

General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
October 1999

The September General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on October 14, 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 Max Hutchison on the Cache River and significance of the Rose Farm purchase by The Nature Conservancy

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 October 14**, before the meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale.

Thanks to all the faithful who brought items and worked at the Yard sale. We made \$439.50. A special thanks to Jal Service who was a buyer. When Jal was told how we use the funds for conservation issues, she contributed items to the sale. Tom Bik was the great person who went to her house and collected the items.

...Mary Campbell

CAMPAIGN TO RESCIND/ OPPOSE RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER SHAWNEE FOREST TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Submitted by Barb McKasson

Transfer of Shawnee National Forest to the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) sounds attractive to some people, especially people who are frustrated in dealing with the foot-dragging and red tape encountered with the U.S. Forest Service on Shawnee Forest. However, there are many reasons that this would not be a good idea. First of all, such a move plays right into the hands of the "wise use" movement in trying to get the federal government to turn land (parks, forests, refuges, etc.) over to state and local governments. Many U.S. representatives and senators from western states are constantly cutting the budget for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) - that is, cutting the budget for wildlife, land acquisition, and road maintenance, but increasing the budget for logging. The resolution to transfer Shawnee Forest to the IDNR would just give the "wise use" contingent more ammunition. We know that such a transfer would probably never happen (although you should never say "never"). However, this proposal, in the form of a resolution, has been passed by the county boards in Saline, Jackson, Gallatin, and Massac counties.

For this reason, and also to show the Forest Service that we environmentalists can also exert political pressure and influence, we plan to present our "Resolution to Rescind the Resolution to Transfer Shawnee National Forest to the State of Illinois" to the Jackson County Board at the next meeting on Wednesday, October 13th. Between now and then, we hope to educate and raise the concern of all of the Jackson County Board members about the resolution they have passed. **We believe it was passed without much debate or thought, and certainly without hearing the other (our) side.** This would also be giving support to the Forest Service when they really need it - right after their announcement that they are closing the rest of the Designated Natural Areas, and while they are taking heat from horse riders and others on that issue.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Our proposed resolution is included as an insert in this newsletter. Please read it, and then call the two Jackson County board members who repre-

continued on page 2

(Campaign to Rescind/Oppose...from page 1)

sent you, and tell them why you think they should rescind their resolution (use your own reasons or points from our resolution).

Please call or write both of your county board representatives and tell them why they should support OUR resolution. To get addresses, and a list of the precincts included in each district, go to the home page for Jackson County, which is: <<<http://www.co.jackson.il.us/districts.html>>>

You can also look on your voter's card or call the Jackson County clerk's office to find out your county board district.

- District 1: William Alstat 426-3955
- District 4: Darnecea Moultrie, Fred Phoenix 426-3447, Bob Lorinkas 684-5677
- District 2: James Kerley 684-2484
- District 5: Gary Hartlieb 529-1920, Mark Holt 763-4397, Leonard Nickel 549-6607
- District 3: Lyle Attig 684-6288
- District 7: Bonnie Long 457-7139, Mary "Mickey" Korando 684-4805, Charles Hall 549-7266

Sierra Club Holiday Cards

Because sales were so successful last year, the Sierra Club, Shawnee Group is selling Sierra Club Boxed Holiday Cards again this year. These lovely cards come with fifteen cards and envelopes to the box. They feature breathtaking images of the holiday season captured by the finest nature and wildlife photographers around the world. The cards will sell for \$10.00 per box (they retail in stores for \$10.95 plus tax), and feature the inside message: Peace on Earth. Photos featured include last year's popular "Fox Pair", "Harp Seal", and "ChilKat Bald Eagle", plus new and adorable "Pumas Skating on Ice", "Raccoon", "Timber Wolf", "Snow Leopard" as well as "Holly Tree in Snow" and "Bryce Canyon". All profits from the sale of these cards will benefit the Sierra Club, Shawnee Group. We will have these cards available for sale at our October 14th General Meeting. Beat the store prices and reserve your orders early! To reserve cards ahead of time, please contact Mary Swindell, Mary Campell or Clara McClure.

Thank You's Needed to Acting Forest Supervisor

Bruce Slover, the Acting Forest Supervisor, needs our support and thanks for closing the remaining 40 Designated Natural Areas in Shawnee Forest to incompatible uses (horse riding, rock climbing, camping, camp fires, and motorized vehicles). With a little nudging from us and other environmentalists, he did the right thing. However, I am sure that he is getting pressure from horseback riding groups and some other groups, as you can tell from articles and letters to the editor in the Southern Illinoisan. Mr. Slover is trying to save these natural areas from further degradation, while accelerating the environmental review and designation of the seven trails that will be allowed in/ near seven of the designated natural areas. To make sure that Mr. Slover does not waffle on this or neglect to monitor usage in these designated natural areas, we must show our support by writing letters to him with copies to our U.S. senators and representatives. Send your letters to:

Mr. Bruce Slover, Acting Forest Supervisor, 50 Highway 145 South Harrisburg, IL 62946

You could also call (800-699-6637), but letters with copies to our U.S. Congressional Reps. will have the most positive effect. Please send copies to Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald, and Representatives Jerry Costello and David Phelps.

- Senator **Richard Durbin**, 364 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
- Senator **Peter Fitzgerald**, B40-5 Dirksen Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
- Rep. **Jerry Costello**, 2454 Rayburn Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515
- Rep. **David Phelps**, 1523 Longworth Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515

Sierra Club Calendars

Again this year, the Sierra Club, Shawnee Group has Sierra Club calendars for sale, and they are more lovely than ever! We know that some environmental groups have sent calendars to members free of charge, but those just do not compare with the quality and exquisite photography on these 2000 Sierra Club calendars! This year, both the **Wilderness** wall calendar and the **Engagement** calendar are spiral bound and gift boxed for mailing. We also have the **Wildlife, Flowers, Birds, and Oceans** wall calendars available again. The retail cost of Sierra Club calendars has increased by 20%, but the Shawnee Group has decided to offer these to you at the same cost as in the past: \$10.00 for wall calendars and \$12.00 for the engagement calendar. You will not be able to get Sierra Club calendars in stores for this price, so be sure to get yours early while supplies are available! All profits will benefit the Sierra Club, Shawnee Group. Call Mary Swindell, Mary Campbell or Clara McClure to reserve your calendars. We will have calendars for sale at the October 14th General Meeting.

SHAWNEE OUTINGS



October 16 field trip led by **Max Hutchison** following his Sierra Club talk on October 14 about the Cache River and significance of the Rose Farm purchase by The Nature Conservancy. 8 am meet by the Murdale Shopping center sign 9 am meet Max at Shawnee College (west quanset complex) offices of Fish and Wildlife and Nature Conservancy.

Stop 1 will be at the bridge over the Cache R. near Forman east of Belknap.

Purpose of the trip is to see the Rose Farm purchase by the Nature Conservancy. It lies between the upper and lower Cache. The upper was channeled and deepened by the Post Creek cutoff to the Ohio R. This "beheaded" the lower 60 miles of Cache. Erosion of the channeled portion has left the channel through the cypress-tupelo swmps some 10 feet higher than the "upstream" segment.

Bring a lunch; afterwards we will take canoes on the lower Cache. Please call Stan Harris 457-7078 or e-mail <<biggrockk@aol.com>>

Fall Hike, Saturday, October 23 RIVER-TO-RIVER TRAIL that goes through Ferne Clyffe. It is a six mile one way hike. We can leave a vehicle at the end for those who want, or a 12 mile round trip back to the parking lot.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the 1st National parking lot in Carbondale or at the Shell Station in Goreville at 9 a.m. For more information, call Sandy Anderson at 893-4545.

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 deadline for the November newsletter will be October 24 with folding probably on October 28 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 October 21 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 has moved.

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.
