

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club

AUGUST 2000

General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club August 2000

There will be **no** general meeting of the Shawnee Group during the month of August.

Regular meetings of the Shawnee Group are 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of the month and will **resume** at the Unitarian Fellowship building, in **September**.

The Unitarian Fellowship is located at the corner of University Avenue and Elm Street, in Carbondale, Illinois. Our first speaker of the season will be **Les Winkler** of the Southern Illinoisan. Hope to see you there in September!

Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale!

The Chamber of Commerce yard sale is Saturday, September 23. Our biggest fund raiser for the year is usually our booth at the Arena Yard Sale in September. But we need **your help** and your **"junk"** - everything but clothing. Just put it in a box marked Sierra Club, and we will be collecting it when it gets close to yard sale time. Thank you!

Help Needed! Flexi Time, Great Rewards!

The Forest Service has been keeping us busy with meetings, and we may be getting even busier! Some members have attended the Roadless Initiative hearings, Master Trail Planning, and Forest Plan revision meetings, not to mention the Trails Grant Writing Workshop. We will possibly be working on a trail construction/obliteration project. We will also be working on the Citizens' Forest Plan. If you could help on any of these projects, please let us know. We will have the next SHAWNEE GROUP CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING in August (TBA) when we will discuss our Citizens' Forest Plan and the Crab Orchard Refuge plan. Call Barb McKasson for details (618) 529-4824 or any of the other Shawnee Group officers to volunteer. Hope to see you. Barb

Web Pages For the Environment

by Barbara McKasson

Many of you may already listen to **Living on Earth**, an environmental news show on public radio at 9 AM on Sundays. However, if you sleep in on Sundays or are in church or the forest by 9 AM, you can get the program on your computer at any time by logging on to << www.loe.org >>. It has pictures and audio and a menu of all the subjects covered by the last show. Also, you can listen to a previous show through their archives.

Another great source for environmental information is ENN, or **Environmental News Network**. They collect the environmental news from across the country and around the world from radio stations and other news sources. Many of the articles are text and many are audio. Just go to << www.enn.com >>

Of course, we can't forget **Sierra Club National Web Page**. You get there by typing in << www.sierraclub.org >>. On this website, you can view the current issue and back issues for Sierra magazine and of The Planet, which is the Sierra Club Activist monthly newsletter. You can also find out more about the Sierra Club, get issues updates on the top priority national Sierra Club issues, plus daily environmental updates, plus how your U. S. Senators and representative voted on recent bills in Congress, plus more. Make sure to check out the Voter Education section, which includes a side by side comparison of how Bush and Gore stand on the top Sierra Club issues. Then take a look at the voting chart for Illinois Congressional representatives. To complete your Sierra Club web tour, go to << www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/ >> to get to the **Illinois Chapter home page** (or click on the link). On the Illinois web page, you can even take an extensive ecotour of the Lake Calumet area that Sierra Club Illinois Chapter has been campaigning to reclaim for wildlife. From that web page, click on the Shawnee Group, and you will see that we have a nice web page, but need a volunteer to replace our former **webmaster**, who moved (**any volunteers?**).

ACTION NEEDED! MAIL IN YOUR "VISION" FOR SHAWNEE FOREST!

Shawnee Forest Plan Timetable for Input

By Barbara McKasson

On July 27th, and possibly continuing on August 3, the Shawnee Forest supervisor is holding a meeting to try to find common ground or some common "vision" of how we want Shawnee Forest to be managed under the next Shawnee Forest Plan. In the latest FS mailing, the Shawnee Forest supervisor, Skip Starkey, has laid out a new timetable for the forest planning process. The Notice of Intent will be issued December, 2000, and issue finalization will be June, 2001. Next is "Developing Alternatives" around December 2001. Then the Draft Forest Plan comes out around June, 2003, and the Final Plan around June, 2004. We need to give maximum input at all of these stages, but early input is probably the most crucial. If you cannot attend the meetings on July 27th and/or August 3rd, you can write a letter giving a general statement of what your vision of the ideal Shawnee Forest would be, and mail it to:

Skip Starkey, Forest Supervisor
Shawnee National Forest
50, Hwy. 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946



Please do it today,
while you are thinking
about it!!

The Sierra Club Vision For Shawnee Forest

We have not totally spelled out our vision - it is the "work in progress" called the "Citizen's Forest Plan." However, we really have a pretty good idea of what that vision includes. **We want an intact forest that remains as natural as possible, and that provides a safe, quiet sanctuary for the many threatened, endangered and rare plants, plant communities, and animals found in Shawnee Forest, with adequate access for people compatible with maintenance of environmental integrity.** We also want the following:

- Preserve and protect the biological diversity and integrity of the 80 Illinois designated Natural Areas.
- Maintain the status for the current wilderness areas, and have three more areas designated as "wilderness study areas" - Burke Branch, Ripple Hollow, and Camp Hutchins, with better management to maintain the wilderness character of these areas.
- Designate and maintain a high quality hiker/equestrian trail system that is well marked, and well maintained in all areas including wilderness areas, but excluding the 5% of the forest that is the designated Natural Areas.
- Restrict horses to the extensive designated hiker/equestrian trail system.
- Maintain Shawnee Forest as a haven of peace and quiet, and protect the flora and fauna of the forest from the highly destructive effects of, motorized vehicles by totally excluding all motorized vehicles from forest trails. Motorized use restricted to licensed vehicles on forest roads only.
- No commercial timber cutting (less than 4% of wood/wood products in U.S. come from public land).
- An environmentally sound plan for protecting Shawnee Forest from further invasion by exotic species.
- Minimize disturbance of the Forest by not allowing surface mining or oil & gas drilling on the forest, including no new leases for mining, oil or gas.
- Minimize fragmentation of the Forest by buying inholdings and areas that consolidate fragmented areas of Shawnee Forest.
- Obliteration of all user-made trails that are not suitable for inclusion in the Forest system trail inventory, plus obliteration of forest roads that are no longer needed (most only old logging roads)

This is not a comprehensive list, but it is a start. Now, write down your "wish list" or "vision" for Shawnee Forest and send it to the forest supervisor, Skip Starkey (see address above). **Do it today!**

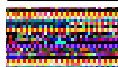
Off-Road Vehicle Users and Horse Campground Owners - Their Vision--

The Shawnee Trail Conservancy and the Southern Illinois Campground and Ranch Owners Association have a vision of Shawnee Forest that is very different from our vision. I think it is very useful to be aware of their goals for the forest. In written comments to the Forest Service for the comment period on the new Shawnee Forest Plan, the president of Shawnee Trail Conservancy (an ATVer and motocross racer) listed twenty-three

goals that they have for the forest (we had their official comments copied at the USFS office). They want at least 286 miles of ATV trails. They label these trails as ATV/Equestrian/Hiker trails, but who wants to be riding their horse or hiking on a trail where ATVs may zoom past at any moment. Just the noise from those raucous machines could scare a horse or interrupt a peaceful walk. **They want the Forest Service to abandon all the 80 Designated Natural Areas and all present wilderness areas, and let everyone ride horses and ATVs through them.** They advocate more timber harvesting. They want all old roads that were ever county roads to be returned to the counties so that all vehicles (jeeps, trucks, everything) can ride on them through the forest. They want to "Use a common sense approach to the endangered species act. Limit the use of this over used tactic to stop good sound management of our Forest." **They want an equestrian trail system developed through several research natural areas.** This is the view that many horse riders have been duped into believing they have to support in order to get the horse trails they want. **Horse riders are free to ride through 95% of the forest.** Horses are allowed in wilderness areas and every part of the forest except the 80 designated Natural Areas. **The truth is the leaders of the two groups mentioned above want 4-wheelers, jeeps, motorcycles, etc., to be able to ride throughout the forest,** and the horse campground owners want to make a profit off of the forest by taking people through many of the 80 Natural Areas on horses. **These leaders have lied to their members and said that the whole forest will eventually be shut down, in order to scare people into going along with their plan.**

Help Fight World Hunger--For Free!

There is a **website** which offers you the chance to fight world hunger merely by pointing and clicking at no cost to you! The site has donors which provide 2-1/2 cups of staple food per day, per person, to help feed persons worldwide. Since these donors pay for the food, all you have to do is visit the site often--you can help donate food every single day! The only catch is that you can participate in this only one time per day. So, if you have internet access you can visit <<**hungersite.com**>> each day and help feed individuals who may not otherwise have enough food or the right kind. ... So. Il. Cntr. for Ind. Living (July 2000)



SHAWNEE OUTINGS



Moonlight Canoe Outing, August 12, Touch of Nature on Little Grassy Lake

We will meet by the sign at the Murdale parking lot to car pool to Touch of Nature at 7 PM. We will have a short lesson in canoe paddling and safety at 7:30 PM. Then we will canoe for about 1 to 1 1/2 hours in the moonlight on Little Grassy Lake. We then return to Touch of Nature. They will have a campfire built for us on the beach, where we can sing, socialize, make s'mores, etc. for as long as we want. Cost is \$4 per person. Families with children are welcome. They will provide safety jackets, but for children under 60 lbs., you must bring your own life jacket. We need people to sign up ahead of time to make sure we have the 10 person minimum for the outing. There is a maximum of 20 so sign up soon so you do not miss out. Please call Barbara McKasson if interested at (618) 529-4824.

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 September newsletter will be **August 27** with **folding** on **August 31** at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 PM. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

Our August meeting will be held on **August 17, 5:30 PM**, at **Sandy Anderson's** house. All members are welcome to attend. For directions call Sandy at 893-4545.

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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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 Please charge my bill (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

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


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