

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club JUNE 2001



General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
June 2001

There will be no general meetings of the Shawnee Group during the months of June, July, 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.

Hope to see you there in September!

Picnics Instead of Meetings
Saturday, June 23--Beach Party, Spring Arbor Lake. Come prepared for swimming, canoeing, and brats to Spring Arbor Beach. Park at the beach or at 139 Spring Arbor Dr. Eat about 5 PM. Bring a potluck side dish and drinks. A grill and charcoal will be available. Bring your own tableware. Come earlier at 3 PM for swimming & boating, Directions: We're south of the Giant City School about 1 1/2 miles at the Spring Arbor sign on the right. Call Don at 457-8989 for further directions.

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CELL PHONE TOWERS: AN ANNOYANCE FOR PEOPLE AND DEATH FOR BIRDS

by Barbara McKasson

You would have to be wearing blinders to not notice all the cell phone towers springing up overnight in our area. There are now around ten in Carbondale alone. Many people are concerned about having a red or white flashing light in their window all night. Other people are upset over having a huge eyesore next to their homes or blocking a scenic view. A drop in property value near these towers is also a concern.

With the explosion of the cell phone industry, and the advent of HDTV broadcasts, companies are scrambling to put up their own towers - before people and local governments wake up and decide to start passing ordinances placing restrictions on the towers. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 48,642 cellular telephone towers at least 200 feet in height were already in operation by 1998.

Besides the aesthetic blight, environmentalists are concerned about how these towers can affect birds. The carnage takes place mainly during migration season. On foggy or cloudy nights when the birds cannot navigate properly by the moon and stars, the songbirds are attracted to red lights and radio signals. According to Vernon Kleen, the Illinois state ornithologist, the birds circle around the lights, trying to regain their orientation, but then hit the guy wires holding up the towers. When they hit the wires, they are usually killed or injured. One of our members, Jean Graber, who is a respected biologist, used to survey the scene of many mass killings of birds caused by radio and TV towers. One bad night during full migration, Jean and her husband, Richard Graber, picked up a thousand or more birds that were dead or crippled by one TV tower.

With the new demand for high-definition television (HDTV) towers, the problem will probably get worse. According to Albert Manville, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "We're looking at an impact of between 4 million to 5 million birds killed each year just from the cellular telephone towers.

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HDTV towers are a train wreck we want to avoid....The concern is it's yet another impact [on birds]." Presumably, the birds would not be attracted to the towers if they did not have the red lights, and far fewer birds would be harmed by towers that did not have the guy wires.

The bird casualties, the annoying lights, and many of the other problems with these towers could be avoided by limiting the height of the towers to under 200 feet. The lights are required only on towers that are 200 feet high or higher- so that airplanes do not run into them. The number of towers required by the companies could be greatly reduced by requiring or somehow encouraging the companies to share towers - many antennas can be placed on one tower. Also, the antennas can be placed on tall buildings.

Two of our Shawnee Group members are on the Union County Cell Tower Task Force, trying to find ways to minimize the impacts of the towers. They want to limit towers to under 200 feet so there will be no lights. They also have found that up to 6 antennas can be located on one tower. According to Ed Cook, there is only a small difference in signal strength between antennas on a 190 foot tower vs. a 250 foot tower. Also, Ed notes that the county government receives taxes for each antenna, and the tax money is not changed by the number of towers - only by the number of antennas.

So, what can we do? First of all, call your city mayor and/ or council members, and let them know that you want ordinances passed to control the height of the towers to under 200 feet, with no lights. Second, anyone who would like to pursue this issue with his/her own city or county government can contact me for help and information at 529-4824.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION - June 9th - Mark your Calendar. IEPA, SIU and Jackson County Health Dept. are sponsoring a household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, June 9th at the SIU Arena parking lot - 8 AM to 3 PM. Participants should turn west off Hwy. 51 onto Pleasant Hill Rd., then north on Arena Drive.

Hazardous waste that will be accepted includes: oil paint, motor oil, pesticides, aerosols, antifreeze, fluorescent bulbs, lead-acid batteries, and other household chemicals.

Items NOT accepted include: explosives, ammunition, fireworks, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, propane tanks, medical waste, and radioactive material. Residential waste only!

For more information, contact Jackson County Health Dept. at (618) 684-3183, Ext. 128, or online at: <<[<>](http://www.cehs.siu.edu/hhw)>>

SHAWNEE GROUP CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MTG. - Thursday, June 14th - NOTE CHANGE Members are welcome to attend the conservation committee meeting. We will discuss current issues, such as: Shawnee Forest, Crab Orchard Refuge, Sugar Creek, and other issues. The meeting will be held at 5:30 PM at the Interfaith Center, lower level (corner of Grand Ave. and Illinois Street in Carbondale). Call Barb McKasson for directions or questions - 529-4824.

ATTENTION: WATCH FOR SPECIAL NEW SUGAR CREEK ALERT!!! The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club is once again helping us out by funding another alert to help stop the proposed dam on Sugar Creek. We are still fighting this one, and believe we can win! Please watch for this special mailing, which will probably come out in a few weeks.

Planned Summer Schedule

The following events have been planned over the summer.

--June 2, Sugar Creek Picnic

As part of River and Steams Appreciation Month the Shawnee Group will picnic at Bill and Maxine Simmon's farm near Creal Springs. We will meet at the Williamson County Airport @ 10AM on Saturday, June 2nd. Bring lunch.

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If you would like to swim after lunch you can follow Laurel and Bik to Lake Tacoma for a dip. Bring flotation devices and plan to relax on the lake. If you have questions please contact Laurel or Bik at 964-1339.

--**June 23, Don Lawrence's house 2 pm potluck** (see page 1 for details)

--**July 14, Stan Harris' house, 2 pm**

Swimming and pot luck at Stan Harris's house. Bring a dish to share and your swim suit! Call Stan for directions (457-7078).

--**August outing will be to the Illinois Caverns..**

This will be a wonderful outing in the 56 degree cave. We would like the Kaskaskia Group to join us. Date and details to follow in July's newsletter.

Recycling Your Personal Computer*

By Barbara McKasson

Are you one of those people who has an old computer or two sitting in your basement or garage? According to the National Recycling Coalition, in the ten year period of 1997 - 2007, nearly 500 million personal computers (PCs), will be ready for the scrap heap. However, there are many toxic materials in PCs. According to the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, the 500 million PCs mentioned above contain hundreds of various toxic substances, including: 1.9 billion pounds of lead, 3.2 million pounds of mercury, and 1.9 million pounds of chromium. When computers are dumped in a landfill, these chemicals leach from the circuit boards, monitors, and switches into the groundwater, contaminating drinking water supplies and poisoning wildlife and humans alike. They can also escape into the atmosphere, and even spark toxic fires.

The solution is the 3 Rs for PCs - to Refurbish, Reuse or Recycle.

+ To Refurbish, the most environmentally kind option, look in your yellow pages under "computer - service." A computer technician can help you decide whether or not a computer upgrade is right for you.

+ To Reuse, find a friend, school, church or organization that could use your old computer. If your computer is at least a 486, a Macintosh Performa, or better, it is probably still useful. We donated one of our old computers to a friend, and another to the Science Center in Carbondale. There are many schools, teachers, and non-profit organizations that could put an old computer to good use. Several Web sites offer lists of local, state, and national donor programs, such as the Electronics Industries Alliance Consumer Education Initiative: < www.eiae.org >. Other contacts are: < www.crc.org > or < www.cristina.org >. **OR, DONATE YOUR OLD WORKING PC TO SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB FOR THE YARD SALE IN SEPTEMBER.** Some organizations want a complete system, but others will accept just software, just a printer or CD-ROM, etc. Before you donate, to protect your privacy, you may want to delete files you have stored in your computer. In addition, ask for a receipt for the donation, and you also get a tax deduction.

+ To Recycle, if your old computer is a 386 or older, and refurbishing is not an option, then check into recycling. Computer recyclers will either refurbish the old computer and resell it, or break it down and recycle the pieces. You will probably have to pay a fee for this service because of the toxic materials. Be sure to ask the recycler if he sends any of the parts to a landfill. You can call and ask your computer manufacturer for the name of a recycler in your area. Alternatively, you can now contact IBM, and ask about their recycling program - which applies to all brands of computers. IBM will give you instructions on how to ship your computer to an organization called "Envirocycle." IBM will then donate the usable computers to Gifts in Kind International. Envirocycle will dismantle and recycle the unusable computers. You pay a total of \$29.99 per computer, including shipping fees, and IBM will send you a receipt for a tax deduction for your donation. Contact: (888)SHOPIBM or < www.ibm.com >

*(Information taken from Co-Op America's "Real Money")

ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!

Submitted by Barbara McKasson

Your help is needed to halt Black Beauty Coal Company's dumping in the Little Vermilion River - one of the 10 most outstanding aquatic ecosystems in Illinois. (south of Danville)

Black Beauty is already violating a permit issued to it by the Illinois EPA. According to its own records, the company dumped more than a ton of sediment into a tributary of the Little Vermilion. Sediment smothers mussels and destroys stream bottom habitat needed by fish and other aquatic creatures, as well as fouling drinking water. This dumping clearly exceeds limits of organic matter and sediment. Also, the dumping was done prior to a mandated baseline survey of fish and mussel populations in the creek.

!Black Beauty's violations confirm environmentalists' fears. Prairie Rivers Network and other environmentalists have opposed Black Beauty Coal Company's plans to open the 445 acre mine on a slope above the Little Vermilion - just upstream of Lake Georgetown and the Carl Flierman's River Nature Preserve. The Little Vermilion River is listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory and is home to three state threatened and endangered species: the bigeye shiner, the little spectaclecase mussel, and the slippershell mussel. The federally listed Indiana Bat also lives along the Little Vermilion. In addition, the stream is the source of drinking water for Georgetown. The violations threaten all of these resources. This mine could have been an expansion of the current adjacent Black Beauty mine, and would not have been a threat to these resources. However, we must now be vigilant and raise a protest to protect these resources.

Prairie Rivers Network, ELPC, and other environmentalists are working to halt the dumping before it does more damage. Prairie Rivers has threatened to file suit under the Clean Water Act. They have also appealed the IEPA permit on the grounds that it is too weak to protect the Little Vermilion, even if Black Beauty Coal follows all the conditions the permit sets down - something the company apparently has little intention of doing.

Call Governor Ryan today! Help protect the Little Vermilion River! Tell Governor Ryan that you know that Black Beauty Coal Company is polluting the Little Vermilion River. Ask him to personally ensure that Illinois EPA enforces the Clean Water Act, as they are supposed to. **Write or Call:**

Governor George Ryan
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-6830

World Wide Web



<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee>

OUR WEBSITE IS REHABILITATED AND UPDATED!!

Good news! Our Website has been updated and is back in service again. I would hope that those of you on the internet would check it out and use it as our new webmaster has indicated below in a letter to our group...ed. Below letter is from our new webmaster Bob Pauls.

To All:

I write to let you know that after a lapse of more than two years, the official website of the Shawnee Group has been reactivated and redesigned. With your help, the new website at <<<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee>>> is being developed as an interactive and comprehensive portal to environmental news and resources in Southern Illinois. Initially, the site will be a repository for basic resources such as:

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- ~ **Shawnee Trails Newsletter archives**
- ~ **Action alerts**
- ~ **Calendars of meetings and events**
- ~ **Directories of club officers and political contacts**
- ~ **Links to descriptions of natural resources and sites of the region and elsewhere**
- ~ **Outings announcements and descriptions**
- ~ **Synopses of the Shawnee Group's environmental issue campaigns**

Following the precedent taken by the Sierra Club in 1925 when it inaugurated a program to loan the club's photographic collections to schools and other institutions, the Shawnee Group website is also going to serve as an online, multi-media gallery of the sites and sounds of Southern Illinois. It will also be used to document and educate ourselves and the public about critical issues such as Shawnee Forest wilderness, Sugar Creek, endangered species protection, and more.

For the site to be effective, club members and the public need to use the site and contribute to its ongoing development. There are three things you can do right now to help make the Web site a success:

- 1) **Add the site to your Web browser's list of bookmarks or Favorite sites.** Then visit the site at least once every couple weeks. There will always be new content or a new link that you have yet to explore. Check-out the What's New? page for the highlights.

- 2) **Recommend the Shawnee Group website to a friend.** It's easy to do! Most of the important pages on the Web site have a link called "Tell a friend about this page" that lets you automatically send a message along with the page's URL to anyone you know.

- 3) **Contribute to the site!** We need the use of your recordings, photographs, and movies (print or digital) that document any aspect of the environment in Southern Illinois. Photo-document a trail, a trip to a park or a natural area. Send the pictures and recordings along with a date and description of each item you send.

These items should be either postal mailed to me at "Web Pauls", 2943 Sunset Drive, Carbondale, 62901 or e-mailed to bpauls@globaleyes.net Following the Sierra Club's requirements, we are required to obtain a written license or a written assignment of all rights to the work from the copyright owner permitting use of the work on the site prior to posting this content online. These forms are available online from the photo gallery page.

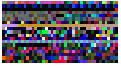
So get out there! Enjoy the outdoors and come back to share your experience online.

Thanks for your time and support.

Bob Pauls
 Shawnee Group Webmaster
bpauls@globaleyes.net

Addresses of Our Senators and Representatives:

Senator Richard Durbin 364 Russell Senate OB Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-2152	Senator Peter Fitzgerald B40-5 Dirksen OB Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-2854	Rep. Jerry Costello 2454 Rayburn OB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-5661 (618) 529-3791	Rep. David Phelps 1523 Longworth OB Wash., DC 20515 202) 225-5201 (618) 997-6004
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SHAWNEE OUTINGS



June 2, Stream Appreciation Day, meet at Williamson Co Airport, 10am (picnic lunch at Simmons' farm at Sugar Creek). Call Laurel Toussaint, at 964-1339 for details.

Hiking Trails Trails Reconstruction: As indicated in a previous newsletter, the Forest Service has lined up a number of trail reconstruction projects. A number of groups, including the Sierra Club, are asked to volunteer for this endeavor. The project for June 30th is the Garden of the Gods wilderness trail. Meet there at 9:30 a. m. in the GOG parking lot. Hopefully, we will have a carpool leaving from the Murdale shopping center at 7:45 a. m. and pick up any of you from Marion in the Walmart lot (closest to Ryans) a half hour later. Bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack, cap or sunscreen. For an update contact Bob Tyson 684-5643 or ranger Peterin 687-1731.

No outdoor hikes are planned for the summer due to heat and ticks, however, there will be a cave exploration tour near Waterloo in August of Illinois Caverns. More details in the July newsletter.

Adventures With Uncle Bob

by Bob Tyson

Continuing in a monthly series of hikes for those of you who are unable to join our group hikes and cannot find these trail heads on you own, this month we highlight Jackson Hollow. Take route 166 through Creal Springs to rt. 5. Turn right and go for several miles until you see a Forest Service sign pointing left that says "Trigg Tower, Bellsmith Springs." At some point the road turns to gravel. Near a church you will see a sign for a right turn to Trigg Tower. Go past this sign and go straight ahead to the next right turn. Follow this road downhill to the parking area. If it looks filled up, drive across the shallow creek bed and turn left where you will eventually find a place to park(not recommended if there has been recent heavy rain). Walk west past the sign board for about half a mile and you will arrive at the top of a canyon looking down on a waterfall. Follow a trail on your left where you are treated to many overlooks into the canyon. Traveling around 1 to 1.5 miles you will find an easy way to get down into the canyon and hike along the scenic canyon walls and rock formations. Trails are undefined, however, if you stay along the bluffs as you explore, there should be no danger in getting lost. Another interesting side trip, is to look for a small parking lot on your right before the road goes downhill (about 2 miles north of the main parking lot). Hike straight west until you reach a fork and go left. Follow a wide fire trail down into the canyon to view some lovely rock formations. If you need more information call Bob Tyson 684-5643. I am also open to any ideas and suggestions to deal with that parking lot. The Forest Service says that parking lots are not in their trails budget.

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 July newsletter will be June 24 with folding on June 28 at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 PM. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

Next Excom meeting will be at Judy Lewis' house, 808 S Skyline Drive, on June 21 at 5:30 pm. It will national blackout nite in protest of the Bush energy policy. So bring a candle, flashlight or whatever. Call Judy at 529-5275 for further information.

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.



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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair—Laurel Toussaint, 964-1339, laurel_tous@altavista.com

Vice-Chair, Publications Chair, Donna Ayers, 985-6917, dayers@accessus.net

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

Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, Book/Calender—Sabrina Hardenbergh, 549-2608, sabrina@midwest.net

Membership Chair—Ron Schmeck rae50@siu.edu

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

Wilderness/Parks/Refuges Chair, Shawnee Forest Chair—Ed Cook, 995-9309, galed@midwest.net

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Outing Chair, Greeter—Bob Tyson, 684-5643

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

Webmaster—Bob Pauls, 549-9408, bpauls@globaleyes.net

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

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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

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
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