

# The Sierra Club Intervenes to Oppose a Coal-Fired Power-Plant Proposal

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Hoosier Chapter Energy Task Force Chair

In an effort to target cleaner energy alternatives for Indiana, the Sierra Club has entered a legal intervention, as part of the Indiana Clean Energy (ICE) coalition, to oppose a \$2 billion proposal for a coal-fired power plant. The ICE coalition, consisting of several Indiana groups including the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Citizens Action Coalition, Save the Valley, and Valley Watch, opposes the 630 MW coal-fire electricity generating plant slated for development in Edwardsport, IN by Duke Energy and Vectron Power.

On May 18th, 2007, attorney Jerome Polk, of Polk and Associates LLC, filed testimony on behalf of the ICE coalition stating the \$2 billion proposal is not the best option to meet energy demand. In June, evidentiary hearings were conducted regarding the intervention before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. Our ICE coalition sponsored several expert witnesses from Synapse Energy Economics of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the pro-coal interveners presented their witnesses. Subjects of the hearing included modeling, conservation methods, renewable energy alternatives, and carbon capture/sequestration. No hearings to take comments from the general public have been scheduled.

Attorney Jerome Polk recently addressed our Hoosier Chapter Executive Committee on the progress of the ICE intervention. Jerome believes the power companies are working under the assumption that carbon emission baselines will not be set up until after the year 2015. Therefore, from the power companies' perspective, the next eight-years represent the best years to build to gain a competitive advantage on emissions permitting.

The ICE testimony stated that a demand-side-management conservation program costing 1% of operating cost would sufficiently eliminate all of the power companies' forecasted demand increase. Conservation projects using Demand-Side-Management (DSM), similar to our ICE testimony, have been successful in recent years in California, New England, and North Carolina.

Potential wind energy projects, and combined heat-and-power were offered as cost-effective alternatives. When the Sierra Club entered the intervention, Vectren added a 30 MW contract for the proposed Benton County, Indiana wind farm. In their green-power-initiative program, Vectren proposed to sell blocks of 100 MW at the increased cost. Although no wind farms exist in Indiana today, it is estimated there is enough unharnessed wind energy in the state to offset all additional energy needs for twenty years or more.

As a result of the hearing, Vectren Power announced in early August it will no longer move forward with the project. Duke Energy has chosen to reconsider and rewrite their DSM proposal later in 2007, after the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity proceedings. Duke has signed new contracts with power associations recently, and has committed to more power than it has.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)



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# SIERRA Indiana

## INDIANA SIERRAN

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## The Sierra Club Intervenes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Model legislation is needed including building code standards, renewable energy standards, and a statewide efficiency standard. Jerome explained the only states where renewables are growing, are states with Renewable Electrical Standards incentives. He emphasized we need to be sending letters to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, and our elected representatives. The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission has the capability of influencing the electrical sourcing options.

The future will require additional interventions and continued vigilance to oppose coal-fired electricity proposals. Jerome indicated that in future interventions, the granting agency will be asking for a fifteen-percent co-pay, a cost the Hoosier Chapter did not bear with the present intervention. The Edwardsport plant represents the Sierra Club's first coal-based intervention in recent history in Indiana. Additional interventions will be needed soon for an anticipated Indiana Power and Light proposal, a Duke peaking plant, and an expected request from Indiana Michigan Power. ♣

### *How Can You Help?*

*Copyright 2007 by Peter J. Fritz Ph.D.,  
Hoosier Chapter Energy Task Force chair*

I asked Grant Smith, president of the Citizen's Action Coalition, what Sierrans can do to help stop Duke from building unnecessary coal plants in Indiana. Grant noted that we have the sheer numbers of members to make a difference. He recommended Sierrans in the Duke territories of Columbus, Bloomington, Jasper, Terre Haute, Washington, Vincennes, Evansville, New Albany, and Madison write letters to the newspaper editors specifically criticizing Duke's IGCC (gasification) coal expansion plans.

Today, Indiana is a regulated state, so all utilities (such as Duke) are guaranteed a rate of return (historically 11%). The more money Duke spends, the greater their guaranteed return! This gives Duke a greater incentive to build coal plants than cleaner and lower-cost wind-sourcing, or demand-side-management alternatives. We have given Duke an incentive to pollute our state.

The construction of the Duke-proposed Edwardsport coal power plant will cost a minimum of \$2.1 billion, a significant investment that will ultimately result in an overall increase in Duke Energy Indiana's rates. Operating and maintenance costs will be at least \$104 million annually.

Grant Smith of CAC has requested five letters-to-the-editor per newspaper, to jump-start public awareness. CAC has already written 100 letters to our representatives. Show how much you care. Please write to your local newspaper today. For more information on Duke's proposal, and your newspaper, see: [www.citact.org/dukeigcc/takeaction.htm](http://www.citact.org/dukeigcc/takeaction.htm).

## Chapter Hires David Maidenberg As Chapter Director

*By Bill Hayden, Chapter Executive Committee Chair*

David Maidenberg, former head of the Indiana Election Board and the State Ethics Commission, has recently been hired, on a part time basis, as the first Chapter Director of the Hoosier Chapter. The Executive Committee is confident David's background in politics and state government will help the Chapter become more effective in its mission of protecting and improving Indiana's environment.

David graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Political Science in 1972, and received a Master's degree in Public Affairs in 1978 from George Washington University in Washington, DC. In the 1980's, he managed two successful political campaigns for his brother, Tony, who ran for both the Mayor of Marion, Indiana and the Indiana State Senate. David served as the Grant County Democratic Committee Chair, and both Chair and Vice Chair of the 5th Congressional District Democratic Committee. (That was back in the days when Jim Jontz was serving in Congress

from the 5th Congressional District.) In the 1990's, he served for six years as the Executive Director of the Indiana State Election Board, and four years directing the Indiana State Ethics Commission. He has also authored several publications for the Federal Election Commission, and written several articles for journals on government ethics.

A long time member of the Sierra Club, David has recently taken several Sierra Club training sessions. The plan is for him to spend ten hours per week on conservation and ten hours a week on administrative work. If you need to contact the Chapter Office, feel free to call or write an email to david.maidenberg@sierraclub.org. If he is not in the office, he will return your call as soon as possible. If you would like to read more about David, check out his website at [www.maidenberg.com/david](http://www.maidenberg.com/david). I trust all members will welcome David to the Chapter and bear with him as he learns the details of his new job.

### *State Model Drought/Water Shortage Ordinance Completed!*

A year ago the legislature passed SEA369 which required the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to appoint a Task Force to develop a model water shortage/ drought ordinance, and to lead the state in developing a statewide strategy. This legislation came about from a several year, joint effort by the Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, the Sierra Club and others. Widespread drought or low flow conditions could, without adequate planning and enforcement, cause significant economic and environmental damage to the state.

The first step in this effort, the model ordinance, is completed and is now available from DNR at: [www.in.gov/dnr/watershortage/pdf/Model\\_OrdinanceFinal\\_Draft\\_7-2-07.pdf](http://www.in.gov/dnr/watershortage/pdf/Model_OrdinanceFinal_Draft_7-2-07.pdf).

General information on the existing Water Shortage Plan and the Task Force is at: [www.in.gov/dnr/water-shortage](http://www.in.gov/dnr/water-shortage).

Last year we had drought conditions in parts of north-

west Indiana. This year we had low flow/ drought conditions in several areas with impacts on farmers and municipalities, with reduced use requests or lawn watering bans. We then lucked out in many areas with some rainfall. (Though, too late for some of the corn)

If one looks at the history of water flows in Indiana, the problem has often been trying to get rid of too much water. However, we have had three consecutive years of major drought/water shortage back when our water use was much less. Therefore, we as a state need to get the tools in place now so we can assure that critical water needs are best addressed in a rational planned effort!

Please actively encourage your local government or water utility to enact a local ordinance that gives them the authority to regulate water usage when needed and to develop a prioritized implementation plan. In addition, they need to develop and actively implement a water conservation program. ♣

## HOOSIER SIERRA CLUB ATTEMPTS TO STOP TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS VX NERVE GAS

Copyright 2007 by Peter J. Fritz, Ph.D., Hoosier Chapter Executive Committee secretary

VX gas is the deadliest nerve agent known. First produced fifty-five years ago in Britain, VX gas is actually a liquid resembling motor oil, and is so potent a single ounce can kill over one hundred people by inducing muscle spasms resulting in asphyxiation. In 2005, there was enough VX gas stored in Newport Indiana, just north of Terre Haute, to kill everyone on earth eight times. The Newport VX gas was produced approximately 40 years ago, from 1962-1969.

The National Sierra Club, along with the Chemical Weapons Working Group, and Citizens Against Incineration at Newport, have prepared a Notice of Intent to Sue and a federal court complaint challenging the Army's recent transport of VX nerve gas waste to a Texas incinerator. On April 25, The Hoosier Chapter Executive Committee chose to support the suit to attain the complete treatment of VX gas on site at Newport, Indiana, and avoid transportation of VX gas waste.

When the Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club joined the suit, the Army started convoys of trucks transporting VX waste that may have had ten-times the allowed limit of

residual or reconstituted VX gas in them. These convoys of trucks with 4000 gallon intermodal containers were driven to Texas through Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Alabama, and Louisiana.

The suit was filed on May 8, naming the Defense Department, the U.S. Army, and Veolia Environmental Services, which is the company contracted to destroy the VX gas waste at its facility in Port Arthur, Texas. Quoting the amended federal Solid Waste Disposal Act, the suit argued that congress has prohibited the transport of chemical weapons or chemical agents across state lines. VX gas waste is a chemical weapons material under the Chemical Weapons Convention, making transport of the VX gas waste prohibited by federal law.

Exactly two months after The Hoosier Chapter joined the suit, the Army agreed to suspend transport of the VX gas-waste until a federal court hearing was scheduled. After the hearings in July, the transportation continued to be barred until Terre Haute U.S. District Chief Judge Larry J. McKinney issues a written opinion from the hearings. ♣

## IT'S INDIANA/ATOMZ LIVE!

By Hazel Stevens

Have you visited the chapter website lately? If so, you have noticed some big changes! The Indiana/Hoosier Chapter website has been converted over to Atomz, a Content Management System (CMS) offered by the National Sierra Club.

Atomz, owned by Visual Sciences, is a way that Sierra Club chapters or groups can maintain a website with relative ease. There are many CMS programs that are available, but national chose this one because it is a web based application that is well designed, affordable and well supported. Use by chapters and groups is free, and national provides training and help—but of course not content!

Indiana/Atomz is a work in progress. Adrian Cotter, senior webmaster in San Francisco, continues to provide invaluable assistance, and our state web team (Dave Ellis, Peter Fritz, Kyle Landis, Charles Mitch, Glenn Pratt, and I) participated in Atomz training with Jenny Coyle. We have made a lot of progress and became the first chapter in the country to discover that Atomz had problems with Microsoft's Vista!

The main benefit of Atomz is that you don't have to know HTML code to use the system. When volunteers come and go because of other obligations, our chapter site can remain an effective communication tool because it is easier to update. If you would like to help with the Indiana/Hoosier Chapter website, either by volunteering with the web team or by providing content and photos, please call our state office at 317- 822-3750 or email [sierra@netdirect.net](mailto:sierra@netdirect.net).



## Midwest New Energy Future Conference Held In Indianapolis

Copyright 2007 by Peter J. Fritz, Ph.D. Hoosier Chapter Energy Task Force Chair

The Sierra Club's second annual "Midwest New Energy Future Conference" was held in Indianapolis on May 19-20. Nearly 100 participants from the Midwest exchanged statistics and opinions on energy issues.

Bruce Nilles, Director of the Midwest Clean Energy Campaign, opened the session with a compendium of coal start-up threats in the Midwest, including 160 new coal plant proposals. Dave Hamilton, the Sierra Club director of the Global Warming and Energy Program, spoke about efficiency and gains with renewable energy sources. Private investment is growing fast in energy areas, and has reached a capital funding rate of \$80 billion per year.

John Blair, president of Valley Watch in Evansville, IN, presented a synopsis of coal activities in southwest Indiana, labeling Indiana as the state with the highest levels of carbon dioxide emissions. John Blair, Carol Overland, and Hank Graddy conducted a panel discussion emceed by Becki Clayborn on strategic opposition to the air, water, zoning, and construction permits needed by the coal plant proposers. A dozen speakers gave a quick update on state methods of raising awareness, and opposing coal-fired power plants. Peter Fritz, of Indiana, gave a slideshow on the Step-It-Up environmental program and the initiation of a coal-plant legal intervention.



Wallace McMullen, at the center of the New Energy Future, outlined the value of demand side efficiency improvements, including lights and heating, and introduced Sri Rajar who introduces new energy-efficiencies to schools and offices in Kentucky. Jeff Stant, former director of the Hoosier Environmental Council, showed leaching of chemicals from fly ash (coal plant waste), and the leniency by which fly ash is disposed.

There were continuous discussions on presidential candidate platforms, Renewable Energy Standards legislation, and previous successful methods of opposing new coal plants. Participants gathered regional information on efficiencies, renewable energy methods, and legislation. Verena Owen, Illinois activist, finished the sessions with a presentation on our progress and the needs of the Midwest. ♣

## Sierra Club Holiday Cards!

Featuring beautiful photographs of Yosemite scenes by William Neill. Twenty full-color 5" x 7" cards (5 each of 4 designs) with envelopes. Greetings vary.

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# Chapter and Groups Announce Elections—Nominees Sought

The Hoosier Chapter and our Dunelands, Heartlands, Michiana, and Winding Waters Groups are all accepting nominations for members to run for their respective executive committees.

## Nominations for Hoosier Chapter Executive Committee

The Hoosier Chapter nominating committee is accepting nominations for club members to run for the Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom). The Executive Committee governs the Hoosier Chapter.

Five ExCom positions are available, with newly elected members serving for a two-year term.

Please submit your nominations by September 21, 2007, to the nominating committee by sending the information listed below via one of the following ways:

- By mail to Nominating Committee, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, 1915 W. 18th St., Indianapolis, IN 46202
- By an e-mail message to [sierra@netdirect.net](mailto:sierra@netdirect.net).

Include the nominated member's name, address, and phone number and any information you would like the nominating committee to consider in making its selections.

Any member of the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter in good standing may submit his/her name for consideration to be nominated for an At Large seat on the Hoosier Chapter's Executive Committee. This can be done by sending the name and contact info and a ballot statement to the Chapter Office.

The Nominating Committee will consider all submitted names and declare a slate of nominees. This slate is required to have one more nominee than the number of members to be elected. Anyone not slated who would like to be a write in candidate may also submit a petition signed by five Sierra Club members in good standing ten days before the mailing of the ballots. The ballots will be included in the Winter Sierran. The deadline for the winter Sierran is October 31.

Any person who is proposed to or who volunteers to the nominating committee but is not approved will be notified by the nominating committee and informed of his or her right to be, and the process to be, a petition candidate. In addition, write-in candidates are allowed. If you have any questions, please call the chapter office at (317) 822-3750.

## Responsibilities of Executive Committee Members

Candidates should have the desire to actively participate in the work of the executive committee, which includes providing opportunities to club members in the chapter to participate in outings, programs, and conservation efforts, both locally and nationally. They should be willing to actively work on other chapter efforts in fundraising, volunteer development, conservation, publicity, legislation, regulations, and/or chapter management. Candidates

should be willing and able to participate in six bimonthly executive committee meetings, usually on Saturdays and usually in Indianapolis. One or more special meetings or planning meetings/retreats may be held. If you are or know of a member who fits this brief description, please consider suggesting him or her to the nominating committee.

## Nominations for Dunelands, Heartlands, Michiana, and Winding Waters Groups

Each of the groups that will hold an election this year has established its own nominating committee. The number of positions available will depend on the group. Nominations sent to the chapter office for a group executive committee will be forwarded to the correct volunteer committee. Please contact your local group for more details. Group contact information is listed elsewhere in this newsletter and is on our chapter website. ♣

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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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## ATTEND GROUP MEETINGS

**The Five Rivers Group** is centered in Delaware and surrounding counties. The group has shifted from a meeting model to a project model, with the Living Lightly Sustainability Festival as the main focus, along with water quality and habitat restoration. All projects entail partnerships with sister groups and organizations. To get involved, contact Jon Creek at [jcreek34@yahoo.com](mailto:jcreek34@yahoo.com) or sign up for our listserv at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/5RiversSierra>.

**The Winding Waters Group** covers Bartholomew, Brown, Decatur, Jackson, and Jennings Counties. Winding Waters general membership meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Bartholomew County Library. The Winding Waters Group executive committee meets the second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Bartholomew County Library or at a member's home; please phone Art Hopkins or any of our officers for the next executive committee meeting location. Art Hopkins, (812) 372-2862.

**The Dunelands Group** covers Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Newton, Jasper, and Starke Counties. Dunelands Group general membership meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at Krull Tower, 206 Main St. in downtown Hobart, at 7 p.m. Sandy O'Brien, (219) 942-2956.

**The Heartlands Committee** is centered in Marion County. From October to June, the Heartlands Group general membership meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Holliday Park Nature Center, 6349 Spring Mill Road, Indianapolis. For information on meetings in the other months, contact Leslie Fite, (317) 299-5930, [landkvo@juno.com](mailto:landkvo@juno.com), or Teresa Morehead, (317) 884-3831, [hikesalot@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hikesalot@sbcglobal.net). The Heartlands Group Executive Committee meets the first Monday of the month, 6 p.m., Hoosier Chapter Office, 1915 W. 18th St., Indianapolis. Leslie Fite, (317) 299-5930, [landkvo@juno.com](mailto:landkvo@juno.com).

**The Michiana Group** includes Saint Joseph, Elkhart, Marshall, and Kosciusko Counties. General membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Res Nature Center, 13950 Scout Lane, Mishawaka. The group's executive committee meets in January, March, May, July, September, and November at 6 p.m. at the Res. Christine Fiordalis, (574) 287-1621.

**The Wildcat Committee** is centered in Tippecanoe County. Wildcat general membership meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 7 p.m., at The Other Pub, 3000 S. 9th St., Lafayette. Marcia Daehler, (765) 743-1894.

# LIVING LIGHTLY—A BIG HIT

By Jon Creek

**Living Lightly**, a resource fair for sustainable lifestyles, held June 2-3 in Muncie, was a huge success. Highlights of the fair, included speakers, vendors, music, healthy food, and the opportunity to gather with other green oriented folks.

"I didn't know there were so many other people in this area interested in sustainable living. We should do this again," observed Charlie Mason of Muncie, who attended the fair.

Speaker topics ranged from "The Slow Food Movement," to "The Need of Green Design and Living," "Green Building Materials," "Rain Gardens," and "Creating Healthy Homes."

A field trip to Cooper Farm, a Ball State educational field station, highlighted a demonstration straw bale house plus an adjacent prairie restoration project.

The children's programs included, "Vroom...Build a Solar Car," "Tracking Wildlife," and "Creek Stomp: What the Water Reveals."

Entertainment included Latin American music by Paula Monsalve, Traditional American tunes by Les and Gwen Gustafson-Zook, and Mideastern music by Salaam.

Organized by Five Rivers Group and Robert Cooper Audubon, the fair involved more than fifty committee volunteers in the planning stages, plus the resources of twenty corporate sponsors and seven individual sponsors. Ball State University and Minnetrista Cultural Center

were key partners. Sierrans Barb Stedman, Rose Jeffery, Lucinda Rarick, and Jon Creek were on the executive committee which worked together for a year organizing the fair.

The fair and the planning process energized the green community of east central Indiana and brought together many people, who had not been involved on this level before, to work on a shared mission. Many felt personally inspired by the opportunity to contribute their skills and talents to a valuable and tangible green community project. Momentum and interest generated by the event have led to plans for a follow-up fair in September '08 in partnership with the Minnetrista staff and held on Minnetrista grounds.

Another follow-up action is the organization of an ongoing, sustainability initiative within the communities of ECI, starting with Muncie and Delaware County. Possible focus areas include government, business, schools, and local communities. A community garden project has already been reorganized at Maring Hunt Library by Jim Walts from our LL group. We are consulting with the key managers of the green initiatives in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne on green program models that are adaptable to ECI. Our plan is to transition the positive energy generated by the fair to a broader and more sustained green initiative. Supporters and partners are always welcome to join in the work. ♣

# Experience Sierra Club's Fall Outings

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8.** Harrison County Glades, Service Trip with Nature Conservancy, southern Indiana. Join the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy at one of the beautiful glades they steward in southern Indiana. A glade is literally, "an opening surrounded by woods." Years ago, natural fires kept the forest canopy cleared in some areas allowing prairie-like conditions to exist and sun-loving plants adapted to that environment to flourish. We will be clearing out "pioneer" cedars to let the sunlight back in and help restore the glade. No herbicides will be used but there may be cutting and certainly dragging of felled cedars to contend with. If you have a favorite saw, feel free to bring it and any appropriate safety gear. Otherwise, just bring water and a lunch and all tools will be provided. Rating: Easy to moderate, (work at your own pace/comfort level). Joe Bina [stirsitup@gmail.com](mailto:stirsitup@gmail.com) 812-923-6974. Bonnie Wolf, Nature Conservancy Steward 812-972-1506.

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14-16.** Backpacking the Waterloo-Pinckney Trail (MI). This trail west of Ann Arbor, Michigan, is 36-miles long. It travels between Big Portage Day Use Area and Silver Beach, and affords recreational opportunities for hikers, mountain bikers, horseback riders, geocachers, and cross-country skiers. Learn about the area's flora and fauna as you explore lowlands, creeks, and high ridges. Ridge walking along the eskers, and between kettle lakes and bogs featuring carnivorous plants, present memorable lessons in geology. This trip is rated moderate to strenuous. RSVP by Thursday, August 16, by calling Jeff Kessler, 574-294-3619, or Rich Mah, 574-282-1633.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.** International Coastal Cleanup/Adopt a Beach, West Beach Porter, IN. Please join us in participating with thousands of volunteers around the world who will be cleaning their favorite beaches as part of this annual event. We'll be partnering with the Ocean Conservancy and the Alliance for the Great Lakes for this service outing on the shore of Lake Michigan. Meet at the parking lot of West Beach near the Lake/Porter county line north of Route 12 at 9 a.m. Clean-up will conclude at 12 pm. Snacks and water will be provided. Please bring gloves and dress appropriately for the weather. Contact Dave Ellis at [david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org) or 219-730-7913.

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.** VUJC/Sierra Club Environmental Topics Colloquia. Join us for a keynote presentation on environmental issues at the Vincennes University Jasper Campus. John Blair, president of Valley Watch (Evansville) will speak to the group in a session on "Indiana's Inconvenient Truth" at 7 p.m. Central Time (8 p.m. Eastern time). John will present a slideshow on global warming in the Indiana/Kentucky/Illinois basin, at the VUJC Academic Building in Jasper. No fees. Mary Fritz at [maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org) 812-630-9385.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22.** Knobstone Trail Hike. We will hike a 9-mile section of the Knobstone Trail starting at the Leota Trailhead and ending at the New Chapel Trailhead. From the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, "the trail crosses several steep ridges as it heads south from the Leota Trailhead through the Clark

backcountry area. It then drops into the lush North Branch Valley, one of the most scenic areas along the trail (abundant ferns, wildflowers, and very large trees), before winding its way up a very steep slope. The trail then traverses rolling to rugged terrain again, past a few wildlife ponds, to the New Chapel Trailhead." Strenuous hike with steep hills, Directions to Leota Trailhead: From Interstate I-65 take exit 29, Scottsburg, IN. Go west on Highway 56 for 4.1 miles and turn left on Zion Road. Go 1 mile and turn right on Stagecoach Road. Go 1.1 mile and turn right on Leota Road. Go 1.3 miles to top of knobs and turn right on Saylor Road. Go 100 yards and turn right on to gravel trailhead entrance road. Charlie Mitch ([cmitch@comcast.net](mailto:cmitch@comcast.net)) and Joe Bina ([stirsitup@gmail.com](mailto:stirsitup@gmail.com)).

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22.** Race for the Gourd and Games with Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center, Chesterton, IN. The Dunelands Group will be sponsoring games and activities at 9 a.m. during the Moraine Ridge Wildlife Rehab Center's Annual Race for the Gourd 5k and 10k walk and run. The activities will be for kids and spectators during and after the race. There will also be crafts during this first time partnership between Moraine Ridge and the Dunelands Sierra Club. The event will be at the Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve, 1050 North at Dickenson Road in Chesterton, IN. Contact Dave Ellis at [david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org) 219-730-7913 for information. For race information go to [www.mrwildlife.rehab.org](http://www.mrwildlife.rehab.org) and click Events.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6.** Tour of Crème de la Crop Organic Farm, Valparaiso, IN. Join us at 10 a.m. in Valparaiso for a tour of the first organic Community Supported Agriculture farm in Porter County. We'll discuss where our food comes from and how far it often travels while touring this 10+ acre chemical-free farm which provides fresh produce to members and at local farm markets. 208 North 250 West, Valparaiso, IN. One light east of Shorewood Forest just north of Route 30. Contact Dave Ellis at [david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org) or 219-730-7913 for information.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13.** Fall Color Hike, Indiana National Dunes Lakeshore. Join us for a hike through the woods and dunes on the Cowles Bog Trail (4.6 mi) and enjoy the changing leaves and the beauty of Lake Michigan. This is a strenuous hike due to crossing the dunes, but a more moderate route is available for those who do not wish to reach the lake. Meet at the new Dorothy Buell Memorial Visitor Center on Hwy 49 at 11 am. Bring water and a snack or lunch. Ride sharing is encouraged. Julie Hyndman, (574) 246-0133 [hikerjules@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:hikerjules@sbcbglobal.net).

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13.** Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Easy hike. Bring a lunch. After the hiking there will be an opportunity to enjoy the Log Cabin Days Festival also occurring at the Refuge that same day. Meet at the Visitor's Center at 12985 E. Highway 50, Seymour, Indiana, 3 miles east of I-65. An easy hike on relatively flat terrain, but lots of wildlife sightings expected. Tim Wilson [tfw1955@gmail.com](mailto:tfw1955@gmail.com).

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20.** Brush Cutting Service Outing, Hobart, IN. Join us in restoring a prairie behind River Forest School in Hobart Township. The area is home to native flowers and grasses and is slowly being restored to its more natural state by concerned volunteers. The school owns this gem for conservation and we'll talk about what it takes to restore the land and protect it for the future. Bring gloves and dress for the weather. Snacks will be provided. Meet on the gravel road just south of the River Forest School baseball fields on Indiana Street in New Chicago at 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Contact Sandy O'Brien at [ecorealm@msn.com](mailto:ecorealm@msn.com) or 219-942-2956.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 22.** VUJC/Sierra Club Environmental Topics Colloquia. Join us for a presentation on environmental issues at the Vincennes University Jasper Campus. Grant Smith, president of the Citizen's Action Coalition (Indianapolis) will speak to the group in a session on Indiana CAC activities at 7 p.m. Central Time (8 p.m. Eastern Time). Including the Grant will prioritize environmental issues for southwestern Indiana, and give an update on the Edwardsport Gasification Coal Plant Intervention and offer the best coal plant alternatives, at the VUJC Academic Building in Jasper. No fees. Mary Fritz at [maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org) 812-630-9385.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27.** Adopt a Highway, Indiana Dunes. Join us for this roadside cleanup outing from 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. along Route 12 in the Indiana Dunes. We may catch a glimpse of a Green Heron or hear the call of a Pied-billed Grebe during the final cleanup of the year along this idyllic road through the National Lakeshore. We'll meet at the parking lot to the Inland Marsh on Route 12 between County Line Road and Ogden Dunes. Please bring gloves. Snacks and water will be provided and we'll hike the Inland Marsh trail after the cleanup. Dave Ellis at [david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org) or 219-730-7913.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27.** Outings Leader Training 101, Bernheim Forest, Clermont, KY. Hoosiers Welcome! If you are a Sierra Club member and would like to lead outings, join us at Bernheim Forest (just 20 minutes south of Louisville) for OLT 101. We will be conducting an interactive session to prepare you for leading day hikes and car camping trips. The training will include a short hike along a Bernheim trail to practice your new skills. A \$5 fee covers materials and snacks. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Joe & Panaena Bina 812-923-6974. Elizabeth Glass 502-243-2338. Mary Fritz at [maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org) 812-630-9385.

**SATURDAY-MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3-5.** Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Enjoy a long weekend of hiking and wildlife watching in the beautiful Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee. This year's hikes will focus on the human history of the Smokies. Saturday and Sunday we will hike trails rich with colorful history and artifacts, including structures, left by the area's former inhabitants. We will also drive the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail and the Cades Cove loop road on the search for bears, which we can view from a safe distance (last October we saw 9 bears including several cubs!). Both of these roads contain some of the best

preserved historic structures in the park. The hikes will not have significant elevation gains (a rarity in the Smokies) but may be long. We will start early in the day to allow plenty of time to enjoy the hike and explore the artifacts. Participants may opt out at any time and return via the same route. We will save time to explore the visitor's center which has a natural history museum, bookstore, and giftshop. Visit the park website at: <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/>. For more information about this outing and lodging suggestions, contact Teresa, 317-884-3831 [hikesalot@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:hikesalot@sbcbglobal.net).

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12.** VUJC/Sierra Club Environmental Topics Colloquia. Join us for a presentation on environmental issues at the Vincennes University Jasper Campus. Jeanne Melchior, president of Protect Our Woods (Jasper), will speak to the group in a session on The History and Issues of Protect Our Woods at 7 p.m. Central Time (8 p.m. Eastern Time). Topics will include the preservation of Tillery Hill at Patoka Lake, and other area woodland preservation efforts, at the VUJC Academic Building in Jasper. No fees. Mary Fritz at [maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:maryfritz@hoosier.sierraclub.org) 812-630-9385.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2.** Day Hike, Charlestown State Park, Charlestown, IN. Winter is one of the best times of the year to be out on the trails. Join me for a hike in the woods. It is a great way to enjoy the outdoors and get away from the hustle of the holidays. Rating: Easy, suitable for beginners. Patricia Perryman [p.perryman@insightbb.com](mailto:p.perryman@insightbb.com) (502) 452-9809.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19.** Holiday Potluck, Hobart, IN. Put your apron on and make your favorite dish for the annual Dunelands Holiday Potluck. We'll meet at the Krull Tower Community Room in Hobart at 6 p.m. for dinner, socializing, and a wilderness adventure slide show. Contact Sandy O'Brien at [ecorealm@msn.com](mailto:ecorealm@msn.com) or 219-942-2956.

## FOR OUTINGS UPDATES

Check the Hoosier Chapter Outings Web site at <http://hoosier.sierraclub.org/outings> for updates.

To sign up for the Hoosier Outings e-mail list, send a message with the following:

To line: [hoosier-outings-subscribe-request@lists.sierraclub.org](mailto:hoosier-outings-subscribe-request@lists.sierraclub.org)

Subject line and message body may be left blank.

This is a very low-volume list from which you will receive announcements of new outings as they are added, reminders of outings that are coming up, and announcements of other special events or trainings of interest to people who are interested in outings. The outings chair is the only one who is able to post to the list, and any replies go only to the chair, so your inbox is guaranteed not to be overwhelmed if you sign on.

# The Sierran Welcomes New Editor

When Susan Pines began as editor of *The Sierran* in 1997, the newsletter looked a little different. Over the course of ten years, under her direction and leadership, the 11"x 14" black and white newspaper-style publication took on an increasingly sleeker, professional appearance. In 2004, the *Indiana Sierran*, with Susan as editor and Paula Richards as designer, won the Sierra Club's national newsletter award—an award recognizing excellence in newsletter publishing based on content, design and cost-efficiency.

After a decade of service, Susan is ready for a change. Her work as associate publisher at JIST Publishing, combined with volunteer work and a new creative venture, promise to keep her future busy and bright. It is with great gratitude, and a certain amount of sadness, that we thank Susan for her dedicated service and wish her the best of

luck in her upcoming endeavors.

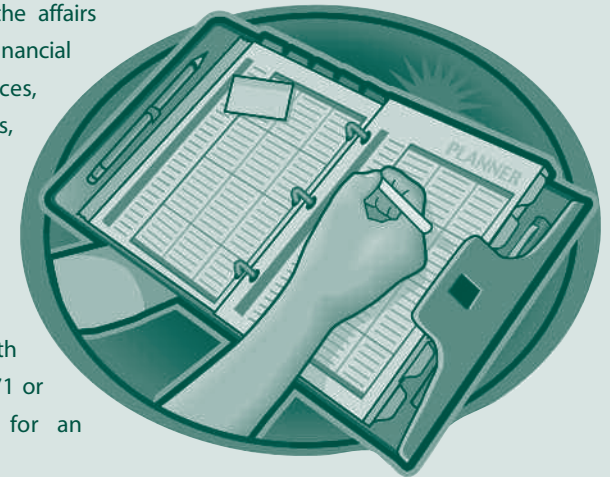
When asked about the future of the newsletter, Susan said, "The newsletter is now in the hands of a highly capable new editor plus our very talented designer."

Stephanie Pairitz is the new editor of *The Sierran*. Stephanie, a member from Bristol, IN, is a freelance writer, and a part-time dance and English teacher. She received her bachelor degree in English/writing from Indiana University of South Bend, and has experience in public relations, newsletters, and editing. If you would like to learn more about her writing experience, check out her website at [www.writtenadvantage.com](http://www.writtenadvantage.com). Stephanie is looking forward to the opportunity of serving The Sierra Club, and working with the Indiana chapter as it carries its vision into the future.

Thank you, Susan, and Welcome Stephanie!

## JOIN US AT CHAPTER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee manages the affairs and activities of the chapter, including financial management, membership services, production of publications, conservation, outings, and political programs. Our meetings are held in the Sierra Club office at 1915 W. 18th St., Suite D, Indianapolis, on the second Saturday of the odd months of the year. The next meetings are September 8th and November 10th. Call (812)320-7371 or email [hadenb@bloomington.in.us](mailto:hadenb@bloomington.in.us) for an agenda or additional information.



### ALL ABOUT SIERRA CLUB EMAIL LISTS (LISTSERVS)

The Sierra Club hosts hundreds of email lists concerned with national and local issues. See the complete directory of Sierra Club email lists at <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/index.html>. There are numerous lists just for the Hoosier/Indiana Chapter - including the very hot "Hoosier-Topics." Subscribe. Read the archives. Be informed. Join the conversation. Get involved!

### 2-4-6 or 8 WHO DO YOU APPRECIATE?

Has someone in the club really inspired you to do more? Can you name a Sierran in your group who works extra hard to protect nature in your community? Please let me know so that we can show our appreciation for their hard work. Call, email, or send a brief letter to Dave Ellis: [david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org](mailto:david.ellis@hoosier.sierraclub.org) 219-730-7913 PO Box 5571 Lake Station, IN 46405



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### A Will is a Way

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

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[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)



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### Sky's the limit?

Over half of America's electricity is generated from coal-fired power plants. Consequently, we are being exposed to soot, smog, acid rain, and dangerous toxins such as mercury, which threaten people and wildlife alike. Bush's "Clear Skies" plan will allow 520% more mercury pollution by the year 2010, not to mention the plan delays the enforcement of public health standards for smog and soot until the end of 2015. The sky isn't getting any higher, and the air we breathe isn't getting any cleaner. The sky IS the limit.

JOIN Sierra Club to keep breathing easy.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet