

# Palisades Views



Volume XXXX No. 4

April 2011

## Bugs in streams are critical

The April meeting of the Piasa Palisades Group will include “Curse of the Creepy Crawlers,” a PowerPoint presentation on how to “love all those things that normally scare the bejeebers out of folks.”



At least that’s how it’s described in an Illinois RiverWatch flyer.

The meeting will be led by Patrick Dailey, a biology professor at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey.

The PowerPoint presentation is

based on a new guide written by Jim Bland and funded by RiverWatch.

“Aquatic Macroinvertebrates of Illinois” is a resource for people trying to identify worms, bugs, leeches and shrimplike creatures that inhabit

Illinois streams.

“Often underestimated in importance, macroinvertebrates are critical elements of aquatic food webs,” the flyer states.

The Sierra Club meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 11, in the community room of First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton.

People also are invited to join the speaker for a pre-meeting dinner at 5:45 p.m. at Bossanova, 112 E. Third St. in downtown Alton.

Dailey has a bachelor’s degree in biology education from Youngstown State University and master’s and doctorate degrees in zoology from Bowling Green State University.

His thesis focused on “gross internal and external anatomy of the Madagascar hissing cockroach, *Gromphadorhina portentosa* with special emphasis on the external sensory sensilla.”

His dissertation was titled “Biological Investigations of Insect Hemocytes.”

## Group finds new ways to connect without paper:

**Action List:** purpose is to keep all members of the Piasa Palisades Group and interested participants alerted and informed of local and regional environmental issues and important activities via email. Information provided will contain news, announcements and action alerts. If you would like to have your email address included on this list, please send your name and email address to Chris Krusa, Executive Committee Member, at [clkruza@charter.net](mailto:clkruza@charter.net). (618) 288-2681 (home) or (410) 490-5024 (cell).

**Facebook page** — “Like” our Facebook page and stay informed with event notices, news tidbits and announcements of volunteer opportunities.

**Listserv** — We have an outings listserv, whose subscribers receive e-mail notices of hikes, canoe trips, etc. To subscribe, send an e-mail to [jbensman1@charter.net](mailto:jbensman1@charter.net). You’ll never miss an 11<sup>th</sup>-hour bike ride again!

**Online version of newsletter** — If you’d like to stop receiving a print copy of Palisades Views, we’ll e-mail you links to the current issue on-line. Send your e-mail address to [christine.favilla@sierraclub.org](mailto:christine.favilla@sierraclub.org).

## In Memory

The environmental community, friends and family members will plant about 15 burr oak trees and dedicate them to the late Sandy Wood on April 23 (see calendar on page 3 for more details).

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.

## Quinn rejects building of coal-gasification plants

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn has vetoed two pieces of legislation that were opposed by the environmental community.

Yeah!

The legislation included Senate Bill 1927 and Senate Bill 3388, which would have allowed Leucadia and Power Holdings Co. to build two coal-gasification plants in northern Illinois.

The legislation had passed in the Illinois General Assembly.

“We cannot continue down an unsustainable environmental and economic path when Illinois has all the ingredients for a sustainable energy future,” Quinn said in his veto message.

The Illinois Environmental Council and its affiliates, including the Sierra Club, had asked members to write, call and otherwise encourage the governor to veto the legislation.

“(The coal-gasification) facilities

would have produced carbon dioxide contributing to climate change and would have resulted in the emission of hundreds of tons of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, fine particulate matter and other harmful pollutants,” stated Jennifer Walling, the council’s executive director, in an e-mail.

She gave special thanks to the Sierra Club’s Illinois Chapter and the Environmental Law and Policy Center for their support.

### 2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair/Nelson Foundation	Wayne Politsch	politschw@aol.com	(618) 466-6150
Vice chair/programs	Dave Gocken	daverun2yahoo.com	(618) 656-8304
Secretary	Laura Asher	llasher@sbcglobal.net	(618) 465-8586
Membership/office	Gayle Borman	cgborman@hotmail.com	(618) 254-2250
Conservation	Amitie Flynn	alflynn@mail.lc.edu	(618) 639-0828
Conservation	Chris Krusa	clkrusa@charter.net	(618) 288-2681
Personnel	Virginia Woulfe-Beile	coexist1221@aol.com	(618) 465-1842
Outings/technology	Jim Bensman	jbensman1@charter.net	(618) 463-0714
Chapter/ personnel	Joseph Michlitsch	jmichli3325@att.net	(618) 659-0181

### OTHER COMMITTEES AND STAFF

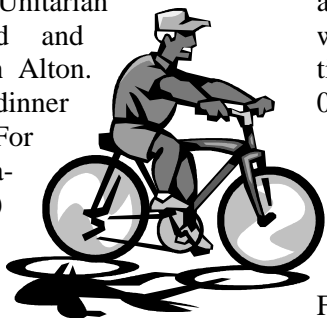
Treasurer	Jill Mellenthin	jmellenthin@yahoo.com	(618) 465-5490
Sales	Jennifer Politsch	politschw@aol.com	(618) 466-6150
Newsletter mailing	Carole Massalone	carolem3@charter.net	(618) 462-0288
Hospitality	Gayle Borman	cgborman@hotmail.com	(618) 254-2250
Hospitality	Virginia Woulfe-Beile	coexist1221@aol.com	(618) 465-1842
Three Rivers staff	Christine Favilla	christine.favilla@sierraclub.org	(618) 462-6802

### SIERRA CLUB OFFICE

Piasa Palisades Group	223 Market St.	Alton, IL 62002	(618) 462-6802
	E-mail:	Website:	FAX:
	ppg_sc@yahoo.com	www.illinois.sierraclub.org/piasapalisades	(618) 462-0282

# APRIL CALENDAR

**Monday, April 11 Piasa Palisades Group monthly meeting.** Biology professor Patrick Dailey of Lewis and Clark Community College will show the PowerPoint presentation "Curse of the Creepy Crawlers" (see related article). Meet at 7:30 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, Third and Alby streets in Alton. Pre-meeting dinner at Bossanova. For more information, call (618) 462-6802.



**Wednesday, April 13 Piasa Palisades Group monthly bike ride.** First ride of the season! Take the Watershed Trail from Wanda to Edwardsville. Easy, 9-mile round trip. Meet at 6 p.m. in the trailhead parking lot off Wanda Road. Bring a light and helmet. For more information, contact Jim Bensman at (618) 463-0714 or jbensman1@charter.net.

**Monday, April 18 "Gasland" documentary showing,** followed by an informal discussion of energy issues with organic munchies. Hours are noon to 2:30 p.m. in the Commons at Lewis and Clark Community College, 5800 Godfrey Road in Godfrey. Part of 2011 EarthFest, sponsored by the college's sustainability program and co-sponsored by Sierra Club. Admission is free.

**Saturday, April 23 Sandy Wood memorial dedication** at Heartland Prairie, across the highway from Gordon Moore Park in Alton. We'll honor the community spirit that the late Piasa Palisades Group member

lived every day. Volunteers will plant about 15 burr oak trees beginning at 8 a.m. The public is invited to a dedication ceremony at 10 and solar viewing led by Steve Sands at 10:30. Sandy's sons, Paul, Richard and Mark, and their families will attend. Her famous lemonade also will be served. For more information, call Nan Adams at (618) 655-0170.

**Friday through Sunday, May 6-8 Camp Ondessonk weekend.** Stay in cabins and hike in beautiful Shawnee National Forest amid wildflowers and other signs of spring. Hopefully, the Piasa Palisades Group will join members of the Kaskaskia and Shawnee groups. The cost is \$10 per night (\$5 for students). Meals on your own. For more information, e-mail coordinator Carol Klinger at ciklinger@yahoo.com.

## NON-SIERRA CLUB ACTIVITIES

**Saturday, April 2 and 9 Wildflower walk** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. Join naturalist Larry Morrison at Olin Nature Preserve and Mississippi Sanctuary in search of spring ephemerals. Meet from 9 to 11 a.m., rain or shine. Moderate to difficult terrain. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Free. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

**Saturday, April 9 Bird walk** at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville. Birding experts will discuss and hopefully point out

birds that pass through on their spring migration. Meet from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Bring binoculars, if desired. For more information, call (618) 692-7578.

**Saturday, April 9 Workshop on natural household cleaners** at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey as part of its herb series. Learn to make and use natural cleaners, which are healthier for families, better for the environment and less expensive. This includes laundry detergent, dish soap, all-purpose cleaning spray, toothpaste and window cleaner. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$35. For more information, call (618) 466-5004.

**Wednesday, April 13 Knee High**

See CALENDAR/page 4

## Palisades Views

is a monthly publication for and about Sierra Club members.

To submit a newsletter item:  
440 W. Union St.  
Edwardsville, IL 62025  
(618) 656-8132  
palisadesviews@gmail.com

**DEADLINE FOR MAY:  
SATURDAY, APRIL 23**



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Great River Road clean-up

— Pick up litter and debris on a designated portion of a 16-mile stretch of Illinois 100 from Godfrey to Grafton. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 9 (rain date is April 23). Refreshments, gloves and bags provided. To register, send an e-mail to cfavilla10@sbcglobal.net.

### Environmental Education Association of Illinois conference

— Help set up a Sierra Club booth, man a registration table, assist with a field session or perform other random tasks at Pere Marquette State Park, north of Grafton. Two- to three-hour shifts from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, April 15 and 16.

### Alton cityside spring litter clean-up

— Sponsored by the Alton Beautification and Clean City Committee. Begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 16. The Sierra Club needs your help on Broadway from Ridge to Washington and Washington to Milton. Get directions and free gloves and bags at Bossanova Restaurant and Lounge, 112 W. Third St. in downtown Alton or St. Patrick's School, Fifth and Central in midtown.

Groups also will depart from Aunt Sam's Uptown Eatery, 2512 College Ave. uptown and Joe K's Restaurant, 2530 State St. in north Alton. Or just clean up your own neighborhood and deposit litter and debris in your trash can. For more information, call (618) 465-3026.

## CALENDAR

Continued from page 3

**Naturalists program** at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. For children ages 3 to 5, accompanied by an adult. This month's theme is "What Do Roots Do?" Take a prairie walk, find 8-foot-deep roots, learn how they provide food and water to plants then taste some roots! Morning session from 10 to 11 or afternoon session from 1 to 2. The \$5 fee includes a hike, snack, story and hands-on activity. Advance registration required by previous Friday. For more information, call (618) 466-9930.

### Wednesday, April 13 Illinois River Coordinating Council meeting

at Pere Marquette State Park Visitor's Center, north of Grafton. The public is invited to attend a discussion with Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon's office on Illinois River restoration projects. Simon chairs the group of citizens, non-profit organizations and state and federal agencies. Meet at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Olivia Dorothy at (217) 558-3089 or visit [www.ltgov.illinois.gov](http://www.ltgov.illinois.gov).

### Saturday, April 16 Earth Day coffeehouse

at La Vista Ecological Learning Center in Godfrey. The theme is "Rejoicing in One Another and Our Planet!" Bring Earth-related stories, poems and music and a springtime dessert or drink to share. Meet from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the patio of a rustic lodge on the Mississippi River bluff. Coffee and tea provided. Register by calling (618) 466-5004. Optional \$10 donation appreciated.

### Saturday, April 23 Wildflower program

at Watershed Nature Center in Edwardsville for adults and

children. Hours are 10 a.m. to noon. Free. For more information, call (618) 692-7578.

### Monday and Tuesday, April 25-26 SIUE Earth Week 2011

sponsored by Student Organization for Sustainability at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Members will discuss sustainable food, hypermiling, sustainable consumption, campus recycling and more from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday in Morris University Center's Goshen Lounge. A panel of professors will talk about incorporating sustainability in the classroom from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday.

### Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1 Arbor Day celebration

at Glazebrook Park in Godfrey. Visit the Sierra Club's information booth on all things tree-related! Free take-home crafts for children. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The park is at 1401 Stamper Lane.

### Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1 Coal-field tours

in Southern Illinois, sponsored by Prairie Rivers Network and its Heartland Coalfield Alliance partners. Learn more about the effects of the coal life cycle on Illinois land, water and communities and what you can do to help. Hours are 9 a.m. Saturday to 3 p.m. Sunday, with tours starting and ending in Carbondale. The \$40 cost includes travel, food and lodging. For more information, visit <http://heartlandcoalfieldalliance.org>.

**NOTE:** The Sierra Club is not sponsoring or administering the above activities and cannot vouch for their quality, safety, planning, supervision or management. Information is being provided because it may be of interest to members.