



# Shawnee Trails

## News of the Shawnee Group —

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### August Membership Picnic

**Who:**

You and new friends.

**What:**

Great food, swimming in Spring Arbor Lake, socializing, strategizing, adventure planning, and more.

**Where:**

Don Lawrence's Home, 139 Spring Arbor, 1.5 miles south of Giant City School On Giant City Road

**When:**

August 3rd, 3:00 PM

**Why:**

Because its still Summer !

Come cool off in the forest and do a good deed at the same time!

Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> is the date for the next Forest Service trail maintenance work project in the Shawnee National Forest. While Southern Illinois may be hot and muggy outside in August, the interior forest will be several degrees cooler and lots of fun.

Panther Den Wilderness is located in the Shawnee National Forest just south of Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge in Williamson County. It is a very beautiful area with sheltered overhangs, 70 foot high bluffs, and narrow crevices where huge rock blocks have split off from the canyon walls.

Several months ago the Shawnee Group adopted Panther Den Wilderness as part of the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club's *Adopt-A-Wildland* program. This means that we have agreed to make a special effort to watch over and care for this special section of the Shawnee National Forest.

Participating in this month's Forest Service trail maintenance project at Panther Den along the River-to-River Trail would be a great way to begin our adoption duty, and at the same time show the Forest Service that the Sierra Club is dedicated to trails in our forest. It will also be a great way to get to know our "adopted" wildland a little better and to spend a day outdoors with friends and like-minded nature lovers.

Meet at junction of FR 725 and CR 45 at 9:00 AM, or carpool from Murdale Shopping Center sign at 8:00 AM. Bring work gloves, water, lunch, snacks. Need more information? Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>

By Terri Treacy

**Panther Den Wilderness** is located in Union County. It is the smallest of all the designated wilderness areas in Illinois (only 1,195 acres), but it adjoins the meandering southern border of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge that is primarily located in Williamson County. It acquired its name from the rock formation shown below known as Panther Den. The site is located near the center of the area that was formed by a river that once flowed through the area.



## Outings Calendar

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



### SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** – Canoe the lower Big Muddy River. Reservation deadline: Aug. 16th. Contact: Bob Pauls, <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com>, 549-9408. Details: <http://Illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings/bigmuddy2002.pdf>

### SERVICE OUTINGS

All trail work starts at 9 AM and ends by 3:00PM. Bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack, and appropriate clothing. Tools provided with R.S.V.P. reply.

**August 31<sup>st</sup>** – Panther 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 8:00 AM. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or e-mail: <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>.

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** – Cedar Lake section of River-to-River Trail maintenance. Meet at junction of FR 360 and CR 17 or carpool at the Murdale Shopping Center sign at 8:00 AM at Murphysboro Forest Service ranger station 8:20 AM. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or e-mail: <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>.

## Upcoming Events:

- August 3rd ~ Membership picnic @ Spring Arbor Lake, 3:00 PM
- August 15th ~ EXCOM Meeting @ Bob Pauls, 5:30 PM
- August 23rd ~ Newsletter content submission deadline, 6:00 PM
- August 26th ~ Newsletter folding @ Don Lawrence's, 5:30 PM

## Outings with Uncle Bob

See <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/unclebob/adventures.htm>

### *Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure*

This month we feature the KINKAID LAKE HIKING TRAIL in the Shawnee National Forest. This guide describes the first three miles of the 18 mile long trail in Jackson County.

Directions: Take Hwy 149 west from Murphysboro. While descending the last switchback hill, turn right upon crossing the bridge. Proceed a couple miles to its terminus and park your vehicle at a lot next to the gated road. As a side note, if you turn right at this junction, you will find Quisenberry Dam or falls. This is a pretty photo opportunity, as well as a great place to sit under the falls and pamper yourself with a whirlpool massage.

Walk up the gated asphalt road to the concrete pier. The trail starts between two dividers. While traversing this trail, one has frequent views of Lake Kinkaid on the right, and steep hills on the left. During the first mile you will encounter a beautiful, descending cascade with ledges, suggesting a staircase. During the second mile, looking to your left, note the rock canyon. Climb up the first rock and find a small cave about 30 feet away. Proceeding further on the trail, we descend into another rock canyon rich with ferns. As we continue the hike, we drop into a dry riverbed with an interesting cliff line. The trail is very confusing beyond this point, across the riverbed. Take your chances or return back to the parking lot. For additional information on this hike or other outing locations, call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>

## **Illinois Budget Cuts Hit Open Space Programs, Endangered Species Board, & Ecowatch!**

Submitted by: Barb McKasson

On June 10th and 11th, the legislature convened in special session of the legislature to consider line item vetoes and reductions made by Governor Ryan to the budget passed just a week earlier. It was no surprise that Illinois' budget crisis dominated the session. This year's budget crisis has been acknowledged by many as the worst in Illinois history, with a shortfall of about \$1.5 billion. Most of the gap in the budget was remedied through budget cuts. Environmental programs were hit along with everything else, particularly the open space acquisition programs.

Some of the major cuts to environmental programs were:

- Open Lands Trust received \$36 million, a cut of \$4 million.
- Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Fund (OSLAD) was cut by \$38 million.
- Conservation 2000 was cut by \$8 million.
- Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) was cut by \$8 million.
- Renewable Energy Resources Fund was cut by \$5 million.
- Ecowatch was downsized from 12 paid employees to only four.
- The Endangered Species Board was given a token \$700, and all of its staff were laid off.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

1) In addition, of the cuts to OSLAD and NAAF, \$15 million was a permanent reduction in the revenue stream of these funds. Currently these funds receive income every year from the real estate transfer tax. HB 539 reduced by half the percentage of the tax that these will receive. Immediately after the bill passed, Rep. Julie Hamos and 24 co-sponsors introduced HB 6294, which seeks to restore this funding beginning in July 2003. Passing this legislation will be a top priority for the Sierra Club and the IEC. Please write or call your state legislator urging your state Representative to co-sponsor HB 6294.

- Rep. Mike Bost (618) 457-5787; 300 E. Main St., Carbondale, IL 62901 (115th District)
- Rep. Jim Fowler (618) 253-4189, 617 E. Church, Ste. 8, Harrisburg, IL 62946 (118th District)
- Rep. Gary Forby (618) 439-2504; P.O. Box 1000, Benton, IL 62812 (117th District)
- Rep. Dan Reitz (618) 443-5757; 28A W. Main, Sparta, IL 62286

2) If you are an Ecowatch volunteer, please continue doing your survey(s) and turning in your data and samples. Mail it all to the Chicago office. If you think you need help with your site, you can ask for help by calling Dana Curtis in Springfield at (217) 524-0500. Our region (the southern) is very important to Ecowatch because we have many of the highest quality habitats here. Also, it is very important to keep conducting surveys without skipping a year, because it is the continuous analysis of trends is that so important. We do not want to let all the data collected since 1995 be wasted! The Critical Trends Assessment Program (CTAP) does use our citizen scientist data, so keep the faith that funds will be restored for FY 2003-2004. You can also write your state Representative and Senator to let them know how important it is to restore funds to the Ecowatch Program.

### **Off Road Vehicles**

SB 2155 (Sens. Burzynski, L. Walsh, and Radogno) would take the extreme step of limiting all noise-related liability for an off-road vehicle facility. These facilities would still be subject to local zoning requirements. However, nearly half of the counties in Illinois have no county-wide zoning. In addition, a facility could not be built within 1,000 feet of a residence, but no similar setback applies for parks or other environmentally sensitive areas, or even for schools, businesses or farms. This bill passed both chambers without much debate. Please call or write Governor Ryan to veto this ill-conceived legislation.

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



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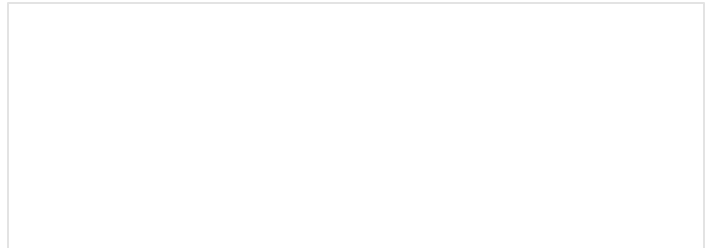
Shawnee Group  
P.O. Box 117  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0117  
USA, Earth, Milky Way

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*The battle we have fought, and are still fighting for the forests is a part of the eternal conflict between right and wrong, and we cannot expect to see the end of it. ... So we must count on watching and striving for these trees, and should always be glad to find anything so surely good and noble to strive for."*

~ [John Muir](#)

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## Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Chair	Laurel Toussaint	964-1339	✉ <a href="mailto:laureltous@hotmail.com">mailto:laureltous@hotmail.com</a>
Vice-Chair	Donna Ayers	985-6917	✉ <a href="mailto:dayers@accessus.net">mailto:dayers@accessus.net</a>
Secretary	Cathie Hutcheson	529-2022	✉ <a href="mailto:hutche@siu.edu">mailto:hutche@siu.edu</a>
Treasurer	Bill Boman	995-9976	✉ <a href="mailto:billbo@onemain.com">mailto:billbo@onemain.com</a>
Membership Chair	Ron Schmeck	529-8387	✉ <a href="mailto:rae50@siu.edu">mailto:rae50@siu.edu</a>
Outings Chair	Bob Tyson	684-5643	✉ <a href="mailto:robkay43@webtv.net">mailto:robkay43@webtv.net</a>
Chapter Delegate	Barbara McKasson	529-4824	✉ <a href="mailto:babitaji@aol.com">mailto:babitaji@aol.com</a> (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 ✉ <a href="mailto:sg618@yahoo.com">mailto:sg618@yahoo.com</a>

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