

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club

JANUARY 2001

General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
January 2001

The January General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at 7:30 PM, on **January 11, 2001.**

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 **Mark Wagner**, archaeologist with the Illinois Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, on **Native American Rock Art of Illinois.**

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 January 11, before the meeting.

Be on the Alert for the Sugar Creek Alert!! Send Your Letter Today!!

By Barb Mckasson

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) has come out with Draft II of the FEIS (Final Environmental Impact Statement) for the Sugar Creek/Marion Dam Project. From talking to people in other agencies, it seems that the Corps has used some erroneous figures to justify their conclusion that the Sugar Creek Reservoir is the best, most cost effective alternative for solving the water supply dilemma for the City of Marion. We believe we can prove that at least one other alternative is better and more cost effective.

Anyway, you probably have already received the special alert on Sugar Creek that will give you more details. Please find that alert right now and write your letter today! We need to stop the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Marion from killing yet another high quality, free flowing stream (not to mention the threatened and endangered species). Please remember to ask for a minimum 60 day extension of the comment period to allow proper analysis of the data by the public and by other agencies. Also, ask for a public hearing. If you can't find the alert or your dog ate it, just write and ask for the comment period extension and the public hearing. Refer to Permit Application number 199401091. The current deadline for comments is January 14, 2001. Send comments to: U.S. Army Engineer District, Louisville
Attn: CELRL-OP-F (Mr. Ronny Sadri)
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201-0059
To request a copy of the Draft II supplement to the FEIS, or for any questions, you can call: (502) 582-5260

"Leave No Trace" for Hiking Workshop

Kelly Pierson of the Forest Service is a master trainer for the "Leave No Trace" program. She has consented to give a "Leave No Trace" workshop for hikers on January 20 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.

Continued on P. 2

ALERT*ALERT*ALERT

submitted by Alice Brandon

ARCTIC NATIONAL REFUGE UNDER THREAT WITH BUSH PRESIDENCY

Please write or e-mail President Clinton asking him to use his powers under the Antiquities Act to declare the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as America's newest National Monument. President Elect George W. Bush has said he will push for drilling in the Arctic now is the time to save this irreplaceable resource!

Why should we protect it?

The Refuge is considered North America's "Serengeti." Home to unique and abundant wildlife.

The Porcupine Caribou herd of the Refuge is at the center of Gwich'in (Athabaskan Indian) culture. In many villages, caribou, fish and other wild foods may exceed 70% of the diet. This herd would be destroyed if drilling were allowed.

The most optimistic estimates of commercially recoverable oil from the coastal plain would yield only about six months' worth of oil for the U.S. -- not even a dent in our dependence on foreign oil. America could save far more oil simply by increasing the fuel efficiency of our cars and light trucks. (Source: Sierra Club Website)

Address to write to and Sample Letter:

Address: 1600 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC 20500 or e-mail: <<president@whitehouse.gov>>

Dear President Clinton,

I appreciate your administration's strong commitment to protecting America's unique natural heritage. Your leadership is essential because we continue to lose our spectacular national landscapes. The Arctic National Wildlife refuge is truly America's Last Great Wilderness - home to unique and abundant wildlife: caribou, polar bears, and countless migratory birds. Multinational oil companies want to drill in the very heart of the Arctic Refuge - the narrow coastal plain that represents the last 5% of Alaska's vast North Slope. I urge you to permanently protect the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge as an enduring legacy for our families, for our future.

The meeting to Review and Finalize Scoping Comments For the New Shawnee Forest Plan!

By Barb Mckasson

Mark January 8th on Your New Sierra Club Calendars!(Written comment period ends Jan. 15th)

A summary of the issues raised during the scoping period for the new Shawnee Forest Plan has been compiled by the FS. I recommend that you call and ask for a copy (1-800-MYWOODS). You can send written comments of your own. Of course, we also need people to come to the meeting on Jan. 8th. If there are issues/ comments that you think should be made, but weren't in the summary, you definitely should send in your comments and/ or come to the meeting. On January 8th, 2001, the meeting will be held at 6:30 PM at Southeastern Illinois College (3575 College Rd., Harrisburg). At the meeting, there will be small group discussion of the papers and potential changes to them. For carpooling to the meeting, call Barb at 529-4824

Your Vision for Shawnee Forest: Revisited

January 22nd at 6:30 PM, there will be discussion in small groups of the summary of the "Vision, Niche & Role" papers. It would be helpful for you to call the FS office (1-800-MYWOODS) and ask for a copy of the summary to read before the meeting. The small group discussions will add to/ clarify/ change the papers. Come and help the FS get some glasses to remedy their short-sightedness, and to share our focused vision of a natural, intact forest that will still be beautiful for our grandchildren. We need you there! To carpool, call Barb at 529-4824.



SHAWNEE OUTINGS



Native American Rock Art, Saturday, December 16. Hike/Field trip to local area to view Native American Rock Art. Meet at Murdale Shopping Center under the Murdale sign at 8 A. M. Wear hiking boots, bring water and lunch. The hike will be led by Mark Wagner. For more information call Sandy at 618-893-4545.

Other Outings

Pere Marquette St. Pk. Eagle Programs January 2 -5 & 14-17 Reservations are being taken for the Bald Eagle programs at Pere Marquette State Park. Programs are being scheduled for Jan. 2-5, Jan. 14-17, Feb. 4-7 and Feb. 11-14. Programs begin at 8:30 a.m. and last until about 2:30 p.m. For questions or to make a reservation, call the site at 618.786.3323 ext. 1. All interpretive programs are free. The only cost is your lunch. Be sure to dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them.

ANNUAL TROPICAL ADVENTURE TO TRINIDAD-TOBAGO

May 30 - June 6, 2001

This trip is for anyone interested in seeing breathtaking tropical evergreen rain forests, giant leatherback turtles, deciduous tropical forests, coral reefs, mangroves, and exquisite tropical birds.

Based at the world-renowned Asa Wright Nature Centre and Lodge, a 200 acre wildlife sanctuary in Trinidad's rainforested Northern range and at the charming Blue Waters Inn in Tobago, we will visit several unique natural areas throughout both islands. We will also have an opportunity to experience the unique culture of this island-nation through its food, music, and history. The trip will be led by **Nelda Hinckley**, Assistant Professor of Biology at John A. Logan College

The cost of the trip is \$1916 or \$1766 if 10 people participate. The price includes airfare, lodging, all meals and field trips with expert local guides. Students register for Biology 241, "Introduction to Tropical Ecology, Spring semester (3 hours credit). For more information call Nelda Hinckley at (618) 549-5588 or 549-7335, Ext. 323.

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 25** at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 PM. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

Our January ExCom meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m. at Judy Lewis' house, 808 S. Skyline, Carbondale. For directions, call Judy at 529-5275. Any member is welcome to attend.

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 safeguard our precious natural heritage. My payment is enclosed.

My Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ **Zip** _____

Check Enclosed Phone(Optional) () _____

E-Mail (optional) _____

Please charge my Mastercard Visa

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date ____/____

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).

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