

# SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club

NOVEMBER 2000

## General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club  
November 2000

The November General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on **November 9, 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 **Tim Griaudier** from the SIU Geology Department on **'Historic Trends and Current Status of Illinois' Middle Mississippi River Commercial Fishery'**.

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 1602 W. Main, at 5:45 p.m. on November 9 before the meeting.

### **Cham. of Commerce Yard Sale!**

Proceeds: **\$789.12** from the Yard Sale

### **Conservation Cats**

The Conservation Cats of Carbondale Middle School (and Mr Garth their faculty advisor) deserve our recognition for longevity. The group has had a continuous history for several years, even though the original members have probably graduated from college by now. Their continuity signifies that kids can recruit kids down the line for a worthwhile cause and continue to do so. The middle school is setting an example of young people in conservation.

## Trails Master Planning Meeting:

**Your Support and Input is Needed! November 14 (Tuesday), 6:30-9:00 PM at SIU Student Center, Renaissance Room**

By Barbara McKasson

We need as many Shawnee Forest supporters as possible to come to the next Trails Planning Meeting. It will be in Carbondale this time, so this is our big chance to show our strength! Some Natural Areas, plus parts of wilderness areas, are still being trampled. Some T & E species and other sensitive plant communities are being decimated by horse staging (tie up) areas, and some areas are being damaged by scofflaw ATVs. Just this week, I witnessed a new horse staging area in Lusk Creek Canyon that has decimated a rare plant community, and a horse trail on a slope leading into Lusk Creek Canyon that has eroded six feet deep in a rare "barrens" area. Lusk Creek Canyon is a National Natural Landmark, and we need help to protect it and other areas. Let's show the Forest Service we really care about these areas. Let's help the FS move into action instead of deadlocked paralysis. Let's help horse riders "do the right thing" by supporting the upgrading of designated trails, use of designated staging areas with high lines (so trees aren't killed), staying on designated trails, and more education about "Leave No Trace."

The meeting is Tuesday, November 14th, from 6:30 - 9:00 PM at the SIU Student Center, Renaissance Room, on the ground floor, behind McDonald's and the Cafeteria.

At the November meeting, we will divide into 3 groups to draft action plans for the 3 goals that have been agreed upon at previous meetings:

- 1) Increasing recreation dollars (depending on where funds are spent)
- 2) Increase education and interpretation (e.g. stewardship, Leave No Trace, etc.)
- 3) Fund, maintain and clearly mark and sign designated Forest System trails. This refers to hiking or hiking/equestrian trails that are already designated (ATV trails are currently not permitted under the current Forest Plan).

### **Briefing Package for Newcomers:**

Pat York is preparing a briefing package so people who have not attended all the meetings will be able to brush up on what has been achieved, and will allow the whole group to move forward productively.

### **Detailed Directions to Student Center:**

The student center is located south of Hwy. 13, off of Hwy. 51. Go to the light at the football stadium and turn west (the only way to turn). The SIU student center is west of the stadium, enter the building, go down the ramp, and turn left at McDonald's, then go to the end of the hall.

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## "Leave No Trace" for Hiking Workshop

Kelly Pierson of the FS is a master trainer for the "Leave No Trace" program. She has consented to give a "Leave No Trace" workshop for hikers on January 20th at Camp Ondessonk, next to Ozark. Since we are advocating that horse riders take the "Leave No Trace" workshop, we feel that our members should also familiarize themselves with how to leave no trace when hiking, camping, etc. The idea is to train people who will then train and educate others. We will get "hands on" outdoor experience. A great excuse to get outdoors in January, and it's fun! We are hoping to get 10 - 15 hikers and campers out for this workshop. Individuals or people from other groups - everyone - is encouraged to come and learn. **You must RSVP.** Please call Kelly Pierson at (618) 833-8576 to sign up or for more information. Call Barb at 529-4824 for car pooling.

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## Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Asks For Citizen Comments

By Barbara McKasson

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is starting work on a long-term management plan for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge to comply with the Congressional mandate. This plan, known as a Comprehensive Conservation Plan, will serve as a guide for managing the Refuge for the next 15 years. Now until December 31st is the "scoping" period, when people are asked to express their thoughts concerning the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge. In this newsletter, we are providing a summary of the purpose of the comment period. In the December newsletter, we will give you a summary of Shawnee Group's official comments and concerns for Crab Orchard Refuge. We encourage you all to send in your own comments and concerns to the USFWS at the Refuge.

Crab Orchard Refuge is 44,000 acres, encompassing three lakes, an industrial/ ordinance area, a closed area that contains some hazardous material, a 4,050 acre wilderness, hiking trails, wildlife viewing areas, hunting areas, goose feeding area, etc. The current Vision Statement is: "Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge is recognized as an outstanding example of enlightened resource management and use. Refuge resources are managed so that the agricultural, industrial, recreational and wildlife conservation purposes of the Refuge are accomplished in concert with each other and in full compliance with a long-term natural resource stewardship responsibility." The **Vision Statement will be reviewed** and may be **revised** during the process of developing the **Comprehensive Conservation Plan**.

Besides the "Vision Statement", below are some questions that you might consider to help you start thinking about your vision, comments, and concerns related to the Refuge:

- **What do you value most about Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?**
- **What do you consider to be the most important problems facing Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?**
- **What changes do you see coming that will help or challenge Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge?**
- **How do you see the Refuge fitting into the community?**
- **What is the most important thing the Refuge can do in the next 15 years?**
- **If you were the refuge manager, what would you do to improve the Refuge?**
- **What do you think about the Refuge's "Vision Statement"?**

Topics to consider are issues related to wildlife conservation, agriculture on the Refuge, the industry on the refuge, recreation and public use, wilderness, contaminant remediation, land acquisition, etc. For the full planning information sheet, contact the refuge at (618) 997-3344.

Scoping comments, which will form part of the basis for development of the management plan, are due by December 31, 2000. You may submit comments to the Refuge by:

**Mail:** Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Attn: CCP Comment, 8588 Route 148, Marion, IL 62959

**Telephone:** (618) 997-3344 **E-mail:** [consr-ccp@fws.gov](mailto:consr-ccp@fws.gov) **Web Page:** <http://www.fws.gov/r3pao/planning/cotop.htm>

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## Upcoming Elections for Shawnee Group

**Elections for the Executive Committee** of the Shawnee Group of Sierra Club will be coming up soon. If you would be interested in serving on the ExCom please let Judy Lewis know of your interest. Her number is 529-5275.

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## Outings and Hikes



**Jackson County Hiking Group November 4, Saturday - Concord Cemetery to Lusk Creek**, meet at 8 am Murdale or Marion DQ, New Route 13 at 8:30 am, For more information call Sandy Anderson at 893-4545 or Judy Lewis at 529-5275.

**Audubon field trip Nov. 19, 2000:** Phil Moss will lead a trip to the limestone karst area near Waterloo, IL. Many sink holes, springs, caves, few surface streams, some of which sink underground. Many caves are linear with streams, side passages, and multi-levels. **We will visit 1) Illinois Caverns which has easy access and good walking; it was once commercial, now owned by the state. 2) a locale where the karst features are well displayed.**

Phil is arranging helmets and lights from Merimec Valley Grotto. Also each person must bring two flashlights. - the rules are helmet and three light sources. Phil needs an estimate of numbers, so please call Stan Harris 457-7078 days, 457-2025 evenings or e-mail biggrockk@aol.com It should be lots of fun and not difficult. Underground about 59F. Meet at 8 am under Murdale sign.

### **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 7TH!!!**

**By Barbara McKasson**

I hope you all read the article in the September/ October issue of Sierra Magazine, "Why Vote?" OK, so Al Gore really needs to reread his own book, *The Earth in Balance*. So, many of us would like to see an advocate such as Ralph Nader as president, rather than a compromising politician such as Al Gore. The truth is that Ralph Nader will not win the presidency. The truth is that there is a big difference between Al Gore and George Bush on the environment, even though Bush keeps trying to gloss over the facts.

The truth is our environment will be a lot worse off if Bush wins. If you still aren't convinced of this, let me give you a few more examples. The Texas Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) has released a scathing indictment ([www.txpeer.org](http://www.txpeer.org)) of efforts by George W. Bush's administration "to prevent federal listing [of species] under the Endangered Species Act." According to Texas PEER, the Bush administration has "dismantled the state's Natural Heritage Program, ordered biological reports buried and given affected industry preferential influence." Agency biologists who have not written favorable reports have been "threatened or reassigned" and Gov. Bush has "personally intervened" to block listing of the Barton Springs salamander. Although Texas ranks 49th out of the 50 states in the amount of money it spends on state parks, Gov. Bush ignored requests from the Texas Parks Commission for additional funding for state parks. Gov. Bush has stated that he would lower pipeline construction standards, even though there have been a number of tragic pipeline explosions. Every year since 1995, Texas has led the country in toxic releases to the environment, according to a US-EPA 1999 report. Although Gov. Bush has stated that he supports more research on clean methods of coal burning, he continues to ignore the development of solar energy and the importance of energy conservation in lessening our dependence on foreign oil. Bush's energy policy seems to consist of burning more of America's oil, including drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

You must know by now that Al Gore supports many of our (Sierra Club's) environmental positions, and that the Sierra Club national board, along with almost unanimous support of the Sierra Club Chapters, has endorsed Al Gore for president. Al Gore is the clear choice for the protection of the environment. Just remember to get yourself to the voting booth on November 7th!

### **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 **December** newsletter will be **November 25** with **folding** on **November 30** at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 PM. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

### **EXCOM MEETING**

Our **November ExCom meeting** will be held on **Thursday, November 16**, at **5:30 PM** at **Clara 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**  
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**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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**Vice-Chair, Publications Chair**, Laurel Toussaint, 964-1339, laurel.toussaint@sierraclub.org

**Secretary, Wetlands, clean water, population, endangered species/habitats**—Cathie Hutcheson, 529-2022, hutche@siu.edu

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**Membership Chair, Delegate to Chapter**—Mary Campbell, 997-5736, mspurple1999@yahoo.com

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

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

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**Grls Coordinator**—John Kirkpatrick, 893-4663

**Political Chair**—Clara McClure, 457-2025, pippin1983@gateway.net

**Outing Chair, Greeter**—Sandy Anderson, 893-4545, annansy@midwest.net

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

**Yes**, I want to join! I want to safeguard our precious natural heritage. My payment is enclosed.

**My Name** \_\_\_\_\_  
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Donations, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include subscription to Sierra magazine(\$7.50) and your Chapter newsletter(\$1.00).

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

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INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> \$68
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