

General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
September 1999

The September General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on September 9, 1999.

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

This month's program will be presented by **John O'Dell** of the **Illinois Hiking Society** on forming a local hiking group.

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 **Chicago Underground Grille & Pub**, 717 So. University Ave, at **5:45 PM on September 9**, before the meeting.

Picnic at Spring Arbor

Thanks are due to Art Shirley and Gene Timpe for excellent instruction in windsurfing, and to Mary Swindell, Judy Lewis and Sandy Anderson for help in setting up and making things run smoothly.

Reminder: Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale...see **page 3** for details.

Anti-Environmental Riders OR Environmental Zeros Ride Again

Submitted by Barb McKasson

Once again, U.S. senators and representatives are using the **Interior Appropriations Bill** to sneak unpopular legislation onto a must-pass bill in order to avoid true debate and public input on the merits of the proposals. One rider (supported by our supposedly pro-environment President Clinton) would **cut funding for critical habitat of endangered species** to a paltry \$1 million as an excuse to not fully implement the Endangered Species Act. Right now, less than 10% of the nearly 1,200 species listed have critical habitat designated. We must defeat this rider.

Other riders would:

- **Prevent the Interior Secretary from stopping lead mining** in Missouri - near the clear springs and scenic rivers we love, such as the **Current and Eleven Points rivers!**
- **Block energy efficiency** programs
- Allow **oil companies** to avoid paying higher royalties for oil drilled on **public land**.
- **Remove restrictions** on placement of mining wastes.
- Allow **permits for grazing on public land** without environmental review.
- Block reintroduction of **grizzly bears** into wilderness areas.
- **Others** too numerous to mention!

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!!!

Call Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald and strongly urge that they fight to strip all anti-environmental riders from the Interior Appropriations Bill. Both our senators have sponsored amendments to remove some of the anti-environmental riders (see articles p. 2). Be sure to thank them for that!

Senator Durbin: (202) 224-2152 Springfield: 800-228-0400

Senator Fitzgerald: (202) 224-2854 Springfield: (217) 228-1372

continued on page 2

Also, call President Clinton and strongly urge him not to promote the amendment that would lower funding for critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. Also, urge him to stand by his threat to veto any appropriations bill that contains anti-environmental riders.

President Clinton: (202) 456-1414

Comment line: (202) 456-1111, open M-F, 8-4. Press 1, then 0, leave message.

The **Interior Appropriations Bill** will be debated and voted on as soon as Congress reconvenes September 8th. We have until then to call. Remember to call early and often!

THANK OUR SENATORS DURBIN AND FITZGERALD

Please take time to thank both of our senators for cosponsoring an amendment (to the Interior Appropriations Bill) to decrease funding for logging in the Forest Service budget by \$33 million, and to shift \$20 million of that into important fish and wildlife habitat and road maintenance programs. The remaining \$13 million would go to debt reduction. This Bryan-Fitzgerald-Durbin-Reid Amendment would restore much needed funds for habitat restoration and slow the timber sale program. ENCOURAGE THEM TO REALLY PUSH FOR PASSAGE OF THIS AMENDMENT. The Interior Appropriations Bill will be debated and voted on as soon as Congress reconvenes September 8th.

URGE SENATORS TO REMOVE SECTION 329 RIDER FROM INTERIOR BILL

Another important call to make to our senators is to vote in favor of the **Robb/Cleland/Bingaman amendment to strike the Section 329 Rider**. This heinous rider seeks to overturn a Sierra Club court victory that proved the **Forest Service** in Georgia was **violating its own management plans**. The rider also attempts to allow Forest Service and Bureau of Land management personnel the discretion to ignore or not collect scientific information on threatened, endangered or sensitive species before carrying out timber sales or other destructive activities. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior could revise land management plans and issue leases

without taking into account important consequences for wildlife if this "Section 329 rider" is not removed.

SENATOR DURBIN: AN ENVIRONMENTAL HERO

We should all recognize and **thank Senator Durbin** for the courageous leadership he has taken to help protect the environment and to preserve natural areas and wildlife. Some of the bills that he has been a main sponsor of are:

- + A bill to **ban below cost timber sales** on Shawnee Forest
- + An amendment to **require environmental impact review** before grazing permits on public land are renewed.
- + An amendment to **remove a rider** on the Interior Appropriations bill that would **allow unrestricted waste heaps** from mines
- + Main sponsor of the **Utah Red Rock Wilderness bill**
- + Forest service funding shift (see above article) to help **restore** critical habitat for threatened and endangered species, **aid** in recreation, **manage** wildlife populations, and **educate** managers to ensure healthy forest ecosystems.

...Thank you, Senator Durbin!

CALL YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO PROTECT STATE AND LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS!!!

Please make a call to your U.S. Representative and urge him/her to vote for the **Kucinich/Ros-Lehtinen Amendment to the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill**. This amendment would prevent the Federal government from using taxpayer dollars to force states and localities to comply with international trade agreements. It would also stop the federal government from using taxpayer dollars to prevent local and state legislators from passing laws which could be challengeable under international trade rules. This is very important in **protecting our laws from being overridden** by international trade agreements and decisions under such treaties as **NAFTA** and **GATT**.

Rep. Jerry Costello - (202) 225-5661 Local: (618) 529-3791

Rep. David Phelps - (202) 225-5201 Harrisburg (618) 253-3283

SHAWNEE OUTINGS



FALL WEEKEND (Oct 1,2, & 3) **Camp Ondessonk**

Sponsored by the Kaskaskia Group of the Sierra Club(Belleville Area) and by the Shawnee Group(us)

Canoe the Cache River, **camp** in the “treehouse” camps or in your own tent. **Hikes** and **biking** trips will be planned in the beautiful Shawnee Forest. This would be a great family outing.

If interested call **Sandy** at **618-893-4545** and a registration form will be sent to you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE & FOLDING

Every month we get together to fold the newsletter for the newsletter mailing. We **welcome all the help we can get**. The tentative deadline for the October newsletter will be September 26 with folding probably on September 30 at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 pm. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

Our September meeting will be held at 5:30 pm on September 16 at Clara McClure's. All members are welcome to attend. For directions call Clara at 457-2025.

WWW

Visit our website at <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/Shawnee/>. We have a new webmaster who is in the process of working out the details in taking over the site developed by Zach Shelton who will be leaving us soon.

Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale. The Chamber of Commerce yard sale is September 18th. Any time after our meeting on **September 9**, people can take stuff to Stan Harris' house **ALREADY MARKED WITH PRICES**. September 17 is the time for packing and sorting and your help is needed. Contact Mary Campbell, or Stan for details.

Late Bulletin!!: The **Eco-Watch Network**, which includes Illinois RiverWatch, Forest Watch, Prairie Watch, Wetland Watch, and Urban Watch is a valuable program in the Cache River Wetlands. Since 1994 volunteers, local citizens, and the Cache River Wetlands Joint Venture staff have been involved with this program. While record numbers of citizens are monitoring Illinois' natural ecosystems, the **EcoWatch Network faces a \$300,000 budget deficit**. Your help is needed. Your phone calls or letters of support to the Governor, your state Representative and/or Senator are needed to request long-term operational funding for the EcoWatch Program. Points to Emphasize include: a **line-item appropriation** is needed to support the existing EcoWatch Network; the Network is valuable in **monitoring** the long-term health of Illinois' natural resources; local citizens, teachers, and students are involved in hands-on/minds-on monitoring; and the program is vital to collecting **high quality biological data**; and in increasing **public awareness and environmental stewardship**. Contact Liz Jones at 618-634-2231 for additional information and it would help to send a copy of your letter or report of your phone call to Dana Curtis, Ill. Dept of Natural Resources, 320 W. Washington, 7th Floor, Springfield, IL. 62704.

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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Earth

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Secretary, Clean Water, Population—Cathie Hutcheson, 529-2022, hutche@siu.edu

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Computer Committee, Marine Chair—Don Lawrence, 457-8989, donaldlaw@aol.com or dlawren@isbe.accessus.net

Shawnee Trails Newsletter Editor—Don Lawrence, 457-8989, 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) _____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____

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	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
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P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO
 80322-2968

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PROTECT AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT.
For our Families... For our Future.