



Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — February 2003

Red Rocks Utah Wilderness Campaign



Please join Sierra Club and Bob Brister, of the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance for a breathtaking journey through the famous redrock country of Southern Utah. Bob will be presenting "Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness", a brand new multi-media slide show featuring stunning images by wilderness photographers

and the voice of Pulitzer Prize winning author Wallace Stegner. The meeting will start at 7:30 PM on Thursday, February 13, at the Unitarian Church, at the corner of University and Elm Streets, in Carbondale. The pre-meeting social dinner to which all are invited will this month be at 5:45 PM at Big Boy's Q'n Restaurant.

On April 26, 2001, America's Redrock Wilderness Act was reintroduced by Illinois Senator Richard Durbin (D) and Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY). The legislation would designate over nine million acres of stunning wildlands in Utah as official wilderness, forever protecting them from the energy and mineral development and off-road vehicle use that currently threaten to permanently destroy one of America's most unique natural treasures.

The state of Utah abounds with wilderness. In fact, more than 9 million acres in the state qualify as official wilderness under federal law. The legislation offered by Senator Durbin and Representative Hinchey would make such a designation a reality. Nowhere else in the lower 48 states can so much intact wilderness be found. This is a land of layer-cake sedimentary geology where ancient sand dunes form massive cliffs and domes that range starkly in color, from white to deep, brick red. Here, the great Colorado and Green Rivers have sliced deep, broad canyons through the yielding sandstone. Ephemeral streams have cut deep slot canyons so narrow you can touch both sides with outstretched arms. The pliant sedimentary rock has eroded into fantastic shapes, creating formations like the San Rafael Reef, Comb Ridge and the Cockscomb. Granitic remnants of magma chambers have been uplifted through the overlying sedimentary layers to form tall, isolated mountain ranges such as the Henry Mountains. Farther north, bisected by the Green River in Desolation Canyon, are the impossibly crenellated highs and lows of the Book Cliffs and the plateaus that form their backdrop.

Despite its forbidding appearance, the wildlands of Utah are home to an array of native wildlife species. Large mammals roam the landscape, including mountain lions, pronghorn antelope, elk, bison and bighorn sheep. The Utah wilderness hosts at least two dozen endangered or sensitive wildlife species that require specialized desert habitat. They include the Gila monster, chuckwalla and desert tortoise in the hot southwest corner of the state and the bald eagle, peregrine falcon and endangered fish species of the Colorado, Green and Virgin Rivers. Scientists estimate that 180 of Utah's plant species are currently classified as endangered, threatened or sensitive.

See also: <http://www.suwa.org/>



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Event Calendar

February 13 ~ Membership Meeting @ Unitarian Fellowship at 7:30 PM

February 10 ~ Hike at Pickle Creek and Hickory Canyon Conservation Areas, 8:30 AM

February 20 ~ Deadline for Newsletter Content

February 27 ~ Newsletter Folding @ Don's, 5:30 PM

Outings Calendar

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

SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

Bob Tyson elicited feedback from members to determine preferred days or times for outings. It is evident to him that most members do not want to go out early Saturday mornings. Three other Southern Illinois organizations customarily schedule their outings on Saturday. People who work Monday-Friday want to catch up on their sleep or run errands. We had a good response on the last two Sunday afternoon hikes. The January hike was in Cove Hollow and fourteen people had a good time. Many people indicated a desire to go out during the week. As an experiment, our February outing will be on a Monday.

February 10th (Monday) ~ Pickle Creek and Hickory Canyon Conservation Areas Hike


We will leave the Murphysboro U.S.F.S. Ranger Station at 8:30 AM. A 90 minute drive will take us to the region between St. Genevieve and Farmington, Missouri. We'll start at Hickory Canyon with a 1.5 mile loop trail hike below steep canyons, along with rock formations, and bluff shelters. Then we'll travel about 10 miles to Pickle Creek. This two mile loop encompasses natural arches, waterfalls, and rock formations. If time or stamina permits, we may also view the canyon in nearby Hawn State Park. Both trails are easy to moderate. For more info call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or e-mail:

<mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>.

NON SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Both hikes start at 10 AM and are sponsored by the River-to-River Trail Society. Contact John O'Dell at 252-6789.

March 1st ~ One Horse Gap Hike. Meet at Herod, IL US Post Office.

March 8th ~ Saltpeter Cave/Lusk Creek Canyon Hike. Meet at the Mitchellville, IL store. (RT 145 south of Harrisburg) 

Adventures with Uncle Bob

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

Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure with Bob Tyson

Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area




Continuing with our series on wilderness areas, this month's guide is to the 3,300 acre designated wilderness area of Garden of the Gods.

Directions: From Harrisburg, IL go south on Rt 145 to Rt 34. Go left and turn left at Karbers Ridge Road and follow the signs.

Most people are already acquainted with the popular observation trail which starts at the main parking. The trail winds around numerous sculptured rock formations and observation points, high above the valley. From the northwest end of the parking lot, is a trail that leads to Anvil Rock, Shelter Rock, Mushroom Rock, and Noah's Arc. A short distance down the trail, there is a fork for the River-To-River trail: heading west to Herod and east to High Knob.

Continuing down the trail, you will see several spur trails marked with white diamonds for hikers and multiple-use. Some of these just lead you in circles and with no prominent feature along the way.

Many people overlook a spectacular trail on your right just before ascending to the parking lot. Walk about a mile below the bluffs to take in these lovely rock formations. At some point the trail peters out. Also, prior to ascending the parking lot, look to your left for a sign: "lower trail". As you follow this trail below the bluffs, watch for a junction. Going south you are now on the River-To-River trail to Herod, IL. Going north will become a loop to the parking lot. Please check page 45 of the new River-To-River Trail Guide regarding the re-routing of the River-To-River trail on this lower trail.

On your way out of the parking lot, returning to the main road, watch for a sign on the right which either says "Indian Point Overlook" or "Backpackers Lot". Follow this one mile trail to the edge of a cliff to take in the view across the valley and observe where numerous hawks frequently soar. 

Illinois Sierra Club Action Network



When you hear about the latest anti-environmental action taken by our government, don't you wonder, "How could they DO that?" Sure, proposals to increase pollution or allow destruction of our natural areas usually come from legislators aligned with and supported by those who profit from these policies, but why do so many of our average State Representatives, Senators, and Congressmen vote for them?

All too often, it's because our legislators simply aren't hearing from people like you, me, and the great majority of citizens who support stronger environmental laws.

How Can One Person Keep Track of all the Issues? How Can I Make a Difference?

The real power of the Sierra Club is in its grassroots! We can make a difference when our members contact their elected officials before they cast a critical environmental vote. We know that we'll never have the that our opponents do, but we have something potentially even more powerful – YOU, and people like you who support environmental protection.

But how can one person keep track of all the issues and know when the time is right to contact their legislator? We want to make it easy for you, and we need your help.

When you sign up for the Illinois Sierra Club Action Network (FOR FREE!), we'll let you know when your legislators are facing a critical environmental decision. We'll give you background information on the issue, and the basic information you need to make a quick, easy, and effective contact. We can contact you however you prefer – by e-mail, mail, or by phone.

Interested in helping us pass better environmental laws?

Just complete the registration below (again – NO CHARGE), and we'll let you know when we need you to contact your elected officials. We know they'll be hearing from lobbyists when environmental issues come up for a vote, and we hope you'll be one of them!

YES! I want to make a difference with the Illinois Sierra Club Action Network!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ +4 _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

The best way to contact me with this information is:

Send me action alerts via e-mail

Call Me

Send me information in the regular mail

I would be interested in meeting with my legislator at their office in my community or in Springfield.

SEND TO:
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
200 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 505
Chicago, IL 60601

To Vice President Dick Cheney, conservation is just "a sign of personal virtue."
In World War II, it was every citizen's duty.

Despite war and rumors of war, turmoil in the Middle East, and energy crises at home, missing from the national dialogue has been talk of "conservation," let alone personal sacrifice. Instead, in the aftermath of September 11, President Bush urged the American people to go shopping. He also renewed his push to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. This approach was welcomed by industry; Ron Zarella, president of General Motor's North American division, concluded that "GM has a responsibility to help stimulate the economy by encouraging Americans to purchase vehicles."

In other times of national crisis, citizens have willingly sacrificed for the common good. During World War II, people were encouraged to plant "victory gardens," to conserve rubber, paper, aluminum, tin cans, toothpaste tubes (for the small amount of zinc they contained), sugar, coffee, and even kitchen fats (the glycerin was used for ammunition). Drivers were limited to three gallons of gas per week, leading to the formation of carpools or "car clubs." Leon Henderson, head of the Office of Price Administration, the agency in charge of rationing, rode a "victory bike" to work — and was criticized for it, because new bicycles were supposed to go to those in the armed forces or war industry. All these conservation campaigns were publicized through a series of remarkable posters produced by graphic artists organized as "Artists for Victory." The reasons for conservation have changed since then: Sources of natural rubber, for example, are not in enemy hands, and terrible explosives can be made without kitchen fat. But oil is still central to our current situation: One of al Qaeda's root grievances is the presence of American troops guarding the oil fields of Saudi Arabia, and Iraq would be a minor power without its vast oil reserves. Isn't there something more patriotic we can do than buy a new SUV?

(see 1944 car club poster on page 5)

Reprinted from: <http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200301/poster.asp>

Next month in anticipation of Spring and gardening, the Shawnee Trails will reprint a classic Victory Garden poster from 1943. Take a patriotic stand for conservation and display these posters proudly.



2003 EXCOM Election Results

The ballots for the new year's EXCOM election were opened at the January 1st Stone Soup Gathering at Giant City State Park. Shawnee Group EXCOM officers for 2003 are:

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
Conservation Chair	Barbara McKasson	529-4824	✉	mailto:babitaji@aol.com (Ex-Officio)
Membership Chair	Bob Tyson	529-8387	✉	mailto:rae50@siu.edu
Outings Chair	Bob Tyson	684-5643	✉	mailto:robkay43@webtv.net

There are a variety of other topical committees in which any member can participate. The designated chairs of these committees for 2003 are shown below. Please contact the committee chairs and volunteer with your ideas and energy.

Donna Ayers: Publicity Committee.

Bill Boman: Fundraising and Publications Representative/Calendars Committees.

Ed Cook: National Forests Committee.

Stan Harris: Mining and Wetlands Committees.

Cathie Hutcheson: Endangered Species/Wildlife, Habitat, and Water Quality Committees.

Barb McKasson: Conservation Chair, Chapter Delegate, Phone Tree Coordinator; Contained Animal Feeding, National Forest, State Forest Lands, Wilderness, and Wildlands Committees.

Don Lawrence: Marine, Population, and Transportation Committees.

Clara McClure: Co-Chair of Political, and Waste Committees.

Phyllis Oliver: Alternate Chapter Delegate; Environmental Education, Parks & Refuges Committees.

Bob Pauls: Computer, Energy, Global Warming/CAFÉ Standards, and Outings Leadership Training Committees; Newsletter editor, and Webmaster.

Ron Schmeck: Co-Chair of Political Committee.



A detailed oil painting of a man's face, wearing a dark military helmet. The man has a serious, weary expression. There is a significant amount of red, representing blood, smeared across his forehead and running down his right cheek. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on his nose and forehead, and deep shadows in the creases of his face and under the helmet's brim. The background is a solid, deep blue.

**HAVE YOU
REALLY TRIED**

**TO SAVE GAS
BY GETTING INTO
A CAR CLUB?**

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Permit 3

"The California crunch really is the result of not enough power-generating plants and then not enough power to power the power of the generating plants."

- George W. Bush explaining the California energy crisis to the New York Times, January 14, 2001



Artists for Victory

These 8/5 x 11 posters are available for free download from:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200301/posters.asp>



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
Conservation Chair	Barbara McKasson	529-4824	✉ mailto:babitaji@aol.com (Ex-Officio)
Membership Chair	Bob Tyson	684-5643	✉ mailto:rae50@siu.edu
Outings Chair	Bob Tyson	684-5643	✉ mailto:robkay43@webtv.net

Sierra Club Websites

National: <http://www.sierraclub.org> IL Chapter: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org> Shawnee: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/index.htm>
 Subscribe to the Shawnee Trails Newsletter & Access Its Archives: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/il-shawnee-trails.html>
 Subscribe to the Shawnee Forum & Access Archives: <http://lists.sierraclub.org/archives/il-shawnee-forum.html>
 National Sierra Club Listserv Portal (subscribe to other newsgroups): <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/infosys/Listserv/ListHome.asp>
 National Sierra Club Outings Catalog: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/national/>
 Sierra Club Chapter Outings Catalog: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/>
 Shawnee Group Outings Catalog: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>
 Sierra Club Merchandise: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/fundraising.htm>

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