

General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club September 2000

The September General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on **September 14, 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 **Les Winkler** of the Southern Illinoisan. Hope to see you there!

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

Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale!

Give us your treasures and trash to sell/recycle at the SIU Arena Yardsale on **Saturday, September 23rd**. You may take your items to Anne Hill's garage on the East Side of Carbondale, 121 S Hunt. If you need directions call Anne @ 457-7206. All items welcome except clothes. **Please price items prior to dropping off.**

Call Laurel if you would like to volunteer to help the day of the sale. Phone # 964-1339.

Help us continue this successful annual fund raiser by donating items or time..

TAKE ACTION: PROTECT OUR WILD HERITAGE - HELP PERSUADE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE TO BECOME A CO-SPONSOR OF H.R. 1396 - NFPPA- THE BILL TO "END COMMERCIAL LOGGING" IN OUR NATIONAL FORESTS

By Barbara McKasson

There are now over 90 cosponsors of the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act (NFPPA), or the McKinney-Leach Bill, a bi-partisan bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. We would love to see all the Illinois U.S. representatives sign on as cosponsors -- four from Illinois have already signed on, but none from southern Illinois.

Protecting forests make environmental and economic sense. The Forest Service predicts that in the year 2000, recreation, hunting and fishing in National Forests will contribute 38 times more income to the nation's economy than logging, and will create 31 times more jobs. More than 3,000 species of fish and wildlife and 10,000 plant species -- including 230 endangered plant and animal species -- rely on National Forests for habitat. Many of the old growth trees in our national forests are being cut to sell to Japan and other Asian countries. Many areas are being clear cut to feed voracious chip mills, many of which supply foreign markets instead of being made into products here in the U.S. Less than 5% of our wood supply in the U.S. comes from our National Forests. **From 1992-1997, the U.S. Treasury lost over \$2 billion dollars net on timber sales in our national forests, because costs (road building, restoration, research, paperwork, etc.) exceeded revenue for timber sales.** Also, many experts believe that the debris and small trees and bushes left after timber harvesting has increased the size and intensity of the fires in the West this year. Is this insane, or what?

The NFPPA Act would eliminate the commercial logging program on federal public lands, promote restoration, and help communities that receive logging revenue develop a more diverse and stable economy.

** Call your Member of Congress through the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and urge them to cosponsor HR 1396, the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act. **

IF JERRY COSTELLO IS YOUR REPRESENTATIVE:

In August, three members of the Shawnee Group visited U.S. Rep. Jerry Costello. He stated he was against further logging in the Shawnee, but was not against logging in some of the national forests. After talking further, he stated that he would seriously consider signing on as a cosponsor. He obviously needs a little more persuasion. If Jerry Costello is your U.S. Rep., please write or call him today and tell him why you think he should cosponsor the NFPPA. --Representative Jerry Costello 2454 Rayburn Office Building Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5661 or (618) 529-3791

Creal Springs Tank Farm Issue Mushrooms into a 770 Mile Long Threat to Waterways

By Barbara McKasson, Shawnee Group Conservation Chair

The residents of the **Creal Springs** area have reason to be upset about the **2 million gallon tank farm and pipeline** conversion that is proposed for their neighborhood by the **Centennial Pipeline consortium**. What started out as opposition to the tank farm now has turned out to be concern over a project of much greater magnitude, endangering rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands, as well as air and land all along the seven state project. In our area, **the Mississippi River, Mermet Lake, Crab Orchard Lake, Cana Creek, Little Cache Creek, and the Saline River, plus various well water supplies may be put at risk if the proposed pipeline conversion from natural gas to petroleum products takes place**. Natural gas evaporates quickly when there is a leak in a pipeline, but **liquid petroleum products will quickly contaminate waterways**.

The recent pipeline explosion in New Mexico, which killed 10 people, as well as the pipeline explosion in 1999 in Bellingham, WA, which killed three children and spilled about 250,000 gallons of gasoline into a creek, has brought a basic problem to the attention of the national media. That is, that tank farms and pipelines are inadequately monitored and regulated. We could have told them that just from our experience with the proposed Centennial Pipeline project. The Office of Pipeline Safety, which will presumably inspect the Centennial Pipeline at some point during the conversion, is the target of continuing investigations by Congress due to its lack of regulatory concern. **The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is in charge of oversight of the pipeline abandonment, but keeps changing its response when asked the scope of its jurisdiction. FERC is the lead agency for this project, and is requiring only an Environmental Assessment (EA), not the more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The U.S. EPA, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service both disagree with FERC, and have strongly urged that an EIS be required. FERC has also refused to officially extend the comment period for the scoping of this project, even though the agency did not notify neighbors of the tank farm and pipeline of the proposed project.** The Illinois EPA is evaluating the project for an air permit. However, it seems that with this fragmented system of oversight, requirements to minimize leaks into waterways, and drinking water sources do not fall under any clear jurisdiction. Another concern that has come to our attention is the fact that this existing pipe will have to be cleaned, and there is likely tons of toxic sludge in the bottom of the pipe. The company will run a mechanized "pig" through the pipe, which will push the sludge along, but the sludge must be taken out of the pipe when the amount of sludge becomes too heavy for the "pig" to push. Since natural gas contains many contaminants, the sludge will be toxic. Unanswered questions include: During the process of "pigging," how often will the pipe have to be dug up to clean out the sludge? How many tons of toxic sludge would there be, and where will it be disposed of? The condition of the inside of this fifty year old pipe will be checked by another "pig." However, they would have to dig up the pipe to check for corrosion on the outside of the pipe. **So, how can they be sure that corrosion has not taken place on the outside of this old pipe? How can Centennial Pipeline Co. claim they have had no accidents, when this very pipeline exploded in the Tunnel Hill area about four years ago? Why is the pipeline extension to the refinery in Effingham not evaluated as part of the project?**

We also share the concerns of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the existence of Threatened and Endangered species in the affected areas has not been adequately checked out. The U.S. EPA has identified numerous inadequacies in the proposal. Some of these concerns are: destruction of wetlands, impact on crossing of Shawnee and Kisatchee National Forests, compliance with state and national water standards and regulations, consideration of feasible alternatives, and other concerns too numerous to mention in a summary.

WE COULD USE SOME HELP! PLEASE WRITE LETTERS TO FERC!

The Sierra Club is working with Creal Springs residents and others to stop this project, or at least make sure that the environment and the people are protected. However, we need to have more people writing to FERC to strongly urge them to OFFICIALLY extend the comment period for scoping for the Centennial Pipeline Project "abandonment" and conversion. Also, urge them to require that the company conduct a full EIS so that the many environmental concerns raised by the US EPA and the USFWS can be evaluated, not just glossed over. In addition, request an official public hearing on the scoping of the project in the Creal Springs/Marion area. It is important that you send copies of your letter to our US Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald. Include a note asking them to help us get an official extension of the comment period, an EIS, and a public hearing. Also, if Rep. David Phelps is your U.S. Representative, send a copy and note to him also. Be sure to include the docket # in your letter to FERC. Thanks! Addresses are below:

David P. Boergers, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington,
DC, 20426 Docket No. CP00-114-000

Send copies to:

Senator Richard Durbin, 364 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Peter Fitzgerald, B40-5 Dirksen Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

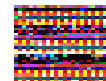
Representative David Phelps, 1523 Longworth Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

Forest "Vision" Statements Still Needed

If you haven't written your "vision statement" for your ideal for the future state and management of Shawnee Forest, please do so now. They will accept these statements through September. Just let the USFS know your idea of the best purpose of Shawnee Forest. Examples might include: The 80 natural areas in the forest will be protected to preserve their unique geological features, plants, and animals- or -The unique quality of Shawnee Forest as a sanctuary for humans to go for peace and quiet and spiritual renewal will be protected from the invasion of motorized vehicles.- or - inholdings and corridors will be purchased in order to increase the uninterrupted large areas in Shawnee Forest, populated with forest interior species. - or- The clean water and air provided by the Shawnee Forest will be maintained by allowing the trees to grow to old age, and by not allowing timber sales on the forest. You get the idea. Please send your vision statements to: Forrest Starkey, Supervisor Shawnee National Forest 50, Hwy. 145 South Harrisburg, IL 62946



SHAWNEE OUTINGS



FALL WEEKEND Hike and Canoe September 30--October 1

The **Shawnee Group** is joining with the **Kaskaskia Group** as we have in the past for a fall weekend at **Camp Ondessonk**. We will hike Saturday and **canoe the Cache or hike**, Sunday. Camp or sleep in "tree houses." Bring the whole family. Contact Sandy Anderson 618-893-4545.

Other Outings and Hikes

Audubon Field Trip Trail of Tears-- September 30: The trip will focus on Forest Communities, composition and biodiversity. Meet 8 am, Murdale Shopping Center.

Jackson County Hiking Schedule To start the fall off with a bang and to put the summer heat, ticks and poison ivy behind us:

September 2 - Saturday, Wild Cat Bluff. Meet at 8 am Murdale. People living east or south can meet at the intersection of 146 & 37 at the Shell Station in Vienna, Sandy Anderson 893-4545.

September 29, Friday, October 1, Sunday--Camp Ondessonk, Ozark, IL come for the whole weekend or just for any of the scheduled events. Sleep in tree houses, hike, and canoe the Cache River. For more information, contact Sandy Anderson 893-4545 Sierra Club

October 7, Saturday- Lusk Creek, meet at 8 am Murdale or Marion DQ, New Route 13 at 8:30 am, Sandy Anderson 893-4545 or Judy Lewis 529-5275.

November 4, Saturday - Concord Cemetery to Lusk Creek, meet at 8 am Murdale or Marion DQ, New Route 13 at 8:30 am, Sandy Anderson 893-4545 or Judy Lewis 529-5275.

December 2, Saturday - Two hikes for the price of one, Dixon Springs State Park, hike Ghost Dance Trail and Lake Glendale, hike Signal Point Trail. Meet at 8 am Murdale. People living east or south can meet at the intersection of 146 & 37 at the Shell Station in Vienna, Sandy Anderson 893-4545 or Judy Lewis 529-5275.

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 October newsletter will be **September 24** with **folding** on **September 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 possibly be held on **September 14**, before the regular General Membership meeting. All members are welcome to attend. For more info call Cathie at 529-2022 or Don at 457-8989.

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

Lands Management, Population/Growth, Endangered Species/Habitat Chair—Stanley Harris, 457-7078, biggrockk@aol.com

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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 Payment by _____

Please charge my _____ via 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
INTRODUCTORY	<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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