

# SHAWNEE TRAILS

APRIL 1999



## General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club  
April 1999

The April General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on April 8, 1999.

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

This month's program which is on **Alaska**, will be presented by **Dr. Stan Harris, Clara McClure and Barb McKasson** and will include showing of their slides.

Hope to see you there!

### Dinner Before Meeting

Join some of the Executive Committee, the speaker(s) 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.

### Fund-raiser for Hurricane Victims

**Dr. Nadia Navarette** will be back in our area to give a presentation Apr 21 at 7:30 pm on helping a group of El Salvadorans get back on their feet in an environmentally responsible manner. (See page 3 for more details)

## ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT IS ENDANGERED!!! PLEASE CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR IMMEDIATELY!

Submitted by Barb McKasson

**Call your State Senator today** and ask him or her to **OPPOSE** House Bill 2243, which would greatly weaken the Illinois Endangered Species Act. Sponsors claim to have 80 votes in the House to pass this horrible bill. It will probably have passed the House by the time you receive this.

You can reach your State Senator's office by calling the State Capitol switchboard at (217) 782-2000 during business hours and asking to be transferred to your Senator's office. If you have time, please write a letter to your State Senator. Legislative break is March 26 April 14, so you have some time.

### Background

House Bill 2243 is a dangerous attack on the Illinois Endangered Species Act. This legislation would require that three animal species that are currently endangered in Illinois be taken off the endangered species list. The species are the Least Brook Lamprey, the Indiana Crayfish, and the Massasauga (note: pronounced mass-uh-saw-guh) Rattlesnake.

Scientific surveys have clearly demonstrated that we are in danger of losing these pieces of our natural heritage from Illinois. The legislation is proposed by legislators who support two major development projects that would jeopardize these species. These legislators hope that eliminating protection for these endangered species will make their pet projects easier to build. The Least Brook Lamprey and Indiana Crayfish are threatened by a proposed dam on Sugar Creek near Marion, Illinois, which the Sierra Club has been working for years to stop because it would unnecessarily destroy a unique, high-quality stream in southern Illinois. The massasauga rattlesnake is threatened by a private resort development on Carlyle Lake. Both the Indiana Crayfish and the massasauga rattlesnake are threatened nationally also.

**House Bill 2243 sets a dangerous precedent** - delisting a species whenever it becomes inconvenient to a development or agriculture, without any regard at all for the scientific status of a species and the strength of its population in the state.

**Please contact your state Senator by phone, mail, or in person.** This is extremely important. See contact information below. You will be receiving more in-depth coverage of this issue through the mail, if you haven't already. **PLEASE ACT NOW!!!!**

**Senator David Leuchtefeld - Dist. 58**  
State House, Rm. M108  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-8137 or (618) 529-3866

**Senator Jim Rea - Dist. 59**  
State House Rm. M103F  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-5509 or (618) 724-9444