

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club September 2001



General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
September 2001

The September General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at **7:30 PM**, on **September 13, 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 **Rob Porter** on the **Impact of exotic species of birds in New Zealand**

Hope to see you there!

Join some of the Executive Committee, the speaker(s) for the evening's program, and other members for dinner at **the Great Wall** located west of the Post Office and east of the University Mall. **5:45 p.m. on September 13**, before the meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Yard Sale

Take priced stuff to Anne Hill's house, phone 457-7206, 121 S. Hunt (east on old 13), no clothing. Pricing will be at 6-7 September in the evenings.

We need volunteers to be at the yard sale at 6:30 am to unload the stuff. (see more details on p. 3)

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ALERT!! STOP "FAST TRACK" LEGISLATION!!

Make Trade Green, Clean, and Fair

by Barbara McKasson

"Fast track" trade legislation introduced by Rep. Phillip Crane on June 13, 2001 -- the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001 (H.R. 2149) -- imperils the environment in our own communities through "investor provisions" that give global corporations new powers to attack our hard-won environmental safeguards, smart growth incentives, and health and safety standards.

The Crane fast-track bill would give President Bush a blank check to negotiate sweeping new trade agreements, such as a proposed expansion of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) throughout the Western Hemisphere with the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), but **restricts** Congress' ability to debate and to amend the final product.

NAFTA expansion could be extremely damaging for the environment here at home and throughout the Americas. Under NAFTA's investor provisions, for example, foreign corporations gained broad rights to sue national governments if laws, regulations, or court rulings at the local, state, or federal levels of government interfere in any way with the company's ability to do business. For instance, a Canadian chemical corporation has sued the US government for nearly \$1 billion over California's decision to phase out the hazardous gasoline additive MTBE that is polluting drinking water across the country. No US court would ever have heard such a lawsuit. But under NAFTA, a secretive, three-judge tribunal will soon decide whether US taxpayers must pay a large fine because California decided to ensure water that was safe to drink.

The expansion of NAFTA's investor provisions under fast track procedures could exert a powerful "chilling effect" on environmental protection across the Americas and cost taxpayers billions of dollars.

Trade agreements should be a force for progress, not another excuse to limit governments' ability to protect the public interest. **We need to replace fast track with "right track" trade authority to ensure that future trade deals do not undercut our laws, but instead require enforceable labor and environmental standards.**

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CALL Your Representative -TOLL FREE!!!

Please use these talking points (below) to urge your representative to oppose fast track legislation, the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001 (H.R. 2149).

Call your Representative (courtesy of the AFL-CIO) toll free at 1-800-393-1082 or dial 202-224-3121. Ask for your Rep's office and then the "trade legislative assistant."

Talking Points

- I am deeply concerned that the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) gave foreign corporations dangerous new powers to sue governments and undercut our hard-won environmental safeguards.
- Rather than fix the problem, President Bush wants "fast track" authority to expand NAFTA to the rest of the Western Hemisphere. If he succeeds, more corporations could sue to block environmental safeguards.
- Under fast track, Congress would give up the power to fix trade deals made by the President--even if those deals threaten the environment and workers' rights.
- Bush can't be trusted with fast track, a "blank check" that he could use to promote corporate power at the expense of our environment.
- I urge you to vote against any fast-track bill, including the Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2001 (H.R. 2149).
- Along with the Sierra Club, I oppose fast track even if amendments are added on labor and the environment. At this late date, any amendments won't fix the fundamental problems with fast track.

Fax Your Representative - **FREE OF CHARGE AT THE SIERRA CLUB WEBSITE!!**

Fax your representative by logging in and urge opposition to "fast track." After you've sent your letter, ask some friends to do the same. Go to: **www.sierraclub.org**. Then click on the first item, "**take action**" on the sidebar. Then click on "**responsible trade**". Then click on "**fax your representative**", then **log on**, and finally **FAX** your own

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILLINOIS CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB JOB OPENING

Title: Shawnee Wildlands Outings Coordinator

One year, Half Time Position (average 20 hrs. per week)

Salary: approximately \$13,000 PLUS FULL HEALTH BENEFITS

Reports to: Conservation Field Representative

Context: Works to advance the Sierra Club's goals for protection in the Shawnee Nat'l Forest.

Scope: Works under the direct supervision of the Conservation Field Rep. with input from the Illinois Chapter's Shawnee Forest Committee to build and activate a constituency of non-motorized, low impact recreational users for the Shawnee National Forest .

Job Activities:

- * Work with local Sierra Club Group outings chairs and other allies to conduct a variety of outings in the Shawnee National Forest. * Act as a local resource for groups conducting an outing by leading or assisting in the trip.
- * Create an Adopt-a-Wilderness Program. * Generate media coverage of the program.
- * Engage in other activities that will build awareness of the Shawnee.

Knowledge and Skills:

- * Must have a high degree of familiarity with the Shawnee Forest.* Willingness to travel * Ability to work independently. * Excellent communication skills. * CPR and first aid skills a plus * Familiarity with Sierra Club structure and with the difference between lobbying (C4) and non-lobbying advocacy (C3) a plus.

Send cover letter and resume to: Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter, attn: Wildlands Coordinator
200 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 505 Chicago, IL 60601, Fax: 312-251-1780 Email: doug.chien@sierraclub.org

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WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

Annual Shawnee Group/SIU Arena Yard Sale Saturday, September 8th

Here's your chance to **contribute to the environment, reduce your household clutter, and recycle** items into other people's lives! We are accepting items now for the sale. Donations can be taken to **Anne Hill's garage**, 121 S Hunt, Carbondale. Please phone her for directions, **457-7206**.

Donations: We take everything except clothes (however, something unusual such as biking or hiking gear is acceptable). If you have large pieces such as furniture please contact Laurel, 618-964-1339, and she will arrange for pick-up. If possible price items, especially if you feel an item has a minimum value and should not be sold for less than a certain amount. If you don't price the item we will make the best guess we can as to its value.

Pricing Volunteers: We need help pricing donations. We will price items **Friday the 7th starting at 5:30 pm**. We will order **pizza** and enjoy the evening while sorting and pricing the eclectic items that are donated every year. **Please join us!**

Arena Volunteers: Your help is needed throughout the day at the arena. Volunteers for the early shift at 6:45 AM are especially important because we are always swamped with buyers as we unload the donations. There never seems to be enough us for the earliest shift. Extra help is also needed between 3:00 and 4:00 pm for clean up as well. But volunteers are needed throughout the day. **Please contact Laurel to sign-up for a shift.**

Vans/Trucks/Trailers: Please consider letting us load your large vehicle or trailer with donations on Friday evening. If you don't have time on Saturday, but would like to help, this is a very valuable contribution for this fundraiser.

Sun Shelter/Tables: Do you have an umbrella or canopy that will shelter volunteers from the sun on Saturday. If it is hot or sunny shade makes a big difference thru the day. We can always use more tables to display the donations.

\$ Donations: If you don't have time or any items to donate please consider a monetary donation to help us cover the cost of renting the Arena space. Or perhaps you would like to buy the pizza for Friday evening?

Buyers: Bring your friends and family and find some treasures at the sale! Our members make some amazing donations and they are real bargains! This year we will have desks, an antique oak sideboard, and loads of office supplies.

This is the Shawnee Group's biggest fund-raiser! Last year we raised over \$800! And we desperately need this money to produce our newsletter and support local conservation issues. If you can contribute in any way please contact Laurel at 618-964-1339 or email--laurel_tous@altavista.com.

ROUTE 127 4-LANE PORK, BARREL PROJECT

By Kristi Hansen

Many of us take route 127 to go to St Louis - route 127 from Murphysboro to I-64. This route has recently been upgraded, widened, paved and ditched, which has been a great improvement. The drive is usually fairly traffic free, and enjoyable. It is a nice drive through small, quaint towns and farms. IDOT and some local officials want to turn 2-lane Rt.127 into a 4-lane. It would be a shame and a waste to see route 127 turned into a 4-lane highway. **The worst outcome would be to see Rt.127 turned into a commercialized highway like Rt.13 between Carbondale and Marion.**

Already the State has spent \$750,000.00 on phase 1 of the environmental design study for the 4-laning route going from Murphysboro to Picneyville. They will spend another 750 K for the section to I-64. Many of our other rural roads as well as I-24 and I-57 are in bad shape. Spending millions of dollars on Rt. 127 takes away money needed elsewhere. This pork barrel project is an unnecessary waste of our tax money, and opens up this area to questionable development. Any improvements could simply be to build turn lanes or passing lanes in congested areas, at a minimal cost.

There is supposed to be a public meeting this summer on the 4-laning proposal. Until then, we need to write Rep. Costello, and IDOT Director Kirk Brown and tell them we don't need or want Rt.127 4-laned.

To be put on the IDOT mailing list for this project write Joe Zdankiewicz, PO Box 100, Carbondale Il. 62903.

SAVE THE ARCTIC

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED NOW, ON

THE MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION OF THE CENTURY

by Laurel Toussaint (ph 964-1339))

Your help is needed **NOW** to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

On Aug. 1st, **Big Oil** teamed up with labor unions to ram a proposal through the House of Representatives that would open up the Refuge to oil drilling. **The battle to save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has now moved to the Senate.** Illinois Senator Peter **Fitzgerald** is absolutely key to saving the Refuge. He has been a supporter of protecting the Refuge in the past, but he is under enormous pressure to support plans to destroy the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. He needs to know that he has the support of his constituents in order to be able to vote against the extremist in his own party.

Write, Call, Fax, Email Senator Fitzgerald TODAY

Our pleas for protection must be heard! Tell your family and friends what is at stake and urge them to also contact Senator Fitzgerald. Snail mail is the most effective lobbying tool, but absolutely every contact is critical over the next few weeks. Repeat contacts are needed.

Points you should make in a letter:

- If the nation really needs more domestic oil so desperately, President Bush should reinstitute the ban on the export of Alaskan crude. As much as 90,000 barrels of Alaskan oil is exported to foreign countries every day.
- Energy conservation could easily save more oil than the refuge would produce. Simply increasing the mileage standards for cars - which Congress has refused to do for years - would save more gasoline than would be produced by oil from the Refuge.
- Drilling in the Refuge would disrupt what the Reagan administration called "the biological heart" of the entire refuge. Proponents of drilling say the "footprint" of drilling operations would affect only 2,000 of the refuge's 17.5 million acres. That statistic is incredibly misleading. The Interior Department estimates that 12,500 acres would be directly affected. In addition, much larger areas would be involved in a web of pipelines, roads and other development.
- All of this activity would disrupt the heart of what has been called America's last pristine ecosystem. Caribou, polar bears, numerous species of birds and countless other animals would be harmed by this development. An oil spill could be catastrophic.
- Oil proponents try to sell the myth that Prudhoe Bay drilling has been good for the Central Arctic herd there. This is a lie! The herd was divided by construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. A survey of the herd in 1995 found sharp declines in the part of the herd in the vicinity of oil production. Herds near the Kuparuk oil field shrank by 41 percent.
- The Gwich'in Tribe's traditional way of life and century's old dependence on the Porcupine Herd would be destroyed.
- The United States should not sacrifice this arctic jewel for a short-term, shortsighted energy policy.

E-mail: Senator_Fitzgerald@fitzgerald.senate.gov

Phone: 202-224-2854

Fax: 202-228-1372

Capitol Address: Senator Peter Fitzgerald

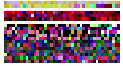
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Washington, D.C. 20510-1305

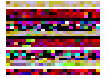
FOREST SERVICE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Our thanks to those who helped out on the recent panther den and ripple hollow trails. There were 30 people at panther den, including about 6-7 sierra people. The next volunteer project is Saturday, Sept 29 to work on Dutchman Lake and little cache (SE of Marion). Work starts at 9:30 at the jct. of FR 400 and CR 96 (Dutchman Lake rd). Leave Murdale sign at 8:30, Marion Walmart parking lot (nearest Ryan's) 9am. bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack, cap, sunscreen. For further info call Bob Tyson 684-5643 or ranger Petering 687-1731.

Continued on P. 5



SHAWNEE OUTINGS



Sept 29-30 - joint outing with Kaskaskia group of the sierra club at camp Ondessonk (near Vienna). We can car pool, leaving Murdale shopping center sign at 8:30 am. I presume that we will have a choice of 3 hikes commencing around 10 am. for those who would like to make a weekend out of it, you can tent camp, stay in one of the tree house lofts, or stay at St. Noel lodge nearby. Breakfast is available at the camp both days by reservation. some activity is planned for Sunday, as well. I have forms to reserve either lodging or breakfast, for more information call Bob Tyson 684-5643. Call or e-mail Don Lawrence if you would like to download the registration form (457-8989, donaldlaw@aol.com).

The **national Sierra Club** now requires that we have participants **sign a waiver** stating that the club is not responsible for accidents or injury on a hike. an outing commences when we gather at a trailhead. Henceforth, I will have a form for you to sign that shows the waiver verbiage and the spaces for your name and emergency number. The policy does not apply to non-sierra sponsored outings.

ADVENTURES WITH UNCLE BOB

by Bob Tyson

This monthly series is devoted to highlighting a hike for those unable to make our group outings or cannot find the places on their own. This month we feature **COVE HOLLOW**. Going south on Hwy 127, just before **Pomona**, turn onto **Dutch Ridge Rd**. Follow a few miles until you see a small brown hiking sign. turn onto **Cove Hollow Rd** and follow about 2 miles to the parking lot. There are two choices to start the trail. the one on your right will take you along bluff tops and at a point, you can descend to the bottom. There you would have to backtrack to see the first rockhouse (shelter). The other choice at the parking lot is to walk straight ahead (east) and descend the trail. At the bottom it makes a sharp right and will arrive at the bottom of the cliff line. Prominent features are the rock formations, two rock houses, canyons, just past the second rockhouse, head downhill to the shallow creek and cross on stepping stones. Resume the trail along the cliffs. You may take this trail all the way to Pomona road(3 miles). Along the way you will be treated to an unobstructed view of Cedar Lake from a high point. The other choice would be to turn around when you come to a sign junction and return to the parking lot. Any questions contact Bob at **684-5643**.

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 **October 20** with folding on **October 25** at Don Lawrence's house at 5:30 PM. To check on directions call Don at 457-8989.

EXCOM MEETING

The next ExCom meeting will be on **September 18** at 5:30 pm. For information on the location of the meeting call Laurel Toussaint at 964-1339. Anyone 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

Webmaster—Bob Pauls, 549-9408, bpauls@globaleyes.net
Website: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee>

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

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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).

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
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