

## General Meeting

### Shawnee Group, Sierra Club May 2000

The May General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on May 11, 2000.

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 former **Senator Paul Simon** on our **nation's water resources**

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 **Mugsy McGuire's** 1602W. Main, at **5:45 p.m.** on May 11 before the meeting.

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**~A 1994 Forest Service report found that livestock grazing was the fourth major cause of threatened and endangered species in the United States and the number one cause in arid regions like the Arizona Basin and the Colorado/Green River Plateau~**

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## Illinois Taxpayers Pick Up the Tab for Polluters to Contaminate Illinois' Waters

**What's going on here?** According to *Prairie River Notes* Volume 2(1), Winter, 2000, each time an industry or municipal sewage treatment plant is allowed to release pollution to Illinois' waters, they must receive a water pollution permit (NPDES permit), from the Illinois EPA authorizing the activity. Illinois is one of only 11 states in the nation where such a permit is 'free' of charge. Over \$4 million of public tax money is spent processing over 1,000 permits each year. "Essentially the public is picking up the tab for polluters to contaminate Illinois' waters. Ironically, taxpayers also pick up the tab for cleanup efforts when waters become too polluted to meet water quality standards."

**Is anything being done?** Last year a bill was introduced in both houses of the General Assembly that would make polluters pay a fee to receive a water pollution permit from Illinois EPA. This year a similar bill will be introduced. The fees being proposed in Illinois are very reasonable--lower than those in most neighboring states. Despite this fact, **lobbyists for municipalities, industry groups, and the agricultural industry** opposed the bill last year. "These groups want to keep polluting Illinois' rivers free of charge."

**Would the fees charged be unreasonable?** A typical municipality would pay around \$500 each year they held the permit. The largest polluters in the state, those releasing more than 10 million gallons of polluted water, would be expected to pay about \$15,000. The fee is minuscule when compared to the cost of constructing and operating a state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant, which can run into tens of millions of dollars.

**Is charging a fee fair to those who use our waters for dumps?** Other users of our public resources already pay modest fees. **Campers** pay for use of state parks & forests. **Drivers** pay to receive a drivers license and vehicle plates. **Hunters, anglers, boaters, and paddlers** pay to make use of our waters for recreational purposes. Sadly it's cheaper to discharge a million gallons of toxic pollution per day into a river than it is to camp in a state park campground. **Pollution** has a cost -- to our **rivers, our drinking water, our wildlife, our favorite fishing spots** -- it cost everybody, except the people releasing it to our waters.

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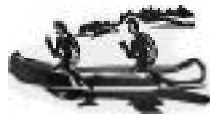
## Orchids, Endangered Species of Plants and Solitude Threatened by ATV's

**Background:** Our speaker on Butterfly Gardening (in November), Kathy Phelps, recently discovered that a "multi-activity family recreation area...220 acres" providing quality ATV trails in addition to camping and fishing opportunities...a really great place for ATV/OHV families and with motorcycle use permitted in some areas and funded by the state is to be developed near her 33 forested acres. The old forest road which goes to and by her property is to be developed for access to this area in Saline County near Rudement.

Kathy writes, "Ten species of orchids grow on these 33 acres. Only three plants of the state-endangered ladies tresses orchid (*Spiranthes vernalis*) grow here. Slender ladies tresses grow in only one section of the barrens, with only one to four plants blooming a year. Any all-terrain traffic poses disastrous threats to all the populations...I come here for the peace and quiet -- to listen to birds and frogs, water and wind, not to hear the roar of machinery." Kathy has an article in River Country Outdoors, April, 2000, page 17 which explains in much more detail how her acreage and other land with its wildlife in the area will be devastated by this misuse of our taxpayer dollars.

Two questions I have is, how did this grant come about in the first place and what type of input from the public was provided? Kathy has written her representatives including the Governor and would appreciate support....editor

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## Current River Canoe Trip

June 4, 5, 6, 2000

Come canoe with us and beat the crowds! Join us for 2 days on the Current River, a beautiful, spring fed river. We have reserved a group campground at the National Park Service campground at Pulltite Springs, by the river. We will camp there both Sunday and Monday nights. We have reserved canoes and shuttles for Monday and Tuesday. We plan for a full day of canoeing on Monday. Tuesday will be a shorter trip so people can either have time to drive home late Tuesday afternoon or join us at a local restaurant for dinner. We may take time for a short hike or visit another attraction on Tuesday, time permitting.

Bring your own food, tent and camping equipment. Cost of \$85/person includes 2 nights of camping at \$6/night/person and canoe rental and shuttle for 2 days at \$35/person/day with two people in a canoe (canoe rental is \$70/day now). If you bring your own canoe, cost of shuttle is \$15 per shuttle - provided by Akers Ferry canoe rental. If you have your own canoe or kayak, cost is cut to the \$15 for camping, etc.

Call Barb McKasson for reservations. Sign up with a canoeing partner or sign up as a single and we will pair you with someone. This river is easy to paddle on, but you should be able to swim. Sign up and send a deposit of \$15/person (to cover camping reservation, postage, phone) by the end of April. Barb must receive your deposit by May 15. Fill out your deposit and mail the form below to:

Barbara McKasson  
899 Rowan Rd.  
Makanda, IL 62958

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Hm.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Wk.) \_\_\_\_\_

Need canoe rental? \_\_\_\_\_

I already have a canoeing partner and my partner is: \_\_\_\_\_

Please find a canoeing partner for me - I can/can't steer the canoe:

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## Todd Fink Award

**Congratulations** to **David Maginel** on his receiving the Todd Fink Spirit of Audubon Conservation Award at the April meeting of the So. IL Audubon Society. David is Land Steward for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in southern Illinois and Director of the Citizens Committee to Save the Cache River. David has undertaken the enormous task of reforesting large areas of the Cache River Wetlands watershed, particularly the newly acquired Rose Farms.

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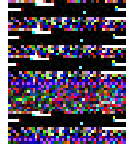
**Wanted--Environmental Advocate.** The Sierra Club seeks a candidate with leadership, management, and media skills. Special emphasis on forest and river issues in suburban/urban area. Bachelor's degree or comparable experience required. \$25-30K & benefits

Send confidential resume and references to Sierra Club, Three Rivers Project, 223 Market, Alton, IL 62002. For more information e-mail <[www.ezl.com/ppg](http://www.ezl.com/ppg)>. No phone calls please. Closing date: May 15, 2000

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### SHAWNEE OUTINGS



**Cedar Lake Hike, May 6--**Hike in the Cedar Lake area. Meet at Murdale under the sign at 8:00 am. For details contact Bob Tyson 684-5643.

**Current River Canoe Trip, June 4, 5, 6, 2000--**See page 2 for details and registration form.

### Other Outings and Events

**Migration Celebration, May 13--**Join Ornithologist, Jeff Hoover, for a bottomland forest hike to learn about the many songbirds that are found in the Cache Rier Wetlands. Jeff will demonstrate techniques to find and identify birds within a forest habitat. Call the National Wildlife Refuge Office at 618-634-2231 for more details.

**Burden Falls Hike, May 20--**Jackson County Hiking Group. For details contact Sandy Anderson 893-4545.

**Fern Hike at Round Bluff Nature Preserve, June 10--**Spend this Saturday morning hiking in Round Bluff Nature Preserve at Ferne Cliffe State Park to learn fern identification. John Schwegman, botanist, will be in attendance to aid in identification. This will be a fairly easy hike on an established trail. The hike will concentrate on botany rather than distance. Meet under the sign at Murdale Shopping Center in Carbondale at 8 a.m. for carpooling to the park where parking will be in the lot for Round Bluff. This site has unusual ferns like hay-scented fern, cinnamon fern and spinulose wood fern as well as more common ferns. For more info phone Gary Uhler at 327.3236 or email <[wdswlker@midwest.net](mailto:wdswlker@midwest.net)>.

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### 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 June newsletter will be May 28 with folding on June 1 at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 pm. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

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### EXCOM MEETING

Our May meeting will be held on May 18, 5:30 PM, at Sandy Anderson's house. All members are welcome to attend. For directions call Sandy at 618-893-4545.

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### 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](mailto: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.

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**Conservation Chair, Phone Tree Coordinator, Delegate to Chapter, Biodiversity**—Barbara McKasson, 529-4824, babitaji@aol.com

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**Outing Chair, Greeter**—Sandy Anderson, 893-4545

**Shawnee Trails Newsletter Editor, Computer Committee, Marine Chair**—Don Lawrence, 457-8989, donaldlaw@aol.com

**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  Payment by \_\_\_\_\_  
 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, science-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
<b>INTRODUCTORY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> \$128
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$19	<input type="checkbox"/> \$27

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

  
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