the old guard in place with their plan to pollute our air and Lake Michigan with mercury and dioxin from a new sludge incinerator.

But all is not lost. With your vote, a brighter future is within our reach. Strong new candidates have stepped forward who consider protection of our environment the foundation of our future, and bring enthusiasm to direct our prosperity as responsible stewards of our rich natural resources.

This spring, **Ann Maine** handily defeated Tom Adams, another wetlands foe. With our votes, she'll bring her initiatives for transportation improvements and stormwater management to the County Board. **Steve Carlson**, determined to rein in sprawl in his district, also won his bid this spring and needs our votes. **Ann Bassi** won her primary and our endorsement for the general election for her commitment to efficient transportation solutions and alternatives to sprawl. And **Harold Rafson**, a published and experienced authority on pollution control facilities, earned our endorsement for NSSD's Ward 5 (Moraine Township) for his strategy to lead NSSD to be a better public citizen—without an incinerator. They need our votes too.

Returning endorsed candidates

Our returning endorsed candidates are just as worthy of our votes. **Judy Martini**, **Sandy Cole**, **Bob Sabonjian**, and in Cook County, **Greg Goslin**, are in the vanguard of board members constantly working to slow the sprawl unleashed by the early 1990's pro-development era. They know firsthand that Sprawl Costs Us All, have requested more tools from the state, and invited municipalities to join their lead for better regional planning to protect the quality of our region.

Rep. Crane's anti-environmental record

After 9/11 many Americans have reevaluated what is important in their lives. For those of us who consider themselves environmentalists it has included renewing our commitment to protecting our air, land and water from the environmental threats that endanger our common futures.

The anti-environmental powers in our government meanwhile made attempts to drill into the Great Lakes in search of oil, exploit protected lands in our national forests, undermine anti-pollution mining regulations, weaken public health standards and slash spending on environmental enforcement.

And then there was the Bush administration's energy policy, developed behind closed doors by VP Dick Cheney and his energy industry cronies. This policy, based heavily on the use of corporate subsidies to promote the production of polluting fossil fuels and nuclear power, virtually ignored clean and sustainable solutions to our energy challenges. This plan also called for relaxing environmental protection to encourage production, clearly making this plan a major environmental test of the 107th Congress.

And who was there on every vote to support this anti-environment regime, why Illinois Congressman Phil Crane. Representative Crane cast an anti-environmental vote on 14 different bills to earn a 0% score with the League of Conservation Voters. I would hope that he doesn't represent the majority view of those of us in his district. Let's show him at the polls that we don't agree with his attacks on the environment.

—*John Massman, Conservation Chairman*

Leadership in Springfield

Getting help from the state of Illinois has become a problem with the present state of Springfield. We have some great legislators there whom we are endorsing again, but the Senate leadership has blocked every single recommendation of its own Smart Growth Task Force, and even the House was fickle on restoring wetlands protection. With our votes for the new leaders that we have endorsed for the Illinois legislature, our regional leaders might get the help they need. **Elaine Nekritz** and **Kathy Ryg** are eager to put our hard won lessons of the costs of sprawl to good use, and give more say to regional planners to design out regional transportation, watershed and airshed problems. And promoting our cherished IL Representative **Susan Garrett**, who this summer attacked the water quality problems that close our Lake Michigan beaches, is our best assurance of a more responsive Senate. We also need to re-elect **Karen May** for her outstanding first term sponsorship of wetlands protection legislation, and **Beth Coulson** for her firm support of open space and the wetlands bill.

Find more on the election go to
<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w>

Leadership in Washington

We've also endorsed **Mark Kirk** in the US 10th Congressional District for his willingness to just say "no" to President Bush's assault on our environment. Kirk, earned a 71% League of Conservation Voters score for his tough stands. Meanwhile, Phil Crane (8th District) sold out the environment on every vote to earn his 0% LCV score this year. **Melissa Bean** gets the Club endorsement to give Crane the boot for her support of the 3 E's: Economy, Environment, and Education.

If you've been reading our statewide *Lake & Prairie* newsletter, you know that **Dick Durbin** is an exemplary Senator for environmental leadership, that **Rod Bagojevich** got our first-ever nod for IL Governor, and **Lisa Madigan** earned our support for IL Attorney General to oppose the NSSD incinerator and make "polluter pays" a reality through active enforcement.

Mark your calendar now for November 5. While our 2300 votes can make the difference between winning and losing, we need everyone to know that good environmental stewardship is the hallmark of a wise and trustworthy leader. Consider calling our candidates to offer your support before the election too. A few votes makes all the difference!

Wetland welfare

Over the years, Americans concerned about clean water and vanishing species have convinced our legislators to pass laws to protect the wetlands vital to both. Through a series of wins and losses at the national, state, and local level, we now have a patchwork of laws that in some ways give the impression that our wetlands are protected.

Some of our members know that, besides the gaps in the laws, there are lapses in enforcement. They have seen wetlands near their homes filled in, flooded and polluted. They call up W&W looking for help. Our plan is to bring together our wetland defenders, and build a case and a campaign to get real protection for abused and threatened wetlands. We've arranged two planning meetings at the Lake Villa Library: 10/15 and 11/26, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at Deep Lake Rd. and Grand.

One of those members is Becky Bredehoft. She's worked hard since 1997 to protect Bittersweet Woods wetlands behind her house. They were salvaged from a golf course that should never have been built over ADID wetlands. Her story of patiently seeking help from the USACOE, IDNR, US Fish & Wildlife, EPA, SMC, and her Village of Gurnee is one of endless run-arounds and accountability gaps. This spring the USACOE agent told her "the entire project was doing pretty well," but she knows better. The native vegetation buffers around the wetlands are being lost, and many birds and reptiles have declined. She called Sierra Club and got involved in our effort to pass HB6013 to restore protection for isolated wetlands across Illinois.

Rosemary Eddy lives in Grayslake. She's seen the vibrant wetland behind her house suffer from too much water, drowning the native species, and invading her yard. The problem? New development sheds its water into the wetland, and the Village is neglecting the problem.

How are the wetlands near your home? Bring pictures and share your story to help paint a picture of how wetlands are doing in our W&W territory.

Renewable resources

Sierra Club is unusual because of its grassroots structure. Our 2300 W&W Group members elect a small team of leaders who generate local events and organize environmental accountability, including this W&W News. Our Group is part of the Illinois Chapter, which, with dozens of other chapters, composes the national Sierra Club. The chapters, and especially the national levels rely on paid staff to provide information and support to the members, and to carry out the Clubs mission. But at the local level, we run on 100% pure volunteer energy! We believe in renewable energy, and it's great to have new leaders.

Please consider bringing your ideas and inspiration to our so-called Executive Committee local leadership team. It means spending a couple evenings a month at group meetings, taking on an area of interest (outings, conservation, membership, political, newsletter item gathering, basket weaving, etc.), and engaging Club members. ExCom members are elected by the members of the Group at the end of each year. So please call the Group Chair at 847-680-6437 right away to say you'll make a go of it.

Our Treasurer and distinguished past leader, Gerry Rodell, will retire at the end of this year. We need a new volunteer Treasurer to take the hand-off as he balances the books this fall. Please call Gerry at 847-367-5676 with any questions, and to volunteer.

Dear Sierrans,

Please use the Shop and Share coupons below. This raises money for our local chapter and we all have to purchase groceries anyway! You may even wish to STOCK UP on those days to help out as I do. The local grocery stores have kindly consented to participate in this voluntary program and frankly, if we do not use them, they will terminate us and we will lose this source of funding for mailings, postage, outings, etc.

—Mike Quinn, Conservation Chairman

P.S. If you don't want to cut out the coupon from your newsletter simply photocopy it or print a copy off our website and pass one to a friend!

Shop & Share		SHOP & SHARE IDENTIFICATION SLIP				AMOUNT OF PURCHASE			
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ARE DOMINICK'S BENEFIT DAYS FOR: SIERRA CLUB - WOOD & WETLANDS GROUP					DATE:
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THANK YOU FOR SHOPPING AT DOMINICK'S					CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE _____



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**Sierra Club
Woods & Wetlands Group
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Join your club for some holiday cheer

Don't get depressed by the shorter days and the cool weather sniffles... The Holidays are coming! The W&W biannual Holiday Party is scheduled for Saturday December 21 from 4 to 8 pm Please come! It's potluck. Contact Edith Sieg to find out what to bring.

Join our free e-mail lists—it's easy to join our ISSUES list and our ALERTS list right from our website! If you've changed your e-mail address, remember to resubscribe. Go to <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w>

Sierra Club Woods & Wetlands Group illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w

Group Chair, Outings	Evan Craig 847-680-6437 x4 847-680-6437 x5 aук@interaccess.com
Vice Chair, Chapter Rep.	George Etu 847-432-3787 gjetu@yahoo.com
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Conservation Co-Chair	John Massman 847-838-9440 beritz@earthlink.com
Membership	Edith Sieg 847-918-7769 lykit@idcglobal.net

Habitat for Humanity and the Sierra Club

Your Sierra Club Woods and Wetlands Group helped a Habitat for Humanity family in September by donating energy efficient and long lasting electric light bulbs for their new home.

It seemed like a kind and logical thing to do; energy efficient bulbs for a family who can least afford to pay their electric bill." Maybe other organizations and other Sierra Club groups will do the same thing in their neighborhoods. This is good for the families who need help and good for the environment too!

—Mike Quinn,
Conservation Chairman

Group Meetings

**Summer Outing Plans
Tuesday, October 29, 6:30–8:30 pm
Fremont Public Library, Room B**

Time to start planning our 2003 summer outings! We've put together the bare bones of a W&W Festival at Illinois Beach State Park. We'll reserve a group campsite for a weekend, and arrange outings for Saturday and Sunday. Bring your ideas for ways to explore nature to our next Outings planning meeting. The library is located on north Midlothian Road in Mundelein, 1/2 mile north of the Route 176 & Midlothian Road intersection. Other outings ideas will be discussed.

**The Future of Lake County's farms
Tuesday, November 19th, (one week later than usual) 7:00 pm, Libertyville Civic**
We're losing our farms to new development! Farms are an important component of the open space of our region — and our best source of food! How can we keep them, and make them better environmental partners? Danny Kaneff of the American Farmland Trust will review the study he recently performed for the Lake County Board about the future of our farms, and discuss what's needed to reconnect with our farms. The Civic Center is at 135 W Church Street in Libertyville.

For map, meeting and outing updates see illinois.sierraclub.org/w&w

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.