

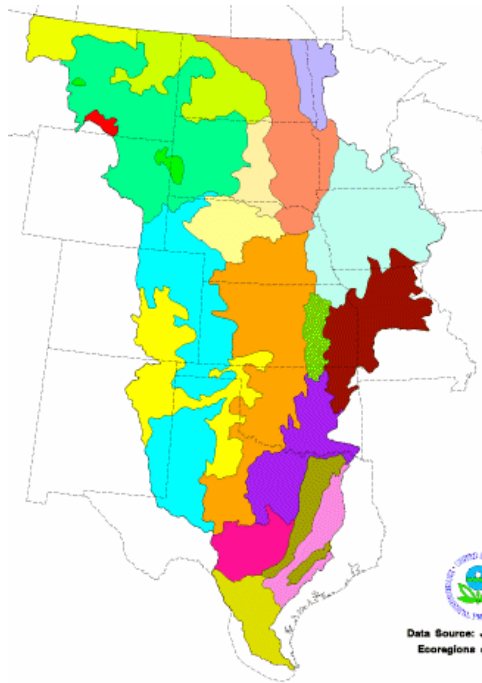


Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — October 2003

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Data Source: J.M. Omernik
Ecoregions of the U.S.

The Great Plains of North America

The topic of the Shawnee Group membership meeting on October 9th is the Great Plains of North America.

"The Great Plains is a land of abundant natural resources and rich diversity. Although many of its natural features have been altered by humans and lost forever, there remain a number of unique, special places that provide us with a glimpse of our past. These natural areas have special qualities and represent places of exceptional scientific and natural value. They provide a "living history" of the landscape during pre-European settlement times."

~ <http://www.greatplains.org>

The slide and lecture presentation to be given by club member Stan Harris will highlight the geology, flora and fauna of the many distinct eco-regions of the Great Plains, as identified in the map above.

Stan has traveled many times through the region and will present through slides and narration the highlights of his various trips and the important distinctions he sees in the region's geology and habitat. He will also point out some special destinations that are frequently overlooked by travelers in their hurry to get from here to there.

Please come to the meeting to hear more about the wide expanses of tall and short grass prairies and the important conservation issues facing the region: drought and soil salinity, over grazing, irrigation and erosion, and more.

The October pre-meeting will, as always, be preceded by a social dinner to which all Shawnee Group members and the public are invited. This month the dinner will begin at 5:45 at Italian Village Restaurant in Carbondale.

Suggested Internet URLs:

The Great Plains Atlas:

<http://www.greatplains.org/resource/atlas/index.htm>

America's Northern Plains:

<http://www.greatplains.org/npresource/othrdata/amnorpln/amnorpln.htm>

The Status of Biodiversity in the Great Plains:

<http://www.greatplains.org/resource/biodiver/index.htm>



The public is welcome to attend the membership meeting and all other Sierra Club meetings and outings.

Event Calendar

October 2 ~ Group EXCOM at Clara McClure's.

October 9 ~ Membership Program, 7:30 PM Unitarian Fellowship, 301 W Elm, C'dale

October 25 ~ 8 PM Deadline for September Newsletter content.

October 30 ~ Newsletter Folding @ Don's, 5:30 PM.

See Outings Calendar: Page 2

SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

For more info, contact Bob Tyson, 684-5643.

October 11 (Saturday) ~ Fall Tunnel Hill State Trail – Cache River Bike Outing. Call 618-634-9678 for registration information. Sierra Club members will meet and depart at 8:15 AM from Harrisburg and return later on the shuttle. Leader: Bob Pauls

October 10-12 (Weekend) ~ Garden of the Gods. Service Outing . Considered to be one of Illinois' most spectacular landforms. We will stay in the GOG Recreation Area car-camp, pick up trash on short trails and hike in the Garden of the Gods Wilderness. In the evening participants will relax around a campfire and hear stories of the areas natural history and conservation issues. Cost of \$15 includes most meals. Limit 20. Kids welcome with parents. Leader: Tom Borchard. Co-leaders: Mark Ginger, Scott Etienne, and Eric Patterson. Call Tom at 847-390-8386. <mailto:tfborchard23@hotmail.com>

October 13 (Monday) ~ Pickle Creek, Hickory Canyon Natural Area and Canyon Trail in Hawn State Park Outing. These two sites are in close proximity to each other, half-way between St. Genevieve and Farmington, Missouri. Meet 8:30 AM at the Murphysboro ranger station. Each area has a hiking trail of not more than a two mile loop. We will view natural arches, deep canyons, unique rock formations, and rock shut-ins. Leader: Bob Tyson, 684-5643.

October 18 (Saturday) ~ Shawnee National Forest Hiking Outing~ Leader: Paul Silverman at 847-392-3433.

November 9 (Sunday) ~ Tyson Creek Canyon Hike and a Walk on top of Fountain Bluff. Leader: Bob Tyson, 684-5643.

December 8 (Monday) ~ Riverto-River Trail Hiking Outing on the south side of Fern Clyffe State Park. #

Non-Sierra Club Outings (see disclaimer on <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings/>)

October 18 (Saturday) One Horse Gap Hike. Meet at Mitchelville store (south of Harrisburg on RT 145). 10 AM

October 25. (Saturday) Garden of the Gods to High Knob Hike. Meet 10 AM at G.O.G. parking lot.

October 31 (Friday) Max Creek Hike. 6:30PM. bring flashlight. Meet at junction of Taylor Ridge Rd at RT 45. Leader: Jim Waycullis 634-2644.

These hikes are sponsored by the River To River Trails Society.

More info on the first two hikes is available from John O'Dell at 252-6789. #

Adventures with Uncle Bob

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

Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure with Bob Tyson

SIGNAL POINT TRAIL This trail is located in the Lake Glendale Recreation area and is administered by Shawnee National Forest. You can access the area via Hwy 145, 20 miles south of Harrisburg, or go east from Vienna 13 miles along RT 146. Upon entering Lake Glendale, turn right at the first intersection and follow the road until it ends at a gate barrier. A spokesman explains that the road is gated in order to prevent off-season vandalism to the picnic area tables and restrooms that are located 2 miles further east. The hike starts at the gate. Walk along the road until you reach the top of the hill. Look to your right for an unmarked opening that leads to a gravel trail marked with a blue blaze. At the first junction go left and follow it to a creek crossing. Keep following a white blaze on our right. Continue with a moderate hike up and down the hills until you reach a long bluff line. You have a choice of going straight or go right. If you go up the bluff there is a "T" intersection at the top where you should go right. There are grand views of the surrounding area as you traverse this dry rock glade. Following the trail you will gradually descend to the bottom of the bluff and hike along its base. From there you can enjoy the views of the multi-colored, sculptured cliff walls with their wavy lines. You will quickly arrive at the first intersection where you turn left returning via the same trail back to the trailhead.

The campground concessionaire said it is two miles from the gate to the bluff; however, it seems to be closer to three miles. This trail is shared with horse riders. ATV riders have a number of trails in this area, but appear not to have damaged this particular trail. While here, you may desire to lengthen your visit by going over to the swimming beach and walking the 3-4 mile loop trail that follows the shore of Lake Glendale. For more information, contact Bob Tyson at 684-5643. #

Urgent Alert!!!!

Help Save Sugar Creek NOW!

Urgent!!!

Your help needed to save one of Southern Illinois' finest streams from destruction by a dam & reservoir!

We need your comment letters sent to Illinois EPA - NOW – Comments must be received by **October 6th**

Sugar Creek: A Unique Aquatic Resource: Sugar Creek, located in Southern Illinois, is the highest quality stream remaining in the Saline River drainage. It is one of only 132 streams in Illinois that has been rated as “biologically significant” by the Illinois Natural History Survey. Sugar Creek is home to the state endangered Indiana crayfish and the state threatened least brook lamprey, and provides habitat for a broad diversity of other plant and animal species.

Alternatives to Destruction: For almost 20 years, local land owners and concerned citizens have fought to prevent this beautiful stream from being converted to a reservoir. Even though there is an abundance of manmade lakes in Southern Illinois, Marion officials insist that it must have its own water supply, rather than purchasing water from other available sources in the region.

The Sierra Club and some individuals have sued and won in court twice on the grounds that the economic and environmental analyses for this project have been inadequate. The latest analysis is still inadequate, and biased toward Marion's favored alternative – the Sugar Creek dam and reservoir. Marion officials have skewed the economic analyses by including Lake of Egypt Water District in their project, in defiance of a court order to separate the two water districts. It would take only four miles of pipeline for Marion to connect to the Rend Lake Intercity Water System. Rend Lake has plenty of water to serve Marion's needs – both now and in the future. In addition, the City of Marion has not adequately considered the alternatives using more than one source, such as: the current Marion reservoir and Herrin City reservoir with Rend Lake or Cedar Lake.

The Current Situation: The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has issued an “incidental take” permit to the City of Marion to allow the city to destroy habitat and individuals of the two threatened and endangered species in Sugar Creek. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is now taking comments on the “*Antidegradation*” regulations related to the IEPA issuance of a Clean Water Act 401 Certification. We need **you** to let IEPA know that local citizens oppose the IEPA certification of the “Marion Lake Project.”

What You Can Do: Write to IEPA and let them know you are against the degradation of Sugar Creek, one of the highest quality and biologically diverse streams in the state (See sample letter on reverse side). Let IEPA know that you oppose the destruction of one of the few remaining habitats of two state threatened and endangered (T & E) species, especially since there are reasonable alternatives that would not destroy Sugar Creek, the two T & E species, and the diverse plant and animal communities dependent on Sugar Creek.

Illinois has already sacrificed the vast majority of its streams to reservoirs, pollution, and channelization. Using those reservoirs that have already been constructed to their fullest capacity not only spreads the costs of current impoundments among a much larger user base, but also makes it unnecessary to destroy the few remaining high quality streams in the state. Let's make sure IEPA hears LOUD opposition to this project. With your help we will also be sending the message that we do not want to sacrifice any more of our high quality streams for unnecessary water projects.

The Shawnee Group hopes you will write your own letter and include your own reasons for opposing the project. Please consider using the sample letter on the next page. If you use the sample letter as a form letter, remember to print your name and address and date at the top. To be considered, comments must be **received by Monday, 6th**.

Be sure to include the IEPA Log. No. C-1530-00

Comments can be faxed to: (217) 785-1225

Attention: David Ginder, IEPA Bureau of Water, Phone # (217) 782-3362

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water Watershed Management Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Attn: David Ginder – Mailcode 15

Re: IEPA Log No. C-1530-00, City of Marion Reservoir Project: Antidegradation Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to urge you to deny the 401 certification for the City of Marion Reservoir Project on the grounds that all of the cost analyses done for the project are biased. Even in the latest Berlin Consulting cost analysis, the water supply for the City of Marion is joined with the water supply for the Lake of Egypt Water District (LEWD), in violation of court orders to consider the needs of the two water districts as separate projects. Thus, the cost analysis of the Marion Reservoir Project has unnecessarily added the expense of a sixteen mile pipeline and the amortization of the Lake of Egypt water treatment plant to artificially make it seem that it would be millions of dollars cheaper to build a reservoir and dam on Sugar Creek than to connect to the Rend Lake Water District. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency should insist that the City of Marion adhere to the court order and commission a proper cost analysis based solely on the needs of the City of Marion, without factoring in the needs of the LEWD.

The 401 Permit would cause a violation of Illinois water quality standards by killing rare aquatic life in violation of Illinois' general use standards. The segment of Sugar Creek that would be inundated by the Marion Reservoir is one of only 132 stream segments that are rated as category "A" or "B" streams left in the whole state. Sugar Creek provides a habitat for a broad diversity of species, including the state endangered Indiana crayfish and the state threatened least brook lamprey.

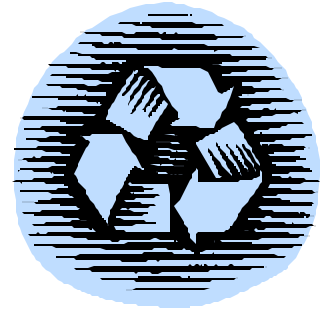
The State of Illinois and IEPA would be setting a dangerous precedent by allowing the City of Marion to destroy the high quality stream segment on Sugar Creek. It is sending the message to other cities that they could build their own city lake on a neighboring stream, even if it is a high quality, biologically significant stream, and even if there is a cost-effective alternative.

There are enough manmade lakes in Southern Illinois to adequately supply the water needs for the population both now and in the foreseeable future. All of the citizens of the State would benefit by promoting regional cooperation, planning and sharing of water supplies. For example, if Marion would connect to the Rend Lake water line, it would lower the price of water for ALL of the customers of the Rend Lake Water District. The people of Illinois do not need to make financial and environmental sacrifices just to allow Marion (or any other city) the luxury of owning their own water supply.

Sincerely,

Keep Your Household Hazardous Waste Out of Our Environment Participate in the Jackson County Hazardous Waste Collection Day

A **free** household hazardous waste collection will be held at the SIU Arena parking lot on Saturday, October 4th. This collection program helps residents safely dispose of un-wanted household chemicals, such as oil-based paint, motor oil, pesticides and aerosols. Residents can drop off wastes at the site from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and should arrive by turning west off US Highway 51 onto Pleasant Hill Road, then north on Arena Drive.



Items to be accepted at the collection include: oil-based paint, paint thinner, aerosols, household cleaners, pesticides, insecticides, herbicides, motor oil, antifreeze, household and lead-acid batteries, old gasoline, solvents, polishes, pool chemicals, and lawn chemicals. Citizens are especially encouraged to bring in all mercury-containing devices, such as thermometers, thermostats, and fluorescent bulbs. Although latex paints will be accepted, citizens are encouraged to find alternate uses since latex paints are not considered hazardous. Allow the paint to thoroughly air dry in the can; then dispose of the dry material in regular waste pick-ups. Better yet, find someone that can use it.

Items which will absolutely not be accepted include: explosives, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, propane tanks, farm machinery oil, fireworks, medical waste, and radioactive material, nor will business, industrial, agricultural or government wastes be accepted.

According to Jackson County's Solid Waste Manager, Bart Hagston, "Jackson County hosted one of these collections In 2001 and the turnout was great. We hope that a lot of people will participate this time around as well. This is great chance for people to safely get rid of whatever they have been storing for the past several years. The whole point is to keep these items out of the landfill and handle them in a more appropriate manner." Hagston says IEPA's contractor will manage the collected material through recycling, energy recovery and other means.

This rain or shine, one-day collection is open to all Illinois residents. The event is being sponsored by Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Jackson County Health Department, and SIU. For more information, please contact the Jackson County Health Department at 618-684-3143, ext. 128 or go online to: <http://www.jchdonline.org>. #

KUDOS to Yard Sale Supporters

by Dorothy Boman

The Shawnee Group had one of its most successful yard sales on Saturday, September 20, due to the generous donations from our members, families, and friends. This year the number and variety of items brought in was exceptional. There was everything from antique tools to children's toys. One visitor after viewing our wide collection of bathroom fixtures said that all we were missing was the kitchen sink. Maybe next year.

Thanks to all of you who came on such a busy day to support us by purchasing something. There were many comments about almost missing us at our new site in the SIU Arena parking lot. We hope it wasn't too inconvenient to search us out. It was a much more comfortable location for the workers.

The sale would not have been nearly as successful without the generous contributions of time by so many of our members. A heartfelt thank-you to you all. In addition, there must be a special thank-you to Anne Hill for allowing us to use her garage again as our collection site and for graciously hosting the group that assembled Friday evening for pricing of the items. This difficult responsibility was made much easier this year because many of the items were properly priced by the donors before being delivered. Thanks to all of you who took the time to price your donations, as well as those who came Friday evening to price everything else. Thanks also to Tom Bik and Laurel Toussaint who literally tore their house apart to provide display tables for us at the last minute, and Sharon Fletcher who let us use her horse trailer again to transport the donated items from Anne Hill's to the arena for the sale.

Finally, and most sincerely, thank you to those who came out early on Saturday morning to set up the site for the sale, those who came during the day to help out, and those who came back at the end of the day to help clean up. We could not have done it without each and everyone of you. #



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USA, Earth, Milky Way

I think we're looking at an administration that's far worse than the (former Interior Secretary James) Watt years under Reagan.

But they're subtle about it. They take a logging plan and call it the Healthy Forests Initiative. They take a plan that allows more air pollution and call it the Clear Skies Initiative.

~ Brent Martin,
 Director of
 Georgia
 ForestWatch

Perhaps the moment will come when something that Bush loves at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, is no longer there. He brags about being able to jog in inhospitable 100-degree heat, but just maybe, when something he is used to disappears, a cactus, a flower, a cricket song, he will realize how we have abused the hospitality of the planet. He just might get that awe. That is our best hope for him to take the environment seriously. He needs the awe to forget about the oil.

~ Derrick Z. Jackson's, Boston Globe, <mailto:jackson@globe.com>

Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Chair	Laurel Toussaint		✉ 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	Ron Schmeck	529-8387	✉ mailto:rae50@siu.edu
Outings Chair	Bob Tyson	684-5643	✉ mailto:robkay43@webtv.net
Member	Phyllis Oliver	XXX-XXXX	✉ mailto:moonshadow53@yahoo.com

Sierra Club Websites

National: <http://www.sierraclub.org> **IL Chapter:** <http://illinois.sierraclub.org> **Shawnee:** <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/index.htm>
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Shawnee Group Outings Catalog: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>
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