

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club

January 2000

General Meeting

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The January General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on January 13, 2000.

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

This month's program "**Shawnee Slide Show**" will be presented by, **Laurel Toussaint**.

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. Univ. Ave, at **5:45 p.m.** on **January 13**, before the meeting.

Shawnee Forest Update--Ed Cook, Jim Balsitis and Barb McKasson went to the meeting on 9 Dec. There were 2200 comments, with the Sierra postcards numbering **1560**. The prairie group in Champaign made their own form letter of which 75 were sent, 55 letters were from RACE plus there were 100 individual letters. **Good work all!** We can make a difference.

Tree-Free is the Way to Make Our Paper Habit Sustainable, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse AND REPLACE

by Barbara McKasson

The fourth "R", Replace, means to find a more environmentally friendly method or resource. Using tree-free paper is more environmentally friendly than using recycled paper. But isn't paper recycling what we've been advocating for many years, you may ask. Yes, it certainly saves trees to use recycled paper. However, recycling paper has alarming impacts also. When paper is recycled, chemicals must be used to separate fibers and other materials. The by-product is a "soup" containing heavy metals, pigments, adhesives, and inks. One hundred tons of recycled paper produce forty tons of toxic "soup."

So, after reducing the amount of paper we use, recycling all our newspapers and magazines, and reusing the backs of printer and copier paper, we should start thinking of how to replace paper made from trees with tree-free paper. Before the late 1800s, most paper was made from rags made of fibers such as cotton, flax, and hemp. Only with the increasing demand for paper did people turn to the then plentiful pulp woods for paper manufacturing. Now our forests are not so plentiful, and we must halt the trend of cutting down natural forests to replant with monoculture tree farms. One way to help reverse that "pulp wood habit" is to support tree-free paper manufacturers and retailers by buying tree-free products made of kenaf, hemp, straw, flax, and agricultural and post-consumer fiber based "waste."

There are a few stores that carry tree-free papers, such as **Borders Books**. Even if your local stores do not carry tree-free papers now, it would help to ask them to start stocking tree-free papers. Meanwhile, you can go to the web to find all kinds of paper products made from alternatives to wood pulp. Below is just a sampling:

EcoFields offers greeting cards, stationery, computer paper, etc. e-mail: ecofields@msn.com or call (312) 867-0624.

Green Field Paper Company has a variety of products made from hemp, organic cotton scraps, and agricultural wastes. Visit www.greenfieldpaper.com e-mail: gfpaper@aol.com 618)338-9432.

KP Products Inc.- Allegedly the country's largest kenaf paper supplier. (505) 294-0293.

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Ecolution - Offers 100% hemp paper. Call 800-769-HEMP.

Crane & Company - High-quality tree-free office and printer paper in various weights and fibers. Visit www.crane.com or call 800-233-5461.

Buying tree-free can certainly help save our forests and protect the environment from more toxic chemicals. By buying products such as those listed above, you can do your part to promote a more sustainable, responsible paper option.

For more information, see "The Wisdom of Going Tree Free", *Conscious Choice*, Dec. '99.

Global Warming

"Global Warming" has been in the news again recently and it might be well to review the current status of the earth's temperature as we pass into the year 2000. In the following sections the phenomenon is discussed, current statistics are given and web sites to visit for more information are listed.

Five discoveries of this century were highlighted in *Parade Magazine*, December 19, 1999. Number 4 follows:

1970: The Greenhouse Effect And Global Warming--A Wake-Up Call

A seed of our ecology-mindedness was sown in 1940, when the American astrophysicist Rupert Wildt theorized that the amount of carbon dioxide in Venus' atmosphere would keep heat from escaping, raising the surface temperature of the planet. This phenomenon was later called "the greenhouse effect." In a greenhouse on a sunny day, the ground and the plants are heated. The plants radiate heat back, but the greenhouse glass prevents the heat from escaping into the atmosphere. As a result the greenhouse warms up. In 1962, *Mariner 2* proved Wildt right as it passed by Venus and recorded surface temperatures higher than 800 degrees F. Venus' atmosphere of carbon dioxide and sulfuric acid is so opaque that the temperature on the surface rises and rises. In 1970 the late Carl Sagan saw in Venus a catastrophe that could occur on Earth beginning with conditions similar to those in a greenhouse. (On Earth, carbon dioxide and water vapor block heat from escaping.) Could the same fate await our planet, he asked, if pollutants continue to pour carbon dioxide into the atmosphere?

GREENHOUSE EFFECT--GLOBAL WARMING...*Time Magazine* December 1999

Scientists predict that the planet's average temperature could rise as much as 6.3 degrees F over the next century, and we are already seeing heat waves, melting polar ice and rising seas.

THE HARBINGERS:

Vanishing Animals CALIFORNIA--Edith's Checkerspot Butterfly endangered, ANTARCTICA--Adelie penguin populations have declined 33%, CANADIAN ARCTIC--Peary caribou numbers dropped from 24,000 in 1961 to as few as 1,100 in 1997.

Storms and Floods AUSTRALIA--August 15 to 17, 1998 Sydney had 1 ft of rain, 3 times as much as normally falls during all of August. CALIFORNIA--In February 1998 1 ft, 9 in of rain fell on Santa Barbara, its highest total on record.

Spreading Disease KENYA--Hundreds died of malaria in highlands where the population had not previously been exposed.. COLOMBIA--In the Andes, mosquitoes carrying dengue and yellow fever once limited to altitudes no higher than 3,300 ft appeared at altitudes of 7,200 ft.. INDONESIA--In 1997 malaria was detected for the first time as high as 6,900 ft..

Droughts and Fires SPAIN(1994)--1.2 million acres of forest burned. MEXICO(1998)--1.25 million acres went up in flames during a severe drought. INDONESIA--Up to 2 million acres of land burned in 1998.

Earlier Spring ENGLAND--31% of 65 bird species laid their eggs earlier than in 1971 by an average of 8.8 days. ALASKA--4 of 5 earliest thaws on the Tanana River have occurred in the 1990's. NEW HAMPSHIRE--The length of time Mirror Lake is covered with ice has declined about half a day per year during the last 30 years.

Heat Waves TIBET(1998)--Lhasa had warmest June on record. Temps exceeded 77 degrees F for 23 days. CAIRO(1998) had warmest August ever. Temps reached 10.8 degrees F on August 6. NEW YORK CITY(1999)--Warmest and driest July on record.

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Rising Seas BERMUDA--saltwater intrusion killing coastal mangrove forests. HAWAII--sea level rise causing beach loss. FIJI having shoreline recession of half a foot per year for 90 years.

Melting Glaciers INDIA--The Gangotri Glacier is retreating 98 ft. per year. RUSSIA--Half of all the glacial ice in the Caucasus Mountains has disappeared in the past 100 years. PERU--The Qori Kalis glacier in the Andes is receding 100 ft per year, a sevenfold increase in rate since the 1960s and 1970s

Polar Warming ALASKA--In Barrow the average. number of snowless days in summer has increased from fewer than 80 in the 1950s to more than 1000 in the 1990s. ARCTIC OCEAN--The area covered by sea ice declined about 6% from 1978 to 1995.

ANTARCTICA--Nearly 1,150 sq. mi.. of the Larson B and Wilins ice shelves collapsed from March 1998 to march 1999.

Web Links For Energy Futures

...from 1998 *Energy Futures*

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Alliance to Save Energy <<www.ase.org>> A coalition of business, government, environmental and consumer leaders.

American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy <<www.aceee.org>> Promotes economic prosperity & environmental protection.

Energy Innovations <<www.tellus.org/ei>> Report illustrating how innovative energy solutions can provide a clean environment.

GLOBAL WARMING

Global Warming Central <<www.law.pace.edu/env/energy/globalwarming.html>> From Pace University's Energy Project, this is the place to go for access to in-depth documents--technical and political, national and international.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change <<www.ipcc.ch>> Definitive international scientific body assessing global warming.

Kyoto Conference Site <<www.cop3.de/index.html>> Includes the full text of the Kyoto Protocol.

Physicians for Social Responsibility <<www.psr.org/climate1.htm>> Focuses especially on human health impacts of climate change.

Sierra Club <<www.toowarm.org>> Easy to read and to navigate and gives the reader a basic overview on the issue.

Union of Concerned Scientists <<www.ucsusa.org/global>> Group in the forefront of global warming science and policy study.

SUSTAINABLE ACTION

EDF'S 20 Easy Steps <<www.edf.org/Want2Help/b_gw20steps.html>> 20 things you can do to help reduce greenhouse gas emission

Green Design Network Resources <<www.greendesign.net>> Directories on how to build (literally) a sustainable future.

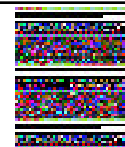
Real Goods Trading Corp <<www.realgoods.com/main.html>> Mail-order retailer of renewable energy equipment, etc.

Residential Energy Efficiency <<www.its-canada.com/reed/index.htm>> A comprehensive resource for homeowners and homebuilders interested in energy Efficiency.

(Also visit the *Energy Futures* website at <<www:energyfuturesnews.org>>)



SHAWNEE OUTINGS



Hike to Wolf Den Hollow (Cedar Lake Trail) on Sat., Jan 22. Meet under the Murdale Sign at Murdale Shopping Center, 9 am, Saturday, January 22. Call Barb at 457-4369 for more info.

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 February newsletter will be January 21 with folding on January 27 at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 pm. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

Our January meeting will be held on January 20 , 5:30pm, McClure's house. All members are welcome to attend. For directions call Clara at 457-2025.

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
 SIERRA CLUB
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Earth

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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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 _____

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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		
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For our Families... For our Future.