



# Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — May 2003

## Sustainable America = Sustainable Communities = Sustainable Planet

Sustainability has become a "buzz word" for governments and companies who want to show that they are environmentally concerned. But what would it really take to make our country's economy "sustainable"? Dan Sitarz, our membership program speaker for May, wrote the book on "sustainability", and will help answer that question for us. In fact, Dan wrote two books on sustainability. Agenda 21 is the book that describes the global plan developed at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. Then, he was commissioned by President Clinton to write the report for the President's Council on Sustainable Development, Sustainable America (Earth Press, 1998). Dan is also Director of the Global Research Institute and an attorney.



Locally, Dan and other environmentalists in Carbondale have formed a group called the "Southern Illinois Center for a Sustainable Future." This group has started recycling and conservation projects in cooperation with SIU-C and the City of Carbondale. Dan and the group now intend to increase the involvement of the community in their projects. That is where Sierra Club comes into the picture.

Please join Sierra Club members and the public for a presentation at our meeting on May 8th at the Unitarian Fellowship. Dan will outline sustainability issues, and then explain what has been done at SIU-C and in Carbondale to make our community more sustainable. Then Dan will explain the new "sustainability indicators" project that would be a yearly measure and report card on the environmental progress of communities. We will then have a chance to suggest and discuss our ideas on what should be monitored for our community sustainability report card. So, start thinking about what environmental concerns you would like to see spotlighted and measured: Energy usage? Water quality? Air quality? Increase in native plants? Car pooling? Tree planting? Usage of recycled materials? Urban sprawl? Others?

This is a perfect opportunity to "think globally and act locally", so please join us! The pre-meeting social dinner to which all are invited will be held this month at 5:45 PM at Quatro's Restaurant in Carbondale.

### Related Links:

**Second Nature: Education for Sustainability** ~  
<http://www.secondnature.org/index.html>

**Sustainability: The Search for Useful Indicators** ~  
[http://www.findarticles.com/cf\\_dls/m1076/n9\\_v40/21262655/p1/article.jhtml](http://www.findarticles.com/cf_dls/m1076/n9_v40/21262655/p1/article.jhtml)

**Sustainable Measures** ~  
<http://www.sustainablemeasures.com/Indicators/index.html>

**Sustainable Communities Network** ~  
<http://www.sustainable.org/>

**Sustainable America: America's Environment in the 21st Century** -(Buy at Amazon.com)  
[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0935755543/ref=ase\\_inktomi-bkasin-20/104-6495548-1301546](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0935755543/ref=ase_inktomi-bkasin-20/104-6495548-1301546)

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## Event Calendar

- May 8** ~ Membership Meeting @ Unitarian Fellowship at 7:30 PM. Dinner at Quatro's Restaurant, 5:45
- May 3** ~ Tunnel Hill Bike Ride.
- May 18** ~ Hike Red Cedar Trail
- May 15** ~ EXCOM Meeting
- May 24** ~ Noon deadline for May newsletter content.
- May 29** ~ Newsletter Folding @ Don's, 5:30 PM

*The public is welcome to attend the membership meeting 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.htm>

### SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

**May 3 ~ Tunnel Hill Cache River Spring Bike Ride.** Sierra Club family members can meet at 8 AM in Harrisburg at Commercial Street and RT. 45. Beautiful 47 mile ride on crushed limestone trail among the Spring wildflowers to the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center near Karnak. \$20 fee supports Friends of Cache River. Contact Bob Pauls @ 549-9408.

**May 18 ~ Sunday Hike.** Meet at the Makanda village parking lot at 1 PM. Tour four scenic spots on the Red Cedar Trail near Giant City State Park. Approximately 2 miles of moderate hiking. Contact Bob Tyson at 684-5643.

**June 6–8 ~ Indiana Blue River Canoe and Commercial Cave Trip.** Contact Bob Pauls @ 549-9408.

**June 23–27 ~ Bike Tour.** Experience the entire Katy Trail State Park from Clinton to St. Charles with a Sierra Club contingent. Bicyclists of all ages will enjoy this scenic and historic five-day ride on the nation's longest developed and most popular rails-to-trails route. This year's ride covers approximately 225 miles. The surface of the Katy Trail is packed, crushed limestone. The ride features great food and many fun activities. Hot showers are available at each overnight stop, enhancing comfortable campsite settings. Contact Bob Pauls @ 549-9408. See also: <http://www.mostateparks.com/katytrail/2003ride.htm>

**June 14 ~ Early Summer Membership Gathering and Potluck Meal** at the Boman's Residence.

**July 12 ~ Mid-Summer Membership Gathering and Potluck Meal** at the Harris Residence.

**July TBD ~ Canoe the Big Muddy River.** Contact Bob Pauls @ 549-9408 to inquire.

**August TBD ~ Late-Summer Membership Beach Party Gathering and Potluck Meal** at Spring Arbor Lake.

**August TBD ~ Illinois Caving Adventure Trip** ~ Contact Bob Pauls @ 549-9408 to inquire.

### NON-SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

**May 3 ~ Sand Cave to Bell Smith Springs.** Meet at Shawnee Mart store in Eddyville.

**May 10 ~ High knob to Garden of the Gods** Meet Garden of the Gods parking lot.

**May 18 ~ Garden of the Gods loop trails.** Meet Garden of the Gods parking lot.

**June 7 ~ National Trails Day.** Meet at noon in Eddyville, IL. Includes hikes, seminars, etc.

Above hikes start at 10 AM unless indicated otherwise. Sponsored by River-to-River Trail Society. Contact John at 252-6789.

## Adventures with Uncle Bob

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

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

**CLEAR SPRINGS WILDERNESS AREA. Directions:** Take Hickory Ridge Rd off 20th street in Murphysboro and follow signs as we would to Little Grand Canyon. Continue past that recreation area and go several miles until it comes to a "T" near a church. Go right and follow to Macedonia Road to LaRue/Pine Hills. This road turns to a narrow gravel road. Don't take this road if it is muddy! Soon you will note a wilderness sign and find yourself in a deep canyon/or steep ravines on both sides of the road. Unfortunately, there is no place to pull off the road to park for several miles. Now we encounter a road intersection. Sign says "LaRue/Pine hills 2.5 miles" -- go right. Note the picnic area as well as the rock outcroppings that suddenly appear. After a short distance, look on your left for a small parking place and note the wilderness sign again. There is a faint trail but mostly bushwhacking. As of this April 10th, there was an abundance of wildflowers— white and blue, common but-tercup, mayapples, and a wide variety of ferns. Back in the car again, we drive further and now see a sign to go left for Pine Hills. Going into this deep canyon, there is a picnic area (McCann springs) and restrooms. The River to River Trail has joined our road at this point. In the picnic area we note the American Discovery Trail sign. This well-maintained trail switchbacks to the top of Pine Hills and leads us to Inspiration Point. I estimate the length was a half mile. There is no further indication of the American Discovery Trail.

Back to the picnic area again, drive or walk further down the road. Just before the road heads uphill to become a 4 mile drive over the top of Pine Hills and its scenic overlooks, look to your left and note another Clear Springs sign. Park here. There is a faint trail, but a lot of fallen trees. One can bushwhack for a while between the steep ravines and lovely views. Back in the car again, go back to the road intersection, turn left, then left again. At the next crossing you can drive along the cliffs and swamp, or else turn right onto the levee road and follow to Highway 3. For more trail info, contact Bob Tyson at 684-5643.♣

## 1) Raise Clean Air Operating Fees So Illinois Can issue Timely Permits and Conduct Annual Inspections to Protect Our Families and Our Future

Millions of Illinois residents are being exposed to harmful levels of air pollution from 273 of the state's largest polluters that don't have clean air operating permits. This is despite a March 1998 federal deadline for the Illinois to issue such permits. The state's twenty-eight unpermitted coal-fired power plants alone trigger thousands of asthma attacks and contribute to hundreds of premature deaths each year. Two-hundred and forty-five other large (and unpermitted) polluters in Illinois emit millions of additional pounds of dangerous air pollutants causing cancer, heart attacks and other breathing problems.

**Illinois' Operating Permits Program is One of the Worst in the Nation** ~ Illinois has the second worst permit issuance record in the Midwest; Only Ohio has a worse record. At the same time, it has failed to issue timely permits, Illinois has also cut funding for enforcement, so it takes up to FOUR YEARS for a polluter to be inspected. Illinois has stopped processing all permit modifications or renewals in spite of federal law requirements that such changes be processed in 18 months. Equally devastating is that Illinois has no staff to review test data submitted by companies. Thus, potential violators go unpunished.

**Protecting Our Air Does Not Require Higher Taxes** ~ Federal law requires states to charge permit fees to fund the operating permits program. Illinois' fees raise only \$9.8 million. The biggest problem is that Illinois has a cap on fees for \$100,000 for the state's largest polluters. This is the lowest cap in the Midwest. The next lowest is Indiana (\$200,000). Minnesota's cap is \$1 million.

**Raise the Cap on Largest Polluters and Add Automatic Fee Increase** ~ For too long the state's largest polluters have enjoyed bargain basement permit fees, a lack of permits, and almost no inspections. The lack of permits and inspections is bad for our air quality. That is why Sierra Club supports raising the fee cap to at least \$300,000 for the state's fortysix largest polluters and instituting an automatic annual fee increase tied to inflation. Such a modest fee increase is long overdue.

### **What You Can Do**

Call you state officials listed below. Tell them to vote in favor of raising the air pollution operating permit fees.

## 2) Make Water Polluters Pay for Cleaning Up Our Rivers, Lakes and Streams

You should also call your Illinois elected officials to support SB 1060/ HB 2540 that will establish the IL Clean Water Fund. Each year, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issues about 800 free permits to discharge industrial wastewater, treated sewage, and other forms of pollution into Illinois' rivers, lakes, and streams. Issuing these licenses to pollute uses taxpayer dollars that could be spent cleaning up pollution. At least 39 other states, and all of our neighbor states, charge a fee for water pollution permits. In Illinois, dischargers do not pay one cent for these permits, which cost taxpayers millions to process, enforce, and monitor compliance. Dischargers also do not pay one cent for the privilege to pollute the rivers and lakes where we get our drinking water and fish, boat, and swim. Governor Rod Blagojevich has proposed that polluters be charged a fee for these permits, and the proceeds be used to make our waters safe again.

These bills would:

- **Fund Cleanup of Our Rivers, Lakes, and Streams:** Revenue from water pollution permit fees will fund restoration plans for the state's most polluted waters. 414 polluted watersheds are on a cleanup waiting list due to a lack of funds.
- **Provide an Incentive to Reduce Pollution:** This legislation would charge a higher fee for polluters that discharge more pollutants, and an extra fee for the discharge of toxic chemicals. This would provide an incentive to reduce the amount and toxicity of the permitted pollutants.
- **Be Fair to Municipalities:** Municipal wastewater treatment plants that do a good job of cleaning wastewater would be charged less than municipal plants that don't do a good job. In addition, the new Illinois Clean Water Fund could be used to help municipalities comply with clean water standards.

### **What You Can Do**

Ask your state representative and senator to support SB 1060 and HB 2540 to institute water pollution permit fees in Illinois. These fees are in the Governor's budget and are necessary in order to clean up Illinois' water.

### **Contact Information**

Rep. Mike Bost	(618) 457-5787	(217) 782-0387	632 Statehouse, Springfield, IL, 62706
Rep. Gary Forby	(618) 439-2504	(217) 782-1051	257-S Stratton, Springfield, IL, 62706
Senator Leuchtefeld	(618) 243-9013	(217) 782-8137	103B Statehouse, Springfield, IL, 62706
Rep. Brendan Phelps	(618) 253-4189	(217) 782-5131	265-S Stratton, Springfield, IL, 62706
Rep. Dan Reitz	(618) 443-5757	(217) 782-1018	200-9S Stratton; Springfield, IL, 62706
Senator Larry Woolard	(618) 985-5559	(217) 782-5509	M115 Statehouse, Springfield, IL, 62706
Rep. Chuck Hartke	(217) 342-2353	(217) 782-2087	245-E Stratton, Springfield, IL, 62706
Senator John O. Jones	(618) 242-9511	(217) 782-0471	103D Statehouse, Springfield, IL, 62706



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Permit 3

*Because global economic, social, and environmental trends are connected, America's hopes for the future are irrevocably linked to the rest of the world. Americans compete in a global economy shaped by global trends. America's power and interests are global in nature, and the lives of Americans are affected by global environmental changes. What Americans do affects the lives of people in every nation. Moreover, the changes taking place throughout the world affects every American.*

~ Dan Sitarz,  
Sustainable America



### Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Chair	Laurel Toussaint	964-1339	✉ <a href="mailto:laureltous@hotmail.com">mailto:laureltous@hotmail.com</a>
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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>

### 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>  
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 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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