



# Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — October 2002

## The Legacy of John Muir

Membership Meeting Program

In this Issue:

- Member Program: John Wallace on John Muir 1
- Outings Calendar; Adventure Guide 2
- Night Sky Light 3
- Wilderness Myths Debunked 4
- Vision for the Shawnee National Forest 5
- Volunteers and Web Resources Back



Join Shawnee Group members on October 10th at the Unitarian Fellowship building for the 7:30 PM presentation by environmental educator John Wallace. This one-man show will portray the life and legacy of John Muir: naturalist, writer, conservationist, and the founder of the Sierra Club.

John Muir, shown at left from 1907, served as the first President of the Sierra Club. His life, work, and vision have inspired countless Americans to appreciate and protect the natural world.

Born in Scotland on April 21, 1838, John Muir immigrated to the United States with his family when he was eleven years old. Muir lived in Indiana from the spring of 1866 through June, 1867, working in a machine-shop. In 1897 at the age of twenty-nine he walked for a distance of one-thousand miles, from Louisville, Kentucky, to Cedar Key, Florida, in less than two months. He traveled to California in the Spring of 1868 and explored the high country of the Sierra Nevada and ended up making California his life-long home.

Muir wrote numerous books and articles describing the environment and arguing for the need to preserve areas as wilderness. When Muir traveled around the world in his later years, he inspired people all over the globe to protect places of special beauty and wildness. His life is celebrated by the existence of Yosemite National Park, which he was very instrumental in establishing in 1890.

John Wallace has been delivering his informative and realistic character interpretation of John Muir throughout Illinois.

Selected websites on John Muir:

- [http://www.sierraclub.org/john\\_muir\\_exhibit/index.html](http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit/index.html)
- <http://www.nps.gov/jomu/accomp.htm>

## Event Calendar

**October 10** ~ Membership Meeting about John Muir @ Unitarian Church, at 7: 30 PM.

**October 17** ~ EXCOM Meeting @ Clara McClure's at 5:30 PM.

**October 19** ~ Newsletter Content Deadline @ Noon.

**October 24** ~ Newsletter Folding @ Don Lawrence's at 5:30 PM.

The public is welcome to attend this and all other Sierra Club meetings and outings.

*Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.*

## Outings Calendar

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

### SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

**September 28 - 29 ~ Camp Ondessonk** weekend. This annual inter-chapter event is an opportunity for fellowship with other Sierra groups from Metro East and St Louis. If you come just for Saturday, outings and hikes will commence around 10 AM. We try to give people a choice of three hikes. There will also be a Sunday morning canoe trip on the Cache River starting around 8 or 9 AM. If you would like to stay overnight (Friday and/or Saturday) in the tree houses or lodge, please get a registration form from me and send in by Sept 6th. The same holds true for either breakfast because the camp needs to plan accordingly. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or e-mail: <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>.

**October 11 - 13 ~ Canoe Trip on Missouri's Eleven Point National Scenic River.** Call 549-9408. See website for details.

**October 13 ~ Kinkaid Lake Trail.** Easy to moderate three mile hike starting from Quisenberry Dam along the lake and bluffs. Meet at Shawnee National Forest station in Murphysboro at 12:30 PM until 5 PM. Call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or e-mail: <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>.

### SERVICE OUTINGS

Club members, friends of the Sierra Club, one member of the River-to-River Trails organization helped two US Forest Service staff on the service outing at Panther Den on August 31st. Thanks go to all the volunteers that built trail erosion control structures and added needed signage.

**September 28 ~ 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, e-mail: <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net> or call Ranger Peterin at 687-1731. All trail work starts at 9 AM and ends by 3:00 PM. Bring lunch, water, gloves, backpack, and appropriate clothing.

**There are no service outings in October.**

## Adventures with Uncle Bob

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

### *Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure by Bob Tyson*

Pursuant to last month's adventure guide to self-adventure in the South Fork National Recreation Area on the Kentucky side, this month we will explore the Tennessee side of this area encompassing the Daniel Boone National Forest, Cumberland Falls State Park and Pickett State Park.

From Oneida, Tennessee follow TN 297 to the signs for the **East Rim and Sunset Overlooks**. After seeing the overlook, continue on TN 297 to TN 154 near village of Sharp Place where you turn north. Watch for Divide Road and follow it to **Middle Creek Trailhead**. This is a 3.5 mile loop trail that passes numerous large rockhouses and tall bluffs. When finished, continue north on Divide Road to the sign for **Twin Arches Trailhead**. This is a 1.4 mile loop. The south arch has an overhead clearance of 70 feet and a span of 135 feet. The north arch has a clearance of 51 feet and a 93 foot span. The arches can be viewed from both the top and base of the trail loop.

Continuing now on the Divide Road go to TN 154 and drive north into **Pickett State Park**. Once in the park I recommend exploring the **Natural Bride Trail**, **Indian Rockhouse Trail**, **Hazard Cave Trail**, **the Ladder Trail** (yes, you can use ladders to connect bluffs and caves), and the eight-mile long **Hidden Passage Loop Trail**. The latter traverses a long ridge 500 feet above a creek with continuous views, rockhouses, and a sandstone tunnel through a bluff.

Our last stop is the **Buffalo Arch Trail** — the mother of all arches. Take TN 154 north to the Kentucky line. Turn right on gravel road KY 562. After 0.7 miles, turn right on an unmarked road. Park in the clearing for a 0.8 mile walk. While other trails intersect this trail, Daniel Boone National Forest has no signs to the arch. This huge arch is at the end of the ridge. It has three sides and resembles a flying buttress holding up the hillside. The only lodging in the area are cabins and chalets at Pickett State Park. For additional information on this hike or other outing locations, call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>

## Do you see the light?

Submitted by Bob Pauls



Have you stepped outside lately to observe the wonders of the night sky? What did you see? If you live in or near a city, chances are that the night sky is quite bright, and acquires the color of the predominant source of nearby light pollution – typically a reddish-orange color from sodium vapor lighting. In prior decades it may have been greenish color from less energy efficient mercury vapor lighting.

Even in rural areas of southern Illinois, the night sky is illuminated by highway lights, and traffic, cellular tower strobes, and more. But even in the remotest locations the moonless night sky is still not completely black. To most people who are fully adjusted to the dark, it seems a dark gray, but with a shade of color that varies with the season.

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*Left: Apollo 11 astronauts view of the rising Earth above the atmosphere-free moon. Date: July 16, 1969.*

*Photographer: William Anders, Apollo 11 Astronaut.*

Unlike the moon, the natural illumination of the night sky on planet Earth consists of four parts:

1. "Airglow" is the brightest component and is caused by oxygen atoms glowing in the upper atmosphere which are excited by solar ultraviolet radiation. Airglow is greatest during peak periods of sun activity or "solar maximum." Airglow can add a faint green or red color to the sky background.
2. Dust particles reflect and scatter sunlight. In addition to "*gegenschein*" (German for counter glow) which is sunlight back-scattered off of small dust particles in the Earth's atmosphere, there is "zodiacal light", sunlight reflected off tiny dust particles orbiting in our solar system. Zodiacal light is easiest to see from a very dark location in September and October near the horizon just before sunrise.
3. Even at night, light from stars is scattered by the moisture, dust and air molecules in the atmosphere, just as sunlight is scattered during the daytime. Air molecules predominantly scatter short blue wavelengths (thus, the sky is blue).
4. Even the night sky has a faint blue color. The less that clouds obscure the night light from the Milky Way, the bluer the sky may appear.

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## Yardsale Kudos

Thanks go out to the following contributors for a successful fundraiser at the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce Yardsale on September 7th:

Donna and Bill Ayers, Lisa Barnes, Dorothy and Bill Boman, Marti Crothers, Stan Harris, Cathy Hutchinson, Don Lawrence, Clara McClure, Barb McKasson, Bob Pauls, Bobbie Schmit, Suzanne Smith, and Frances and Laurel Toussaint. Special recognition is given to Anne Hill for offering her home for storage, pricing and feeding of the volunteers. Thanks also to Sharon Fletcher for the use of her horse trailer for transport, and Jeffrey Kellogg for his enthusiasm and revealing of his "let's make a deal" talents on a very hot day September day in the middle of a treeless parking lot.

## Affiliate Category of the Month: Sports and Recreation

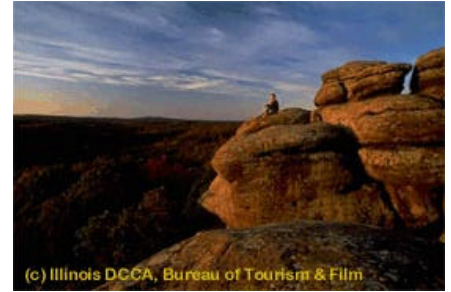
[http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/affiliates/a-sports\\_and\\_fitness.htm](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/affiliates/a-sports_and_fitness.htm)

Please support the companies that support the Shawnee Group, such as:



## What is Wilderness?

Wilderness is a place where the imprint of humans is substantially unnoticed. It is where natural processes are the primary influences and human activity is limited to primitive recreation and minimum tools. This allows us to experience wild places without intention to disturb or destroy natural processes.



(c) Illinois DCCA, Bureau of Tourism & Film

## Myths About Wilderness Debunked

**Myth:** *Wilderness areas "lock up" the forest.*

**Fact:** Hunting, fishing, horse riding, hiking and camping ARE allowed in wilderness areas. Only mechanized recreation is not allowed. In the Shawnee National Forest, the seven wilderness areas plus the three proposed wilderness areas constitute only 14% of the forest. That is not too much to save in wilderness.

**Myth:** *Wilderness makes it harder to fight fires by not allowing roads.*

**Fact:** In emergencies, authorized mechanized equipment may go into wilderness areas to fight fires, following the "minimum tool necessary" principle. In addition, studies have shown that there are more fires in roaded areas than in roadless areas. Areas adjacent to roads dry up faster.

**Myth:** *Injured people cannot get help in a wilderness area.*

**Fact:** Emergency vehicles are allowed in wilderness areas to get to injured people. In very rugged areas, the best vehicle for emergency evacuation would be a helicopter.

**Myth:** *Trails cannot be maintained in Wilderness.*

**Fact:** Trails can be properly maintained with hand tools and support from pack animals. Also, since trails in wilderness are narrower they don't need as much maintenance. Also, people have proven that they are more willing to volunteer to help maintain a more unspoiled areas such as wilderness areas.

**Myth:** *Wilderness areas are not accessible for handicapped people.*

**Fact:** A handicapped person who can ride a horse is allowed on designated trails in wilderness areas. We support the US Forest Service development of programs to help handicapped people enjoy wilderness areas.

**Myth:** *There are other ways to protect areas without Wilderness designation so designation is unnecessary.*

**Fact:** Congressional designation as a Wilderness Area is the only way to permanently protect an area from logging and oil drilling, as well as, from parking lots, buildings and motorized vehicles. Other levels of protection are less strict, and what protection they offer can be eroded by the Forest Service, the President, and others – but not if the area has Wilderness designation.

**Myth:** *Wilderness designation will limit hunting opportunities.*

**Fact:** Hunting regulations are not changed when an area is designated as wilderness.

**Myth:** *Wilderness isn't multiple use.*

**Fact:** Wilderness is not a "use", but a management designation that supports multiple uses and values. Wilderness designation insures that two of the uses in the forest are wilderness and solitude. Other uses for wilderness include: wildlife habitat, scenic-viewing, hiking, backpacking, boating, camping, hunting, fishing, and grazing.

**Myth:** *Wilderness only benefits "elite environmentalists."*

**Fact:** Wilderness allows us to preserve at least some areas for future generations. Wilderness supports many values that benefit everyone: clean air and water, genetic diversity, archeological protection, open space, health, and inexpensive, family-oriented recreation. A person with only a day pack and comfortable shoes can enjoy the wilderness.

**Myth:** *Wilderness is bad for the economy.*

**Fact:** Wilderness is GOOD for the economy. The economies of rural areas near wilderness continue to grow while many others are stagnating. While the portion of the economy represented by extractive industries remain stagnant, other sectors – including recreation and tourism – are booming.

Learn more at: <http://www.wilderness.net/nwps/default.cfm>

## The Sierra Club's Vision for the Shawnee National Forest

A fully protected forest that is intact, biologically diverse, and managed in an ecologically sound manner to provide a sanctuary for the many rare plants and animals and to provide a quality passive recreational experience for all people. Specifically:

### A High Quality Trail System

A well maintained system of hiker-only and combined hiker/equestrian trails will provide a high quality experience for hikers and horse riders and protect the ecological treasures of the forest. To further protect the forest, all user-made trails that are not suitable for inclusion in the Forest system trail inventory, plus old forest roads that are no longer needed (mostly old logging roads) will be restored to a natural state.

### Fully Protected Natural Areas

These 80 areas have been specially identified by the State of Illinois for their unique biological and/or geological features. They range in size from under one acre to hundreds of acres. To help protect them, only hiking trails will provide access. Hitching posts for horses will be provided outside of the Natural Area and trails and boundaries will be well marked. In the smallest Natural Areas, any detrimental access will be eliminated.

### A Contiguous Forest

Throughout the Shawnee, large blocks of contiguous forest without artificial openings, will provide rich habitat for spectacular forest interior bird species like the Scarlet Tanager as well as a unique wilderness experience that is rare in the Midwest. To create the contiguous forest, the Forest Service will aggressively purchase and restore private land in holdings plus corridors to joining isolated areas of the forest. The forest will be expanded to include the Mississippi bottomlands.

### More Wilderness

Three dedicated wilderness areas, Burke Branch, Ripple Hollow, and Camp Hutchins, will be added to the existing wilderness system. The three areas will have the highest form of protection and present a unique recreational opportunity.

### Just The Sounds of Nature

By not allowing the expansion of motorized vehicles such as dirt bikes and all-terrain vehicles on to trails, the Shawnee National Forest is a haven of peace and quiet, an escape from the noise and pollution of motorized vehicles and urban life in general. Motorized use will be restricted to licensed vehicles on existing Forest System roads only.

### Active Public Education

Shawnee Forest will be a catalyst for instilling in people a sense of stewardship and responsibility for our natural world by providing workshops such as education to appreciate threatened and endangered species, and "Leave No Trace" workshops. There will also be volunteer activities to help care for the forest - such as trail maintenance and ecological restoration projects.

### Balanced Protection and Recreation

In most of the forest, hiking, camping, horse back riding, and wildlife viewing will continue. To protect sensitive species and habitats, responsible users will have agreed that some areas are off-limits.

### Allowing the Full Cycle of Nature

Commercial logging will end and as trees mature and die they can provide homes for woodpeckers and owls. Natural forest communities will return, renewing the soils, protecting wildlife, and enhancing recreation.

### Eliminating the Threat of Exotic Species

By working with the IL Dept of Natural Resources, national and local officials, and other concerned organizations, the Forest Service will craft an environmentally sound control plan for non-native exotic species like 'the vine that ate Georgia' (kudzu).

### Pristine Water and Air

Ending commercial logging, preventing the expansion of motorized vehicles, maintaining high quality trails, eliminating unused roads and illegal user-made trails, and not allowing new mining, oil or gas leases will ensure pristine water and air throughout the Shawnee. High quality streams, such as Big Creek, Lusk Creek, Grand Pierre Creek, and Hutchins Creek will continue to provide quality habitat, fishing, and canoeing.

### Maintain High Biodiversity

The Forest Service will recognize and protect the unique biodiversity brought about by the five physiographic regions that converge in the Shawnee.



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Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity; and that mountain parks and reservations are useful not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life.

~ [John Muir](#)

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## Shawnee Group Executive Committee

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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>

## Action Committee Chairs

Conservation, Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Habitat and Wildlife	Barbara McKasson
Fundraising	Bill Boman
International Populations	Cathie Hutcheson
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Marine	Don Lawrence
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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>
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