



Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — June 2002

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Shawnee National Forest Plan Needs Comments Now

Deadline: June 3rd. Don't delay. Send in your comments today!

The Forest Service will soon cease accepting public comments on the need for changes in the Shawnee National Forest Plan. We know that loggers and off-road vehicle (i.e. dirt bike, 3-4-wheel ATV) riders are telling the US Forest Service to open more of the Shawnee National Forest to their destructive uses.

PLEASE send in a letter, e-mail, or FAX to the US Forest Service by June 3rd.

You can either:

1. Write your own letter using statements from the sample letter inserted into this issue, plus your own comments, or
2. Use the enclosed sample letter as a form letter (print your name and address on the top of the page), or
3. Visit <http://www.illinois.sierraclub.org> for text you can cut and paste into your message to send by e-mail or to print out.

Don't forget to include your return address. For even greater impact, send copies to your U.S. Representative and Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald.

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", or request information via e-mail <mailto:mlross@fs.fed.us> or via FAX: (618) 658-2071, Attention: Monica Ross. |

June Alerts

- Roadless Area Rule Revision
- Shawnee National Forest Notice of Intent
- Save the Cache River Restoration Project

Upcoming Member Activities

- June** ——— No regular membership meeting in June!
- June 20th** ——— Shawnee Group EXCOM meeting at Clara McClure's, 5:30 PM.
- June 21st** ——— July Newsletter content submission deadline.
- June 27th** ——— Newsletter folding party.
- July 13th** ——— Members' picnic and pool party at Stan Harris' house, 98 Edgewood Lane in Carbondale (off of New Era Road).
- August 3rd** ——— Potluck picnic, swimming, and kayaking at Spring Arbor Lake.

Outings Calendar

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

SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

July 26 - 28th – Camping, caving at Marengo, IN and canoeing Scenic Blue River. Contact: Bob Pauls, <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com>, 549-9408.

August 24th – Canoeing the lower Big Muddy River. Contact: Bob Pauls, <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com>, 549-9408.

SERVICE OUTINGS

The volunteer trails work with the Forest Service previously scheduled for May 18th was cancelled due to flooding of the affected area. near Lusk Creek. This work project will be re-scheduled. All trail work starts at 9 AM and ends by 3 PM. Bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack, and appropriate clothing. Tools provided with R.S.V.P. reply.

June 29th – *Ripple Hollow Trail maintenance. 9 AM. Directions: Take Hwy 127 to Millcreek, IL. Just south of town, find Union-Alexander county line road. Turn right and follow this road several miles and before turning left onto FR 235. Travel several miles on 235 until you see the trailhead sign on the right. It is also accessible by taking RT 3 to McClure, IL and turn onto Grapevine Trail Rd. Travel 5 miles and then turn north (left) just before the campground. Trailhead sign is about 5 miles up this road. Carpool leaves at 7:45 AM from the big sign at Murdale Shopping Center in Carbondale and stops at 8:10 AM at the junction of Old Hwy 13 and RT 127 near Murphysboro. RSVP: Barb McKasson, <mailto:babitaji@aol.com> at 529-4824, or Ranger Kelly Pearson at 618-833-8576.

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

June 1 – Secret Canyon hike. 12:00 Noon. Sponsored by River-to-River Trail Society. Eddyville, IL. The day also includes seminars and a fish fry. RSVP and directions: John O'Dell, 252-6789. |

Five Things You Should Know About the Bush Administration and Enron

Rank of Enron among political contributors from the oil and gas industry in the 1999-2000 election cycle: 1

Rank of George W. Bush's campaign among the recipients of contributions from the oil and gas industry: 1

Total amount Enron contributed to federal political campaigns in 1999-2000: \$2.3 million

Total amount the Bush campaign received from the oil and gas industry in 1999-2000: \$1.9 million

Total amount Bill Clinton's campaigns received from the oil and gas industry during the two preceding Presidential elections: \$298,000.

Find out more about [How Enron Played California](http://www.sierraclub.org/currents/enron2.asp), <http://www.sierraclub.org/currents/enron2.asp>
Source: The Center for Responsive Politics, <http://www.opensecrets.org/pressreleases/energybriefing.htm> . |

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: HELP PROTECT ROADLESS AREAS IN OUR NATIONAL FORESTS

Submitted by Barbara McKasson

Urge your U.S. Rep to Co-sponsor the Roadless Area Conservation Act. Help build congressional pressure against the Bush Administration's rollback of roadless area protection and the Forest Service's plans for numerous new roadless area logging projects. Please contact your Representative at 202/224-3121 or by fax or e-mail at <http://www.congress.org> and urge him/her to be a co-sponsor of the Inslee/Boehlert Roadless Area Conservation Act of 2002. If their staff says that they have already signed on, please thank them.

A sample letter that you can cut and paste, and send to your Representative to encourage them to sign on as a co-sponsor is available at http://www.americanlands.org/sample_letter.htm or use the shortened sample letter below.

Representative (Your Rep's name)
US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20015

RE: Please co-sponsor the Boehlert/Inslee National Forest Roadless Area Protection Act of 2002

Dear Rep. _____:

On January 12, 2001, President Clinton signed the Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) that protected nearly 60 million acres of wild public forests. Unfortunately, the Bush Administration has worked aggressively to erode that policy, first by delaying implementation of the rule then issuing directives that essentially dismantled the plan. As a result, timber sales and other development projects are now moving forward in some of our nation's most pristine forestlands.

I believe that Congress must take immediate action to permanently protect roadless areas. To that end, I urge you to be a cosponsor of bipartisan legislation introduced by Representatives Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) and Jay Inslee (D-WA) that would codify the RACR.

The U.S. Forest Service spent three years writing a policy to spare roadless areas in the National Forests from logging, mining, and road building. The agency held 600 public meetings and logged 1.6 million comments from the public, which supported the policy by more than 90 percent.

Flying in the face of such support, President Bush's appointee, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth announced last year he would amend the rule through individual forest plans, returning the management of these wild forests to a decision-making process that has not adequately protected roadless areas in the past. Additionally, forest-by-forest decisions have resulted in nearly 400,000 miles of roads and an \$8.5 billion road maintenance backlog in our National Forests, all borne by the taxpayer. Indeed, short-sighted local decisions on forest management are what created the need for the RACR.

In addition, Chief Bosworth has issued a series of directives that have gutted the Clinton policy.

Meanwhile, the Forest Service is preparing and implementing destructive timber sales throughout the country. For example, the Forest Service is preparing to log thirty-three roadless areas in the Tongass. Over the next five years, the agency plans to cut as much as 1.3 billion board feet of timber from sensitive areas of the Tongass. Roadless areas in other states are also immediately threatened.

Time is of the essence. Congress must take immediate action to save these last wild places. Please support the Boehlert/Inslee National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act by becoming a cosponsor.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

June 2, 2002

Shawnee National Forest
NOI-FP Revision
50 Hwy. 145 South
Harrisburg, IL 62946

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; 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 as "Wild and Scenic Rivers."
- Protect all 80 designated Natural Areas from all incompatible uses. No additional horse trails should be designated in these areas.
- Protect forest interior species and reduce forest fragmentation by
 - 1) managing all forest areas of at least 500 acres 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.
- Prohibit all off-road vehicle use. It is incompatible with all other types of recreation and with the preservation of native vegetation and wildlife. It also causes extreme erosion, siltation and pollution.
- Do not weaken pesticide use standards.

Sincerely,

Chapter ExCom Meeting A Great Success

In May, the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club hosted the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) meeting.

We made the arrangements for the Illinois Chapter delegates and officers to hold their bi-monthly board meeting at Touch of Nature Environmental Center.

We made sure that they combined play with work, and they left with much enthusiasm for the beauty of our area. Many of the participants, along with members of our group, hiked the Rocky Bluff Trail, and saw highlights of some wilderness areas. A lucky few got to hike in Little Grand Canyon, plus making a winery stop. We all enjoyed a great party at the Boman's house.

Thanks to Dottie and Bill Boman, Gale and Ed Cook, Barb McKasson and Anne Hill for helping to make the weekend a success. |

Save for the Great Carbondale Yard Sale

Every year the Shawnee Group raises a major portion of its operating revenue from proceeds of its sale booth at the Great Carbondale Yard Sale. Sale items are donated by the many members of the Shawnee Group. If you have items to contribute to the sale, please contact Anne Hill (457-7206) or any member of the EXCOM listed on the back for arrangements to transport and store your items. |

Join the Online Member Forum

Make your views known on the environment. Have a role in shaping the quality of your environment. Let YOUR views be known.

Subscribe to the Shawnee Group Discussion Forum Listserv by visiting this website:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/memberlists?listname=IL-SHAWNEE-FORUM>

This forum is open to ALL Shawnee Group members. |

Outings with Uncle Bob

Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure

This month we travel to SAND CAVE NATURAL AREA. Drive to Eddyville, IL and then take a street through town going northeast as if you were going to Bell Smith Springs. After traveling approximately 4 miles, turn left at the sign for Cedar Grove Church. As you pass the church, look for the next road to turn right. Park at the small clearing by the Forest Service boundary. There is private property just to the right, so be careful not to block that road. Hike straight ahead on this wide lane about a half mile. Now you come to the yellow natural area posts on your right. Those of you with horses will have to tie up here. Hike on your right about a half-mile, whereupon you will be rewarded with this enormous cave or shelter bluff. This appears to be 100 feet deep and a roof height of 30 ft. It is worthwhile to continue further along the trail from here to view the pretty cliff walls and rock formations for the next mile. At some point, you will see a fire lane to your right. If you wish to continue on, turn left at this lane intersection and follow for some distance to a lovely cliff canyon adjoining a creek. There is a trail on your right (upon descending into the canyon) where one can bushwhack on to Bell Smith Springs. For additional information on these or other outing locations, call Bob Tyson at 684-564, or, <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://www.sierraclub.org/memberlists?listname=IL-SHAWNEE-TRAILS>.

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. |

ALERT: Save the Cache River Restoration Project

Letters Needed to Prevent the Nature Conservancy from Cutting Cache River Project from Budget

Bird watchers, botanists, and many others are concerned about the future of the Cache River area, an internationally recognized wetland (and a RAMSAR site), as well as, a valuable habitat for many species. Hundreds of acres of bottomland forest still need to be restored at the Cache River Project. Natural water flowage still needs further management.

Completion of these projects and the entire Cache River Wetlands Joint Venture (a partnership of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency) is now threatened by cutbacks being made by The Illinois Nature Conservancy. The Illinois TNC has laid off two workers at the Cache Restoration Project and they say only one TNC biologist will remain in Southern Illinois. We hope that a letter writing campaign to the Illinois Nature Conservancy will persuade them to rearrange their priorities and restore funding to the Cache Project.

The Nature Conservancy, like most other nonprofit groups, has experienced huge losses in the value of its endowment and a precipitous decline in contributions due to a slowing economy and a fall in stock prices. However, the Illinois TNC is still funding projects in other parts of the state, and could redirect some of their money and efforts from other projects in order to keep the partnership and restoration projects alive at the Cache River Project.

People in the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society have put in a lot of time and effort into helping to establish the partnership, and some Sierra Club members are still on the Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Cache River Project. Those who have visited the area (roughly bounded by Heron Pond, Cypress, Karnak, Perks, and Ullin) over the years have seen the encouraging changes that this partnership have brought: the planting of thousands of trees, the purchase of thousands of acres, research into water flow plans, the establishment of Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, and the building of trails, boardwalks, boat ramps, overlooks, and other recreational and tourist opportunities. Former farmlands are now a sea of grass for ground nesting birds. Mudflats and marshes attract migrant birds. It would be tragic to have much of the promise of the restoration of this important wetland stagnate because of cutbacks by the Illinois Nature Conservancy.

Please write to the Illinois Nature Conservancy and express your concerns over the future of the Cache River area and the restoration project in light of their cutbacks. Let them know it is important that they continue their involvement and funding for the Cache River Joint Venture. Urge them to make the Cache River Project a higher priority.

Write to:

Bruce Boyd, Director
The Illinois Nature Conservancy
Eight South Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 346-8166.

Michael Reuter
The Illinois Nature Conservancy
416 Main Street
Peoria, IL 61602



What is RAMSAR?

An international Treaty signed in Ramsar, Iran in 1971 to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetland areas.

Why was the Cache River chosen as a RAMSAR site?

As one of only 18 RAMSAR sites in the US, the site is the "confluence of four physiographic provinces with high biological diversity, high quality occurrences of rare communities and species, bottomland hardwoods, migratory water birds and bird habitat, ancient trees, and mammalian predators -- a site with nationally and internationally significant and unique ecological values. Wetland types include swamps, shrub swamps, open water, wet floodplain forests or bottomland hardwood forests, and wet farmland. Located on the Mississippi flyway, the area is important to migrating, staging and wintering waterfowl, especially ducks and geese. Since 1900, the basin has undergone substantial hydrological modifications."

Visit: <http://www.ramsar.org/>

Submitted by Barbara McKasson

Thanks to Lorraine Wright's article in the Southern Illinois Audubon Newsletter for much of the content of this alert, and for alerting us to this alarming development. |

Summer is here and Sierra Club members tend to scatter to the four corners of the Earth for solo, group and family outings. Before you head out the door, take our list and check it twice. Get out there, have fun, be safe!

Base Camping Equipment Checklist

Required Items

All Trips

- First Aid Kit
- Boots (well broken in)
- Short sleeve shirts (2)
- Hiking Shorts
- Thick outer socks (3 pairs)
- Thin inner socks (3 pairs)
- Underwear (3 pairs)
- Hat with wide brim
- Sunglasses (with 100% UV protection)
- Water bottles or hydration system (2 qt. or liter size)
- Sunscreen and Lip screen (Rated at least 15 SPF)
- Daypack
- Toiletries (Biodegradable soap, toothpaste, tooth brush. Females should bring tampons, even if it is not your regular period)
- Insect repellent
- Lip balm

Camping Trips

- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Tent with rainfly and ground cloth (share if possible)
- Large bag to carry gear to campsite
- Rain pants and jacket
- Flashlight (w/ extra batteries and bulb)
- Sturdy plastic or lightweight metal spoon/fork
- Sierra cup or (bowl or light plate and mug)
- Pocket knife

Colder Weather Camping Trips Only

- Long underwear tops/bottoms (Polypro, Silk, Capilene)
- Down or fleece parka or jacket
- Long pants
- Warm gloves
- Warm headgear (wool or fleece)

Optional Items

- Bandanna
- Camp shoes
- Long-sleeved cotton shirt
- Wool shirt
- Small towel
- Swimsuit
- Reading material
- Pen & paper
- Hiking stick/poles
- Large garbage bags (to keep things dry)
- Lightweight binoculars
- Maps
- Camera and film

Canoe Equipment Checklist

Required Items

Gear

- First Aid Kit
- Canoe, life vest and paddles
- Wading shoes (fast-drying with good grip soles)
- Camp shoes
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Tent with rainfly and ground cloth (share if possible)

Clothing

All Trips

- Rain pants and jacket
- Lightweight long-sleeved shirt
- Tee or short sleeve shirts (2)
- Shorts
- Socks (3 pairs, no cotton)
- Underwear (3 pairs)

Colder Weather Trips Only

- Long underwear tops/bottoms (Polypro, Silk, Capilene)
- Fleece parka or jacket
- Thin gloves
- Warm headgear (wool or fleece)

Accessories

- Hat with wide brim
- Dark sunglasses (with UV protection)
- Water bottles or hydration system
- Flashlight
- Sturdy plastic or lightweight metal spoon/fork
- Sierra cup or bowl (or light plate and mug)
- Pocket knife
- Lip balm
- Sunscreen and Lip screen (Rated at least 15 SPF)
- Plastic bags (to keep gear dry)
- Insect repellent
- Bailer (for any heavy downpours)
- Daypack (for carrying gear in canoes)
- Toiletries

Optional Items

- Bandanna
- Camp shoes or sandals
- Long pants
- Long-sleeved wool shirt or sweater
- Small towel
- Snack (a few energy bars)
- Reading material
- Pen & paper
- Maps
- Camera and film



Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

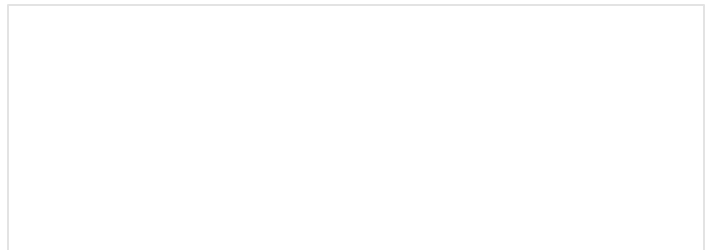
Carbondale, IL

Permit 3

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

One day's exposure to mountains is better than cartloads of books. See how willingly Nature poses herself upon photographers' plates. No earthly chemicals are so sensitive as those of the human soul.

— John Muir



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>

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National Sierra Club Listserv Portal:
<http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/infosys/Listserv/ListHome.asp>