



General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
March 1999

The February General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on March 11, 1999.

The Unitarian Fellowship is located at the corner of University Avenue and Elm Street, in Carbondale, Illinois.

This month's speaker will be Mark Baysinger who will speak and show slides on **Unique Plants of Southern Illinois**.

Hope to see you there!

Dinner Before Meeting

Join some of the Executive Committee, the speaker for the evening's program, and other members for dinner at Murphy's Bar and Grill at 5:45 PM before the meeting. Murphy's is located at 501 E. Walnut in Carbondale.

Keep Informed! Be Active!

Check the **Shawnee Group Hotline** at **549-9684** for information on current local and national environmental issues.

HELP SUPPORT LAND CONSERVATION, NOT OIL EXPLOITATION!

CALLS NEEDED TO U.S. SENATORS AND REPS TO

COSPONSOR BILL:

"PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR AMERICA'S RESOURCES 2000"

Submitted by Barbara McKasson

Representative George Miller and Senator Barbara Boxer are introducing landmark legislation to create long-overdue, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Their bill, "Permanent Protection For America's Resources", will give hundreds of millions of dollars to federal, state and local projects to protect wildlife habitat.** (details below)

Both Congressman Don Young (R-AK) and Senator Frank Murkowski (R-AK) have also introduced their own bills that would permanently fund LWCF, but would give hundreds of millions of dollars to states that allow offshore oil drilling for "coastal impact assistance". This sends the wrong message to states that have done the right thing by not allowing offshore oil development, and gives them an incentive to allow offshore oil development. If that weren't enough, the money given to "coastal impact assistance" in Young and Murkowski's bills could be used for coastal development, including roads and bridges for oil companies to continue operations.

Unfortunately, the Young and Murkowski bills have a head start on the Miller/Boxer bill. We need to support the Miller/Boxer bill to send the message to Congress that environmentalists support funding for increased wildlife and habitat protections, not increased offshore oil drilling.

WHAT TO DO

This bill **URGENTLY** needs all of our support.

Call/Write/Fax/email your Senators and Representative immediately. Call the Capitol switchboard 1-202-224-2321, and ask for your senator or representative by name.

Tell them to be an original cosponsor to Rep. Miller and Sen. Boxer's bill called "Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000".

LOCAL PHONE NUMBERS:

Continued on Page 2

Representative Costello 529-3791
Senator Durbin (217) 492-4062

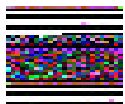
Rep. Phelps (no local # yet)
Senator Fitzgerald (312) 886-3506

****PERMANENT PROTECTION FOR AMERICA'S RESOURCES 2000**

Congressman George Miller and Senator Barbara Boxer are introducing a bill to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and give millions more dollars to habitat and wildlife protection. Known as "Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000 (PPAR 2000), the bill will have many of the same positive initiatives found in President Clinton's Lands Legacy Initiative (see Feb. newsletter) with some notable improvements. The bill's \$2.5 billion includes:

- o \$350 million distributed to states for the development and implementation of comprehensive native wildlife conservation plans;
- o \$900 million to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This includes \$450 million for federal land acquisitions and \$450 million for a state matching grant program for the purchase of lands or creation of recreation facilities;
- o \$300 million for grants to states and private entities for the development of restoration and management plans for ocean fish and wildlife;
- o \$100 million towards incentives for endangered species protections by private landowners;
- o \$250 million for maintenance and restoration work on existing federal lands;
- o \$100 million for urban parks; o \$150 million for historic preservation; and
- o \$150 million for farmland and open space conservation.

The Miller and Boxer bills do not create incentives for increased offshore oil drilling or allow funds to be used for coastal development. In addition, funds dispersed to state wildlife agencies for wildlife conservation will be given to species with the most pressing need, raising the likelihood that non-game and endangered species will benefit.



SHAWNEE OUTINGS

by Sandy Anderson (Call 618-893-4545 for more information)



MARCH OUTING: Come in out of the cold and enjoy Spring in full bloom at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Special attractions include the annual orchid show, the tropical climatron, and camellias at peak bloom in the Linnean House. Possible dinner afterward. Contact Sandy by Tuesday, March 2 if interested.

Trinidad and Tobago Tropical Adventure

Don't forget about this chance to experience a breathtaking tropical evergreen rain forest, giant leatherback turtles, deciduous tropical forests, coral reefs, mangroves, and exquisite tropical birds.

The cost of the trip is \$1864 or \$1714 if ten people register. The price includes airfare, lodging, all meals, and guided field trips. Phone Nelda Hinckley at 549-5588 or 457-7676 ext. 8323. To register, send \$150 deposit to Nelda Hinckley, Assistant Professor of Biology, John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL 62918

EXCOM MEETING

Our next ExCom meeting will be at Clara McClure house Thursday, March 18, at 5:30 pm. All members are welcome to attend. For directions call Clara at 457-2026

WWW

Contact Zach Shelton (zachs@siu.edu) our webmaster for your contributions or suggestions for our home page. Visit our website at: <http://www.sierraclub.orgchapters/il/>

HOPE FOR AFRICA, NOT NAFTA

Don't Trade Away Africa's Environment

From S-C Action #30, Submitted by Barb McKasson

The Corporate Council for Africa, a coalition of some of America's biggest polluters, wants a new license to drill, mine and export Africa's natural resources wealth. The license is a piece of legislation called the "African Growth and Opportunity Act." We call it "the NAFTA for Africa."

Far from promoting African development, "NAFTA for Africa" would withdraw tariff-free access to the U.S. market for African exports UNLESS Africa opens up to further investment by transnational oil, mining, and logging companies. If it becomes law, it would open the door to more of the kind of irresponsible and unaccountable "investment" represented by Royal Dutch Shell's operations in Nigeria's Ogoniland. Shell's polluting ways sparked protests by the local Ogoni people which lead to the arrest and execution of Ogoni leader Ken Saro-Wiwa.

Fortunately, there is now "HOPE for Africa" -- and we mean that literally. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.) has

offered a progressive alternative -- the Human Rights, Opportunity, Partnership, and Empowerment for Africa, or "HOPE for Africa." This legislation would combine generous trade benefits with guarantees that development would benefit the African people and protect the environment. It would provide comprehensive relief of Africa's crushing burden of \$230 billion in foreign debt. This debt relief would reduce the enormous pressure to exploit and export the region's rapidly shrinking natural resources. HOPE would also require foreign corporations operating in Africa to adhere to internationally recognized labor rights and to developed-country environmental standards.

TO TAKE ACTION:

NAFTA for Africa, the so-called African Growth and Opportunity Act, was approved last week by the House International Relations Committee. Please call your representative today to urge opposition to this bill and encourage support for the HOPE for Africa Bill. (Call 202) 224-3121 to reach the Capitol Switchboard. Ask for your U.S. Representative by name.



Savor the coming of spring!

by Stan Harris

Harbinger-of-spring is already in bloom; seen at Giant City, Rocky Bluff, Pope Co. The flowers are in a cluster, white or "salt and pepper", very small and close to the ground. Flowers appear before leaves. They are found in moist ground near streams, sometimes on the upland at the base of trees. Keep your eyes open for blood root; its petals are creamy white arranged like a daisy about 1 1/2" across. They are usually found in large patches in moist woods.

Leaves of spring beauty, toothwort, Dutchman's breeches, reddish rattlesnake fern can be seen; also leaves of shooting star, blue bells and the bald white "head" of May apples are poking up through the leaf cover. Several species of trees, including maples, are in bloom, giving color to the forest canopy. Bright green moss, lichens and fern add their beauty.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAVE PAPER AND RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?

Simply send a signed letter by regular mail or an e-mail message to (donaldlaw@aol.com) indicating that you would like to receive it by e-mail and I will put you on the e-mail list and take you off the regular mail list. Please give your name and regular PO address in your request.



Shawnee Group

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Shawnee Trails Newsletter Editor, Computer Committee, Marine Chair—Don Lawrence, 549-9290, donaldlaw@aol.com or dlawren@isbe.accessus.net

Yes, I want to join! I want to help safeguard our precious natural heritage. My payment is enclosed.

My Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ ZIP _____

Check enclosed Phone (Optional) () _____

Please charge my Mastercard Visa E-Mail (Optional) _____

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Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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For our Families... For our Future.