

SHAWNEE TRAILS

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club November 2001



General Meeting

Shawnee Group, Sierra Club
November 2001

The November General Meeting of the Shawnee Group will take place at the Unitarian Fellowship building, at **7:30 PM**, on **November 8, 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, **Judy Dempsey** on **Nature Preserves update**.

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 the Great Wall at 5:45 p.m. on November 8, before the meeting.

Contents

Crab Orchard Alert.....	1
Shawnee Forest Trails Planning Meetings.....	3
Trails Update.....	3
New Shawnee Forest Wildlands Coordinator.....	4
Crab Orchard Refuge Tour Planned.....	4
A Costa Rican Odyssey	4
Whooping Cranes Flying South.....	4
Forest Service Reconstruction Projects.....	4
Outings, Meetings, Folding, ExCom.....	5
Officers, Membership form.....	6

Alert! Alert! Alert!

Time to Comment on the Crab Orchard Refuge Conservation Plan!

by Barbara McKasson

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(FWS) has published four general plans as possible alternatives for managing Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (CONWR) for the next 15 years or more. **YOUR COMMENTS ARE NEEDED ASAP!** After reviewing the comments, the FWS will submit a DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement) based on a preferred alternative for public comment - in spring, 2002. The FWS expects to adopt a final plan sometime in 2003. The "Project Update", including the four alternatives, is available at the Refuge. Call (618)997-3344.

Please submit your comments to the FWS by the middle of November. The official comment period ends November 1, but they will be compiling comments for 2-3 weeks after Nov. 1st, so your comments will be taken into consideration if received within that time frame. Submit comments to:

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge;
Attn.: CCP Comments
8588 Route 148 ;
Marion, IL 62959

By Website at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/planning/cotop.htm>
By Email to: conwr-ccp@fws.gov

We recommend including some or all of the following points that are taken from various alternatives given by the FWS in their "Project Update." The new refuge manager says they want to know which suggestions in any or all of the alternatives meet with your approval. Please support some or all of the following points in your comments:

* Turn scattered tracts of grassland and forest into larger contiguous tracts of grassland and forest, thus reducing the amount of edge habitat that harbors many predators.

Continued on P. 2

- * **Support** thinning of high density pine stands that do not allow natural hardwood re-generation. Support planting high quality, native hardwood seeds or seedlings among thinned out pine stands. Volunteers could help with this.
- * **Oppose** any clearcuts or "shelterwood" cuts of mixed pine and hardwood stands.
- * **Enhance** water quality by increasing efforts in the entire watershed, as well as on the refuge.
- * **Increase** efforts to inventory and assess the status of Federal and State threatened and endangered species.
- * **Expand** the designated wilderness to protect the Devils Kitchen Lake watershed. Also, we support expansion of the wilderness on the southern border of the current Crab Orchard Wilderness, and adjacent to Panther's Den Wilderness Area. This would provide a larger and more consolidated protected forest canopy for forest interior species, and also help preserve the wilderness quality of both existing wilderness areas.
- * **Support** management of Devils' Kitchen Lake for primitive recreation, allowing trolling motors only.
- * **Oppose** the use of jet skis on the Refuge. Jet skis cause serious water pollution by dumping unburned or partially burned petroleum products into the lake. Also, the noise caused by the jet skis can be very disturbing to wildlife, and people.
- * **Support** reduction of the "industrial footprint" on the Refuge through attrition.
- * **Support** consolidation of cropland fields. Reduce amount of cropland to the level required to support wintering flocks of Geese.
- * **Support** haying and grazing regimes that would benefit grassland birds, especially migrant grassland birds such as meadowlarks, native sparrows, etc.
- * **Support** converting grasslands to native grasslands, and planting of native prairie forbs in the native grasslands.
- * **Non-game wildlife** should be given at least as much consideration and resources as game wildlife in the CONWR-CCP.
- * Since the FWS is the agency responsible for the welfare of all federally threatened and endangered species, **T & E species should be given a high priority** in the plan, both plants and animals.
- * **Allow only vehicles licensed** to travel on official, "improved" roads - no 4-wheelers, and no off road vehicle use.
- * **Increase** emphasis on wildlife conservation and decrease the amount of land and resources devoted to agriculture and industry.
- * **Horse riding** on the refuge **should be confined** to designated, well-maintained trails. User-made trails should not be allowed.
- * **Environmental education and interpretive programs should be increased.**



Members Needed at Shawnee Forest Trails Planning Meetings! and Update on Progress

by Barbara McKasson

The **October Trails Planning meeting** led by Dale Brown, a professional facilitator, was 100% better than previous meetings led by FS personnel. Differences were smoothed over, everyone was respectful, and we actually had some intelligent discussion on issues. The FS people didn't like the fact that there was more criticism of their actions. However, **the blame for inaction and degradation of the resource was correctly placed on the doorstep of the FS for a change**, instead of being deflected to horse riders or environmentalists - how refreshing! There was also general agreement that we should concentrate on pursuing the three goals that the whole group agreed on previously - more funding for trails and recreation, improvement of the trails, and education on stewardship issues. I also see us working towards designation of more trails, with the twin goal of phasing out and obliterating unnecessary user made trails.

The group is functioning on a consensus basis rather than majority rules. However, **we still need more Sierra Club members to attend these meetings!** Please volunteer to come strengthen our voice in these decisions! **The group decided to hold meetings on the third Tuesday of every month** (we advocated every other month, but were outnumbered). The **next meeting is scheduled for November 20th at 6:30 PM**, with a backup date of November 13th (in case Nov. 20th conflicts with Marion H.S. or FS calendars). We will again meet at the old Montgomery Ward parking lot at 5:45 on Nov. 20th. We may meet at a Carbondale restaurant for dinner before the meeting. Please call Barb at 529-4824 for details, updates, or if you plan to carpool with us.

Extra! Extra! News Updates on Trails!

by Barb McKasson

Accomplishments by the Trails Planning Group were celebrated at the October Trails Planning meeting: **30 miles of trails in Wilderness were improved, more miles of trails were marked, two "stewardship" brochures were written, and a number of "Leave No Trace" workshops were given. Thanks to the Sierra Club volunteers** who have spent many hours in helping achieve these accomplishments. The possibility of workshops given by the FS on the FS budget process, and on the NEPA process was put forward.

Horse riders are pushing for more trails to be designated. Environmentalists pointed out that an Environmental Analysis (EA) needs to be done before designating new "official" trails to make sure they are sited in the most appropriate places and constructed to minimize environmental damage. Steve Hupe, a forest planner, suggested 'categorical exclusions' would be appropriate. Environmentalists pointed out that the use of categorical exclusions (which would bypass EAs) is still being debated, and that there is a formal FS comment period on this issue that ends Nov. 19.

There was agreement between horse riders and environmentalists that "hill gravel", which is naturally combined with clay, is a preferable material to use for trail surfacing. We need to get this idea adopted by the FS. Horse riders complained that many sections of the River to River Trail are degraded, and that riders no longer want to use the trail. This could be a cause for many of the "user made" trails (which could also erode and become unusable unless maintained).

Bruce Slover, the new Assistant Shawnee Forest Supervisor, announced that the EIS for the proposed designated trails through seven Natural Areas would be out for comment soon - probably in November. We will notify you of further developments on this.

As you can see, there is a lot going on, and we could use more minds, hearts and hands to help on all facets of trails planning, maintenance, marking, funding and stewardship education. Please contact **Barb 529-4824 for more details.**

New Shawnee Forest Wildlands Coordinator Hired

by Barbara McKasson

Terri Treacy, a long time forest advocate, has been hired by the Illinois Sierra Club Chapter to help with our Shawnee Forest Campaign. Thanks to Doug Chien, Illinois Chapter received a grant from National Sierra Club to create this one year position. **Terri will be helping groups throughout Illinois plan and organize outings to Shawnee Forest.** She will also set up an "Adopt a Wildland" program to promote a "guardian" program for present and proposed wilderness areas and some of the larger Natural Areas. Shawnee Group has decided to adopt Panther's Den. Look for further details on Terri's job and the "Adopt a Wildland" program in the January issue of the Chapter newsletter, the "Lake and Prairie."

Crab Orchard Refuge Tour Planned

Mike Brown, the biologist on Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, has offered to give us a tour of the refuge, including parts of the closed area. We will most certainly want to tour the proposed addition to the Wilderness Area. The **proposed date for the tour is Saturday, November 10th at 9 AM**, but this has not been finalized with Refuge personnel. This should be a fun, informative tour that will aid us in giving our input for the new management plan for the Refuge. Call Barb 529-4824 for finalized details of the tour.

A Costa Rican Odyssey

by Nelda Hinckley
January 3-12, 2002

From the Sarapiquí River to the La Selva Organization for Tropical Field Studies Field Station to Rancho Naturalista to Carara Biological Preserve, this adventure takes you to some of the most amazing places in Costa Rica. This Central American paradise is home to over 400 bird species, many unusual animals, exotic plants, and beautiful butterflies. This is a 10 day trip you won't forget. The cost of the trip is \$2,842 or \$2,693 if ten people sign on. The price includes airfare, lodging, all meals and field trips with a local expert guide. For more info call Nelda at 457-7676 ex. 8323 or 549-5588. Send your \$150 deposit to: Nelda Hinckley, Assistant Professor of Biology, John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL 62918.

Whooping Cranes Heading to Florida...we hope

by Don Lawrence

While up at our cottage in Friendship, Wisconsin I heard about a flight of 8 young Whooping Cranes to Florida that was to take off from Necedah Nat. Wildf. Ref. They were to follow ultralight aircraft. I missed the take off but according to newspaper reports they are well on their way. As of October 22 they had flown about 51 miles. No problems except for bird no. 4 who seems to want to do his own thing. Internet updates on the flight are available at << www.operationmigration.com>> and << www.bringbackthecranes.org>>.

FOREST SERVICE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

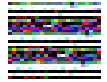
by Bob Tyson

Our last project was at **Dutchman Lake** in late September. **The only volunteers were five people from our club.** We built water bars into the uphill segment of the trail. No horseriders have worked on the last two work days.



SHAWNEE OUTINGS

by Bob Tyson



Ferne Clyffe State Park Nov 17. We will hike on the River to River trail segment that lies within the park. It is rated as moderate and we will do about a 6-8 mile loop. The carpool leaves the Murdale Shopping Center sign at 8 am with one stop in the Marion Walmart parking lot at 8:30. For more info call Bob Tyson at 684-5643.

Other Outings

Jackson County Hiking Club The group will explore a segment of the **Kinkaid Lake hiking trail** on Saturday, Nov 3. Meet at the Murdale Shopping Center sign 8 am. For more info contact Bridget Walsh 549-0176. Also a hike to **Lusk Creek Hike** on Dec 1. Meet same time and place or Marion Walmart parking lot 8:30 am

River to River Trails organization (call 252-6789): **Glen Jones Lake** , Nov 3 at 10 am. Hike the **Crest Trail**. The next outing is Nov. 10 to explore **Secret Canyon**. Meet 10am in Dellwood, IL.

ADVENTURES WITH UNCLE BOB

by Bob Tyson

This month we are leaving Southern Illinois to highlight an overview of SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE RECREATION AREA in Tennessee. Located between Nashville and Chattanooga. Take the I-24 exit at Monteagle. This park has 6 sections, spread over 30 miles. Go west from the exit to Sewanee and take TN56 south until you see a sign for Sewanee Natural Bridge. After taking in this sight, continue south on the highway as it winds down long switchbacks until you see the parking area for Buggytop Cave Trail. This trail is steep at first and then levels out for 2-3 miles. The cave has a top and bottom entrance. This self-guided cave is worth the trip. Upon return to Sewanee, proceed to the college and take North Carolina Ave on out to the parking area for the 20 mile Perimeter Loop Trail. It offers numerous mountaintop views as well as descents below the cliff lines for interesting rock formations, shelter bluffs, cave. waterfall. A future issue of 'Shawnee Trails will discuss the East side of this area so save this issue.

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 24** with folding on **November 29** 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 15, 5:30 p.m. at Clara McClure's. For directions, call Clara at 457-2025. 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

SIERRA CLUB
P.O. Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117
Earth

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

Paid

Carbondale, IL
Permit 3

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

Grls Coordinator—John Kirkpatrick, 893-4663

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

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

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

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).

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



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

**P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO
80322-2968**

**F97QW1349
F97QW1G**