



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — May 2002

May Member Meeting — Stalking the Native Iris

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Join Shawnee Group members on May 16th at the Unitarian Fellowship building for the 7:30 PM presentation on native irises and wild plants by Debbie White of Dubois, IL. Members are also invited to come socialize and meet the speaker at the pre-meeting dinner from 5:45 to 7:15 PM at Big Boy's Q'n Restaurant, 104 West Jackson, Carbondale.

Debbie White is a Certified Master Gardener and expert on the wild irises.

There are approximately thirty species of irises native to North America. These native irises are threatened by loss of habitat. Collecting wild plants can be harmful to their habitat. The only acceptable way to propagate plants from the wild is by collecting seed, and this should only be done in moderation. Many of the native irises are difficult to transplant and difficult to maintain if they survive transplantation.

The native irises that can be readily grown in the garden are available from a number of commercial suppliers.



Iris brevicaulis Rafinesque
(Short-stemmed iris)

Iris seeds are also available from seed exchange programs.

Also to be discussed at the May meeting is the development of the Shawnee Group's action committees in support of local, state and national environmental issues.

This issue's contains an insert outlining some of the committees needing volunteers to work on important issues.

Attend and get involved.

May Alerts Inside

- Roadless Areas Threatened
- Shawnee National Forest (SNF) Plan Revision Notice of Intent

Member Meetings in May

May 18th — Shawnee Group EXCOM meeting at Clara McClure's, 5:30 PM.

May 10th-12th — Illinois Chapter EXCOM gathering in Carbondale. (see inside)

May 20th — May Newsletter content submission deadline.

Outings Calendar

(See outing updates at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>)

Please RSVP all outings to leaders!

SIERRA CLUB SPONSORED OUTINGS

May 11th — Hike with the Illinois Sierra Club Executive Committee at Rocky Bluff. Call leader Terri Treacy at 618-521-1030 or <mailto:territreacy@yahoo.com>

May 12th — Hike with the Illinois Sierra Club Executive Committee to Hutchins Creek Wilderness Complex. Enjoy scenic views, Spring wildflowers, migrating songbirds with local naturalists guides. Call Terri Treacy 618-521-1030 or <mailto:territreacy@yahoo.com>

May 23 - 26th — Mini-Broadwalk for the Great Old Broads for Wilderness. See: <http://www.greatoldbroads.org> Call Terri Treacy at 618-521-1030 or <mailto:territreacy@yahoo.com>

May 27th — Horse Creek Trail hike in Alexander County. Three mile hike over steep terrain. Meet and carpool at Murphysboro Ranger Station at 9 AM or at trail head at 9:45 AM. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>

SERVICE OUTINGS

* All trail work starts at 9 AM and ends at 3 PM. Bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack, and appropriate clothing. Tools provided with R.S.V.P. reply.

May 18th — *Lusk Creek Trail maintenance. Meet on Co. Rd. 100 across from the Circle B Campground or carpool at Murdale Shopping Center sign at 7:45 AM & at 8:30 AM at the Marion Wal-Mart (by Ryan's). Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>; or call Ranger Peterin at 687-1731.

June 29th — *Ripple Hollow Trail maintenance. Meet on Forest Route (FR) 664, west of Millcreek, IL at the junction of FR 235 or carpool at Murdale Shopping Center sign at 8 AM and at Murphysboro ranger station at 8:20 AM. Call Bob Tyson at 833-8576 or 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>.

July 27th — *Dutchman Lake section of River-to-River Trail maintenance. Meet on FR 400 and Dutchman Lake Road. Call Bob Tyson: 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>.

August 31st — *Panthers Den section of River-to-River Trail maintenance. Meet at junction of FR 725 and CR 45 or carpool from Murdale Shopping Center sign at 8 AM. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>

September 28th — *Cedar Lake section of River-to-River Trail maintenance. Meet at junction of FR 360 and CR 17 or carpool at Murdale Shopping Center sign at 8 AM & at Murphysboro Forest Service ranger station 8:20. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>.

NON-SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

For these hikes, contact John O'Dell at 252-6789. All hikes start at 10 AM.

May 4 — Sand Cave to Jackson Hollow hike. Meet at Shawnee-mart in Eddyville.

May 11 — High Knob to Garden of the Gods. Meet at the Garden of the Gods parking lot.

June 1 — Trail Days. Eddyville. Noon. Includes seminars and hike to Secret Canyon fish fry.

Discover Southern Illinois

Photos by Ed Cook



Do you have pictures of Southern Illinois outdoors that you would like to share? Call or write the newsletter editor at 549-9408 or <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com>

ALERT: Shawnee National Forest (SNF) Plan Notice of Intent

The Forest Service has now announced their "Notice of Intent" (NOI) to revise the Shawnee National Forest (SNF) Plan. The Forest Service will be accepting comments on the need for changes in the Plan. We know that loggers and off-road vehicle (i.e. dirt bikes, 4-wheelers) riders are telling the Forest Service to open more of the Shawnee to their destructive uses. You can help by sending in a personal letter, e-mail, or FAX to the Forest Service by May 31st, 2002. You can use some of the sample letter below or visit <http://www.illinois.sierraclub.org> for more specifics. For more information on the Shawnee National Forest "Notice of Intent", go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/shawnee> and then click on "Need for Change - Notice of Intent."

Submitted by Barbara McKasson

To Whom It May Concern:

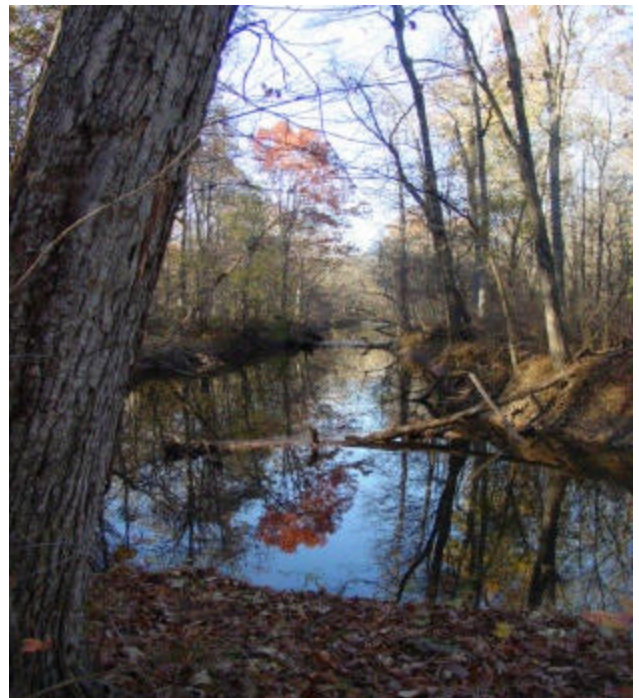
Please accept these comments on the revision of the Shawnee Land and Resources Management Plan. The top priority for management should be the protection for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, and of native plant communities and wildlife habitat. Specifically, I urge you to:

- *End commercial timber sales, and new oil, gas and mineral leasing.*
- *Recommend and protect Burke Branch, Ripple Hollow, and Camp Hutchins as "Wilderness."*
- *Recommend Lusk, Bay, Big, Grand Pierre, Hutchins, and Barren creeks be designated as "Wild and Scenic Rivers."*
- *Protect all eighty designated Natural Areas from all incompatible uses. No additional horse trails should be designated in these fragile areas.*
- *Protect forest interior species and reduce forest fragmentation by 1) managing all forest areas as Forest Interior Management Units and 2) by eliminating all artificial wildlife openings.*
- *Create a well-maintained and marked system of horse/hiker and hiker-only trails throughout the Shawnee. Illegal user-made trails should be closed and official trails should close when conditions will lead to erosion and habitat damage.*
- *Prohibit all off-road vehicle use. It is incompatible with all other types of recreation and with the preservation of native vegetation and wildlife. Off-road vehicle use causes extreme erosion, siltation and pollution.*
- *Prohibit the weakening of current standards for pesticide use.*

What is a Forest Plan?

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the National Forest Management Act of 1976 require that a land and resource management plan (Forest Plan or Plan) be prepared for each national forest. The Forest Plan is a management strategy that guides all natural resource management activities for the national forest for a 10 to 15 year period.

The Shawnee National Forest Plan provides guidance for the implementation of project level decisions. All projects must be in compliance with the Forest Plan, or the Plan must be amended.



Don't delay, send in your comments today to!

Attention: Monica Ross
 Shawnee National Forest
 NOI-FP Revision
 50 Hwy. 145 South
 Harrisburg, IL 62946
 FAX: (618) 658-2071
 e-mail: <mailto:mlross@fs.fed.us>

ALERT: Threat to Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR)

According to a *Dear Colleague letter* sent to all of the members of the House of Representatives in April, roadless area protection legislation that would make the threatened "Roadless Area Conservation Rule" a law will be introduced later this spring,

Calls, letters, faxes and e-mails are urgently needed asking your Representatives to co-sponsor the **National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2002**.

The timing couldn't be better, because the Forest Service, and their bosses in the Bush Administration, are working overtime to return to the time when large-scale logging in roadless areas was permitted. President Bush wants to abolish the so-called roadless area conservation rule. It is critical that Congress intervene to ensure all remaining roadless areas remain protected. There are two proposed roadless areas in Shawnee Forest - Burke Branch and Ripple Hollow.

In addition to stopping this renewed assault on roadless areas, legislating the rule will have significant long-term effects on the ground. According to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the roadless conservation rule would reduce logging allowed under existing Forest Plans by 85% in inventoried roadless areas from an estimated 1.1 billion board feet over 5 years, to just 160 million board feet. In addition, an estimated 623 miles of new logging roads will not be built over the same five year period. Preventing logging and roads stops forest fragmentation.

The bills' main sponsors are Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) and Jay Inslee (D-WA). They were joined on the *Dear Colleague letter* by ten other representatives (regrettably, none from Illinois) in a strong show of bipartisan leadership for this legislation. More representatives are needed to sign on to this "Roadless Area Protection" bill to protect the nation's 58 million acres of National Forest roadless areas.

Calls, letters, faxes and e-mails are urgently needed to your Representative asking him/her to be a co-sponsor of the **National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2002**. Interested Representatives should call either Rep. Jay Inslee or Rep. Sherwood Boehlert's office to sign on.

A sample letter that you can send to your Congressional Representative to encourage them to sign on as a cosponsor is available at http://www.americanlands.org/sample_letter.htm

To phone your representative, call the Capitol Switchboard number at 202-224-3121.

The address is: (Your Representative's name), US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, and Fax numbers and e-mail addresses can be found at <http://www.congress.org> or the April issue of Shawnee Trails.

What is a Roadless Area?

Roadless areas are lands not designated as wilderness that still retain natural characteristics and vary in importance for primitive types of recreation, pristine scenic quality, important fish and wildlife habitats, contributions to biological diversity, watershed protection, other natural values, and, in some cases, resource development options

254,000 acres = Total area of National Forest System land in Illinois that may be open to road construction and reconstruction depending on prescriptions in resource management plans if roadless areas are not protected. (Source: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>)

Roadless area conservation rules protect communities and do not infringe on property rights. The roadless area conservation rule:

- allows new roads to be constructed in specified circumstances, such as to fight fires or when other natural disasters threaten public safety.
- does not close any existing roads or trails and allows full-access for recreational activities such as backpacking, camping, hunting and fishing,
- does not affect the right of access to property owned by states or individuals
- allows logging of certain timber to reduce the risk of wildfires, and allows for expansion of oil and gas operations within existing or renewed leased areas.

Submitted by Barbara McKasson

This Month

Illinois Chapter EXCOM Meeting Dinner and Outings

The Shawnee Group will play host to fellow Sierra Club leaders from throughout Illinois on the weekend of May 11th and 12th. We encourage members to come to the dinner and party being held at 7:30 PM on Saturday, May 11th, at Dottie and Bill Boman's home. Please bring either a salad, desert or *hors d'ouvres* /nibbles.

Directions to the Boman's house: From central Carbondale take highway 13 west to Giant City Road. Go South on Giant City Rd. to Grassy Rd. You can only turn left (East) onto Grassy Rd. Go 2.9 miles on Grassy Rd. to Rocky Comfort Rd. (if you get to Devil's Kitchen signs, you have gone too far). You can only turn right (South) onto Rocky Comfort Rd. Go 2 miles south on Rocky Comfort Rd. to a fork in the road. Take the right fork, which is still Rocky Comfort. Then go 3.1 miles past the fork. The only road you will pass is Water Valley Rd. on the right. The Boman's house is the third driveway on the right past Water Valley Rd. The Boman's driveway is directly across

from Panther's Den Rd. Look for the big blue roof. Turn right into Boman's driveway. The address is 2795 Rocky Comfort Road.

The EXCOM members will hike the Rocky Bluff Nature Trail in the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge on Saturday morning. On Sunday, they will hike in the proposed Camp Hutchins wilderness area.

Meet at Murdale Shopping Center Sign at 9:45 AM on Sunday, May 12, to carpool to Camp Hutchins. Bring a lunch and water. The hike will be about 4 miles - mostly on ridge tops. We will eat lunch by scenic Hutchins Creek. We will return to Carbondale by 3:30 PM so out-of-towners can catch the northbound Amtrak.

For more details, call Barb McKasson at (618) 529-4824 or Terri Treacy at (618) 521-1030.

Outings with Uncle Bob

Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure

This month we journey to Spring City, Tennessee. Approximately 130 miles east of Nashville on I-40 at Exit 240 go south on US 27 for 40 miles to Spring City. First we will visit **PINEY FALLS STATE NATURAL AREA**. Go 5 miles on Hwy 68 from town northwest to Grandview. Continue 2.7 miles to Burdette Road on the left. Go 1/3 of a mile and turn right onto Firetower Road and go 1.5 miles. Park by a dirt road on your right. The area is not marked.

Start your hike here. This is a 1.9 mile round trip. As you proceed down the trail, you will come to an unmarked intersection where you need to bear left. As you hike, the bluff height increases from a low of 40 up to 100 feet high. The trail ends in a lovely, tall amphitheater canyon with a 50 foot waterfall. You can walk behind the falls.

You can also go back to Spring City and take Shut-in Gap Road to a picnic area that is the trailhead for the **PINEY RIVER TRAIL**. This is an easy, ten mile, one-way hike along an old railroad bed. Trail highlights include three waterfalls, bluff shelters, high bridges over creeks, and an old mine. It ends at Newby Branch Forest Camp. You could park here for a car shuttle by taking Shut-in Gap Road up the rough mountain gravel road. **TWIN ROCKS TRAIL** also starts from the picnic area. It climbs to 1,300 feet for a panoramic view over the valley and gorge.

Both trails are owned by Bowater Lumber Corporation and are open with free access by the public.

For additional information on these or other outing locations, call Bob Tyson at 684-5643, <mailto:robkay43@webtv.com>

Get the Shawnee Trails Delivered via E-mail

Every color-filled issue of Shawnee Trails is available up to a week in advance of the paper version. To receive it in your e-mail simply go to <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/il-shawnee-trails.html>. Go to the URL, select "Join or leave the list", enter your name, address and membership number found on both your membership card and the newsletter mailing label and you'll soon be receiving the Shawnee Trails electronic newsletter.



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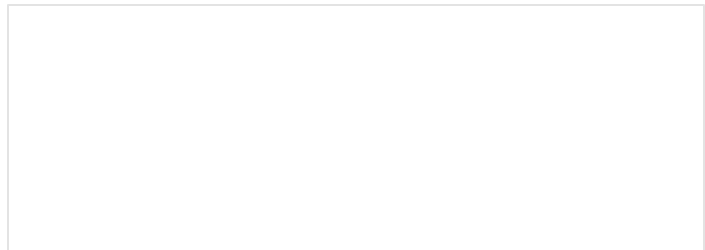
Carbondale, IL

Permit 3

Shawnee Group
P.O. Box 117
Carbondale, IL 62903-0117
Earth

" There is just one hope of repulsing the tyrannical ambition of civilization to conquer every inch on the whole earth. That hope is the organization of spirited people who will fight for the freedom and preservation of wilderness."

— Bob Marshall



Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Chair	Laurel Toussaint	964-1339	✉ mailto:laureltous@hotmail.com
Vice-Chair	Donna Ayers	985-6917	✉ mailto:dayers@accessus.net
Secretary	Cathie Hutcheson	529-2022	✉ mailto:hutche@siu.edu
Treasurer	Bill Boman	995-9976	✉ mailto:billbo@onemain.com
Membership Chair	Ron Schmeck	529-8387	✉ mailto:rae50@siu.edu
Outings Chair	Bob Tyson	684-5643	✉ mailto:robkay43@webtv.com
Chapter Delegate	Barbara McKasson	529-4824	✉ mailto:babitaji@aol.com (Ex-Officio)

Action Committee Chairs

Conservation, Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Habitat and Wildlife	Barbara McKasson
Fundraising	Bill Boman
International Populations	Cathie Hutcheson
Land Management, Parks and Refuges	Stanley Harris
Marine	Don Lawrence
National Forests – End Commercial Logging	Ed Cook
Political	Clara McClure
Programs	Donna Ayers
Information Technology, Publications, and Newsletter Editor	Bob Pauls ✉ mailto:sg618@yahoo.com

Sierra Club Websites

National: <http://www.sierraclub.org>
Illinois Chapter: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org>
Shawnee Group: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/index.htm>

Subscribe to the Shawnee Trails Newsletter & Access Its Archives:

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<http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/il-shawnee-forum.html>

National Sierra Club Listserv Portal:

<http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/infosys/Listserv/ListHome.asp>