



Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — November 2003

In This Month's Issue:

- There Was A Time 1
- Outings Calendar; Adventure Guide 2
- Nature Provides Important Lessons 3 - 4
- EXCOM Election. Be sure to Vote! 5-6
- **ALERT:** Stop The Disastrous Energy Bill 7
- Volunteers , Web Resources & The Monthly Quotes [Back](#)

There Was A Time

There was a time when outdoor activities were more important than spectator sports. There was a time when a letter would be written OUTSIDE on a handcrafted laptop DESK, not a computer. There was a time when the most famous and powerful men and women in this country were concerned with conservation issues, and they had their publicity photos taken in the outdoors while hiking, fishing, hunting, or canoeing.



Fish Grabber



Wool Hunter's Pants

There was a time when you would use a fish grabber to pick up a fish. There was a time when wool was more important than poly-this and poly-that.

There was a time when hikers carried a Woodsman's Pal (machete) instead of a Swiss Army knife. There was a time when archery involved the use of a REAL bow instead of a system of pulleys, levers, and rifle-sights. There was a time when camping equipment such as kitchen gear was made out of wood and metal instead of plastic.



Woodsman's Pal

Come talk about those times. Let's reminisce.

Event Calendar

November 6 ~ Group EXCOM at Clara McClure's.

November 13 ~ Membership Program, 7:30 PM at Unitarian Fellowship, 301 W Elm, C'dale Pre-meeting Dinner at Quatro's Pizza at 5:45 PM.

November 22 ~ 8 PM Deadline for September Newsletter content.

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



Bow and Arrows

Ron Schreck has collected and studied objects, pictures, and stories connected with early involvement of Americans in outdoor activities. At the next Shawnee Group membership meeting on November 13th at the Unitarian Fellowship, 7:30 PM, Ron will talk about his hobby, display pictures, and bring along a few outdoor recreation antiques for show-and-tell. You might bring to the meeting any outdoor activity antiques from your personal outdoor adventure "museum". (Check your attic, garage and basement.)



Metal Cooler and Thermos

The Unitarian Fellowship is located at the corner of University Avenue & Elm, Carbondale.

If you want to search the internet for outdoor collectibles, try the auctions at <http://www.ebay.com>. Also, see Maloney's Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory at <http://www.maloneyonline.com>. And finally, check out the auctions at <http://www.soldusa.com>



The public is welcome to attend the membership meeting & 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

November 9 (Monday) ~ Tyson Creek / Fountain Bluff. Meet at 12:30 PM at the Murphysboro ranger station. This easy hike includes a canyon in a deep ravine, a small cave, and a waterfall over a shelter bluff. Afterwards, we will drive to the top of Fountain Bluff and walk along the road taking in views of fall colors in the many ravines along the Mississippi River. Call Bob Tyson to make trip [reservations](#) at 684-5643.

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

NON-SIERRA OUTINGS These hikes are sponsored by the River to River Trail society. Contact John O'Dell at 252-6789.

November 8 ~ Crest Trail. 10 AM. Go to Saline County Conservation area, also known as Glen Jones Lake. Upon entering, go right and follow over the hill. turn right again.

November 22 ~ Rimrock Recreation Area to Beaver Trail. 10 AM. Wear orange cap or vest. Meet on Karber Ridge Road. 📍



Adventures with Uncle Bob

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

Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure with Bob Tyson

This month we journey to **CAMP ONDESSONK**, which is located near Ozark, IL. From Marion, IL, go east on RT 13 and turn on to RT 166 through Creal Springs to US 45. Turn right and follow until you see the sign for Ozark and Bell Smith Springs. In town, watch closely on your right for a stone arch with a sign for the camp. Follow the road to the hotel with the camp office. This camp is owned and operated by the Catholic diocese. You cannot hike here between May 15th and Sept 15th; the rest of the year requires a day pass at the office to hike. It may be wise to call ahead to 618-695-2489 to make sure a group has not reserved the facility .

Upon securing your pass, drive to the camp parking lot. Walk across the covered bridge and turn left. Continue past the concrete bathhouse and follow the steps downhill to the road. For a side trip, turn right at the bath house to see the grotto. This is a major rockhouse with a small waterfall, along with bench seating for events. As we walk along the road, look for treehouse #6. Behind it is a major shelter bluff with waterfall. As the road curves, pick up the trail to your left to explore a canyon and rock formations (right after the concrete ford). Back on the road again, look for a treehouse section with several benches. Go inside that canyon for some great views, which ends in a cul-de-sac. Further along the road, look for a sign that says "cabanel tree houses". Follow that trail to a neat cliff area.

Back on the road again, you come to a fork . Go straight ahead (the sign says *Lemonte houses*). Soon you will see a white trail sign – including Cedar Falls Campground. Turn and follow this trail uphill and at some point, will enter an open field with a shelter. Go to your right and the trail sign will reappear. Soon you arrive at a crossroads with no signage. Go straight ahead on a trail which keeps descending. You will arrive at Cedar Falls. The falls flow was a trickle when I was there Oct 1; but on other occasions its been a gusher. This is a huge rock shelter with an additional one even inside it, going back another 40 feet. While there is a pool in front of this rock shelter, I found access on the left by a path near the water which then took me through a rock maze until I got under this long cliff. Retrace your route back to the parking lot. I estimate the distance as 1.5 – 2.0 miles. For more info call Bob Tyson at 618-684-5643. 📍

Sierra Club Outings

Nature Provides Important Lessons About The World In Which We Live

By Bob Pauls

In its more than 100 year history, Sierra Club leaders have sought to educate the public about the value of the natural environment. Sierra Club founder, John Muir led public outings into the wilderness and wrote about the value of wild places. Outing participants were encouraged to read Muir's [The Mountains of California](#) and Joseph LeConte's [Ramblings Through the High Sierra](#). During the outings, leaders would lecture on forestry, biology, geology, history, and other pertinent topics.

Other famous wilderness advocates such as Frederick Olmsted, Ansel Adams and David Brower also sought to preserve wild places by both leading outings and writing journals about their experiences with nature.

The sponsorship of outings and the inclusion of conservation education during the outings is what has really set Sierra Club outings apart from the activities of many other outdoor-oriented organizations.

The Club's outings combined with its publications, including group newsletters such as the Shawnee Trails, and the many other activities of the different Club entities bears witness to the Club's belief that nature provides important lessons about the world in which we live.

Today, outdoor activities are sponsored at all three levels of the Sierra Club's organization: National, Chapter and Group. In addition, the club has programs targeted at special populations: students, and low-income inner city youth.

National and International Outings

At the national level, the club annually offers over 350 trips both in the United States and internationally. The catalog of outings are published in the Sierra magazine several times a year and details on all trips are available online at: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/> One must be a Sierra Club member to participate in national outings.

In 2004, approximately a dozen national outings will be held in the Midwest including one service trip in the Shawnee National Forest. Shawnee Group leader, Bob Pauls, will be leading a bicycle trip along the Katy Trail stretching across Missouri. There will also be cross country skiing, backpacking, canoeing, kayaking and other service trips, including two very unique service outings to the Ben Schute Bear Sanctuary in Minnesota where participants walk among and feed wild black bears.

Service trips are a very popular component of the national outing program. Members often work in conjunction with state and federal agencies to make new trails, repair existing trails and stream crossings, build fences, revegetate denuded areas, and remove invasive plant species such as kudzu, leafy spurge and crown vetch. Service trips are the least expensive of all national outings, and like most national outings, are usually six to seven days in length.

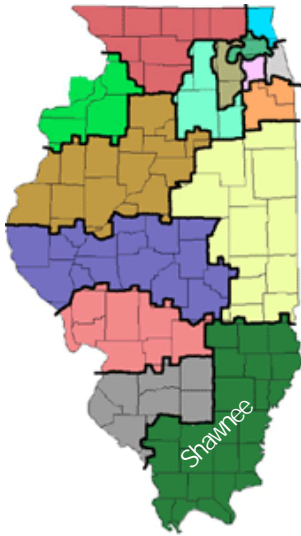
The qualified, volunteer leaders of national outings have extensive outdoor and wilderness experience, leadership skills, and wilderness first aid (or better) certifications.

Chapter Outings

Only one Sierra Club chapter exists per state, except in California. The outings of chapters are published in the chapter's newsletters that Sierra Club members automatically receive as part of their membership in the Club. Some larger chapters publish their outings in a special, published schedule issued every few months. Some chapters also have special-interest activity sections, such as for bicycling and cross-country skiing that organize their own outings and publish their own activity newsletter.

All Chapter outings are led by Sierra Club [volunteers](#). No fees are charged for most Chapter outings, except for incidental expenses such as equipment rentals. Other outings are conducted as fundraisers and are so advertised.

- **John Muir** ~ Naturalist and first President of the Sierra Club.
http://www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit
- **Joseph LeConte** ~ Geologist, university professor, and a founding member of the Sierra Club.
http://www.sierraclub.org/history/key_figures/leconte/index.asp
- **Frederick Law Olmsted** ~ Landscape Architect and author of Preliminary Report on Yosemite and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove (1865).
<http://www.yosemite.ca.us/history/olmsted>
- **Ansel Adams** ~ Photographer whose [This is the American Earth](#) exhibition was displayed at the LeConte Lodge in the 1950's.
http://www.sierraclub.org/ansel_adams/about.asp
- **David Brower** ~ Conservationist whose life-long passion in defense of wilderness inspired millions of people all over the world.
<http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/200101/brower2.asp>



Illinois Sierra Club Group Areas

Illinois Chapter outings are announced online at: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/outings/index.htm>. Outings sponsored by other chapters can be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/>. Most Sierra Club Chapter outings have no requirement for membership in the Sierra Club. Illinois Chapter sponsored outings are held all over the state.

Local Group Outings

The Shawnee Group sponsors outings primarily in southeastern and southern Illinois – the area from which it draws its Group membership. Historically most Shawnee Group outings have been day hikes and canoe trips that emphasize appreciation of the region's natural flora and fauna in the Shawnee National Forest. The local presence of designated natural areas, all seven of Illinois' designated wilderness areas, three proposed wilderness areas, numerous trails, lakes and streams have all been a real boon to the development of varied and interesting outings.

Due to the often oppressive mid-summer heat and humidity and the presence of ticks, few hikes are held in summer. Spring generates many more outings during leaf-out and waves of successive flower blooms. Late summer, fall and winter tend to generate hikes along bluffs, ridge lines and water bodies, especially when views are not blocked by tree foliage. Bike trips and cave exploration outings are held year-round. More outings can be held if we had more leaders.

Inner City Outings (ICO)

"ICO is a community outreach program of the Sierra Club that provides low-income, inner city youth with trips to wilderness. The Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter established the first ICO group in 1971. Today, a dedicated core of volunteer leaders located in approximately 50 cities across the United States and Canada work with local social service agencies and schools to provide wilderness experiences for people who otherwise might not have them.

With the guidance of ICO volunteer leaders, participants discover the beauty of wild lands and how to enjoy these places without harming them. Young people learn valuable survival skills and develop the ability to face challenges outside their urban environments. Interpersonal skills and self-esteem grow as a natural result of teamwork and an active relationship with the outdoors.

Sierra Club ICO volunteers are provided training and become certified in recreational, outdoor, and safety skills, as well as, environmental education. ICO leaders enable youth of diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds, hearing or visually impaired, and the physically disabled to backpack, participate in neighborhood cleanups and/or naturalist-led hikes through local marshes and meadows. ICO volunteer leaders introduce all people to the natural world.

Through its environmental education programs, the Sierra Club nurtures caring for nature, outdoor leadership skills, and critical thinking. We invite all groups, cultures, and people with different abilities to help protect our environment.

Young people (18-25) are eligible to participate in national outings at a significantly reduced cost as a result of the Sierra Club establishing the Sharon Churchwell Fund. It honors the memory of a dedicated young Service Trip volunteer leader whose commitment to the outdoor experience, and to Service Trips in particular, continues to be an inspiration to the leaders, cooks, and participants." Further information in Inner City Outings can be found at <http://www.sierraclub.org/ico/>

Sierra Student Coalition (SSC)

"The SSC is the student-run arm of the Sierra Club. It is a nationwide grassroots network of high school and college students that works to protect the environment. All of its leaders are students and most of their outings staff are recent college graduates. All SSC Conservation Outings are open to SSC members between the ages of 16 and 25. Along with planning safe and enjoyable outings, SSC certified outings leaders strive to provide inspiration and education about the environmental issues facing the areas they visit. The Shawnee Group wants to support SSC activity in Southern Illinois."

Outing Leader Development

Volunteer leaders are needed at all levels of the Sierra Club outings programs. The Shawnee Group is recruiting new outings leaders that have a commitment to the Club's goal to assist members *explore, enjoy and protect the planet*. Outing leadership training is available at all levels and is usually subsidized. Leaders of national outings usually acquire their core experience in Group level outings. If you are interested becoming a leader, participating in or helping sponsor any ICO/student activities or local outings, please contact Bob Pauls at <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com> or call 618-549-9408. ☎

VOTE NOW! Annual Sierra Club Shawnee Group Executive Committee (ExCom) Election

Its time once again to elect new leaders of the Shawnee Group. The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the Shawnee Group is composed of six elected members, three of whom are elected each year by the general membership using a secret ballot. The Nominating Committee offers below the brief bios/statements provided by the six candidates for the three (3) available positions. Terms of office are for two years. The ExCom elects the Group's officers. ExCom members with a year remaining in their term include: Donna Ayers, Phyllis Oliver and Ron Schmeck.

Your voting ballot is on the reverse of this page. Two ballots are provided in case your household has more than one voting member. After you complete the ballot, seal and send it in the enclosed envelope to: Shawnee Group, Sierra Club, P.O. Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903. The envelope must have on the outside a return address and the member name(s). This ballot must be received in the Group's post office box by 3 PM on December 31, 2003. Alternatively, you may bring your sealed ballot to the December 18th membership meeting, or bring it to the Annual Stone Soup Picnic at Giant City State Park on New Years Day by no later than Noon. You can vote for no more than three candidates. Don't hesitate. Vote today.

What should you expect from your ExCom?

1. Your ExCom needs to establish priorities for the conservation campaigns the Shawnee Group will undertake.
2. Your ExCom needs to figure out how you and other leaders in your chapter/group will work together. This includes: assigning roles to various people, such as who speaks for the Sierra Club, who will be the treasurer, who will chair committees; establishing accountability for the activities that have been delegated; working effectively with Chapter and national Sierra Club staff; and being a leader locally and being a team member of the Sierra Club at the regional and national level.
3. Your ExCom needs to reach out into the community, to be ambassadors for the Sierra Club message, to develop working relationships with other community leaders and politicians, to plan community outreach tactics and events, and to use the media to amplify your message to the community.
4. Your ExCom needs to work with other chapter/group leaders to plan a wide variety of ways for members in your area to participate, from outings to fundraisers to hands-on conservation work to political activism.

Solicited Statements from the Candidates for the 2004 Shawnee ExCom Election (<200 words each)

Bob Tyson *"I have been on the Sierra Club ExCom for the last three years. During this time, I have been either the Outings Chair or the Assistant Chair, I have also mobilized members for trail service projects with the Forest Service. My column, Adventures with Uncle Bob, appears in the monthly newsletter. My educational background consists of a degree from Augsburg College, graduate work in Sociology from the University of Nebraska, and continuing education in vocal music from Missouri Western University. I retired from the Illinois Department of Labor in 1999, and moved back to this area. Currently, I work part-time assignments for marketing firms. Avocational interests include guitarist/singer on the local music scene, and being a member of the Robins Quartet. My main achievement this year was developing a trail in an unexplored canyon on a parcel of Forest Service land (Tyson Canyon).*

Laurel Toussaint. *"Laurel has served as Chair of the Shawnee Group. She has been active in the Sierra Club for over 14 years, serving as chair, vice chair, membership and conservation chair. She has been active on Shawnee Forest issues and has led efforts to protect Sugar Creek from impoundment by the City of Marion. She is also active in the effort to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil drilling and to protect it as Wilderness."*

Bob Pauls *"I am the Shawnee Group's newsletter editor, webmaster, and mailing list manager. I attend nearly every ExCom meeting. I am also the webmaster for the Sierra Club's Midwest Outings Subcommittee. I have attended six national leader training sessions of the Sierra Club and acquired Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification so that the Shawnee Group can develop more diverse and safer group and national outings in the Midwest. My three main goals for the Shawnee Group continue to be as follows: 1) Improve the organizational effectiveness of the group, 2) Expand the diversity of outings and educational opportunities, and 3) Improve the Shawnee Group's communications abilities so that we can turn member education into effective political action that protects our environment for future generations. I'd appreciate your vote of support."*

Barb McKasson *"I am a life member of Sierra Club, and have been a member continuously since 1974. When I lived in the Chicago Area, I was a member of the Sauk-Calumet Group. During that time, I was active in campaigns to save Wolf Road Prairie and the Old Plank Trail. I have been active on the Shawnee Group ExCom since 1996, and have been Conservation Chair for Shawnee Group since 1999. I have served as our group delegate to Illinois Chapter since 2000, and was alternate delegate for two years before that. Some of the issues that I have worked on for the Shawnee Group include: Shawnee National Forest: Forest Plan, preserving Natural Areas, designating three new wilderness areas; Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge: active in planning process; Conservation Congress: regional caucuses and state Executive Committee; regulation of ATVs on public lands; preserving Sugar Creek; defending threatened and endangered species. I would like a show of support for all the work I do for the club. Also, I would like to continue as our group delegate to Illinois Chapter, but must be elected to the Shawnee ExCom in order to do so."*

Cathy Hutcheson *"Cathie Hutcheson has been the Secretary for Shawnee Sierra Club for a few years. Although grumpy, she manages to get the minutes to the board in a reasonable amount of time so they can all e-mail corrections. She does research on birds, with special concentration on hummingbirds, and enjoys being a hermit."*

Sandy Anderson *"Sandy is a nurseryman and owner/operator of the Anna Nursery and has been a member of Sierra Club for eight years. She has previously served two years on the Executive Committee and as Outings Chair. Sandy is an avid tennis player, hiker, and bicyclist. Her environmental interests include soil and water conservation, which is practiced at the Anna Nursery, and group outings."*

Shawnee Group 2004 EXCOM Election Ballot

SIX candidates are running for three positions.

Indicate up to three choices by marking the appropriate box.



- Sandy Anderson
- Cathy Hutcheson
- Barb McKasson
- Bob Pauls
- Laurel Toussaint
- Bob Tyson

Return to: Shawnee Group, Sierra Club, P. O. Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117.
Ballots must be received by mail no later than 3 PM on 12/31/2003.

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- Barb McKasson
- Cathie Hutcheson
- Sandy Anderson

Return to: Shawnee Group, Sierra Club, P. O. Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117.
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ALERT!!! Help Defeat the Disastrous Energy Bill in the U.S. Congress Now!!!

The anticipated announcement by Senator Domenici (R-NM) and Rep. Tauzin (R-LA) that a "deal" has been reached on the Energy bill does nothing to change the fact that this bill still puts America's communities at risk. The result of this "deal" isn't a compromise; this isn't moderate; it's purely a give-away to polluting industries. While Republicans predictably removed two particularly outrageous provisions from this bill (drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and exploring America's coasts for oil and gas), it still leaves the public with more air and water pollution, greater oil dependence and an outdated electricity grid.

The energy bill takes us backward by drastically increasing oil and gas drilling on public lands, providing liability protections for polluters, giving billions of dollars in subsidies to polluting fossil fuel and nuclear industries, exposing consumers to market manipulation, increasing our dependence on oil, in addition to doing nothing to increase our use of renewable energy or curb global warming.

The Bush-Administration backed energy bill also puts communities across the country at risk by letting polluters off the hook when they use a toxic gasoline additive known as MTBE. MTBE is a carcinogenic substance that can easily leak into groundwater. The energy bill removes liability from polluters who knowingly use the toxic chemical.

Additionally, the Bush energy bill does almost nothing to ensure that we use more renewable energy like solar and wind for our electricity, and that we increase the energy efficiency of our buildings, homes, and appliances. Moreover, it wouldn't adequately prevent further power outages. This bill even repeals the key law that ensures that electric utilities cannot pass unrelated debts onto consumers.

The Sierra Club urges Congress to reject the energy bill because there's a better way. We can reduce our dependence on foreign oil. We can cut pollution. We can produce more of our electricity with clean, renewable energy like wind and solar power. At the same time, we can protect our special places and ensure that corporations do their part to protect our health and safety. This bill does not get us there.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

MOST EFFECTIVE: Write or call your U.S. Representative and Senators TODAY to vote NO on the Energy Bill, using some of the environmental concerns listed above OR...

ELECTRONIC ACTION: Go to: <http://whistler.sierraclub.org/action/?alid=285> and send the form letter as is or customize it. The letter will be automatically sent to your Senators and Rep.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR U.S. REPS AND SENATORS:

Senator Richard Durbin:

(202)224-2152; 701 N. Court St., Marion, IL 62959 (618) 998-8812; FAX: (202) 228-0400

Senator Peter Fitzgerald:

(202)224-2854; Ginger Creek Village #7, Glen Carbon, IL, 62034; (618) 692-0364; FAX: (202) 228-1372

Rep. Jerry Costello:

(202) 225-5661; 250 West Cherry St., Carbondale, IL, 62901; (618) 529-3791; FAX: (202) 225-0285.

Rep. John Shimkus:

(202) 225-5271; 110 E. Locust St., Room 12, Harrisburg, IL 62946; (618) 252-8271; FAX (202)225-5880.

NOTE: Washington addresses are not given, since there is still a two week or more delay to process Congressional mail for anthrax, bombs, etc.

Prepared by Barb McKasson ☎



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

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Permit 3

In addition to undermining environmental protections, the Bush Administration has also begun to attack certain civil liberties, from limiting citizen participation in the management of public lands to possibly labeling peaceful protestors as terrorists. Greenpeace is currently facing an unprecedented federal charge for exposing a shipment of illegal mahogany from the Amazon in 2002. Charged under an obscure 1872 law, Greenpeace may be the first organization in U.S. history to be indicted as a corporate entity for peaceful protest activities of its supporters.

~ Mike Englert,

American Lands Alliance

<http://www.americanlands.org>

"Bush told his senior aides Tuesday that he 'didn't want to see any stories' quoting unnamed administration officials in the media anymore, and that if he did, there would be consequences, said a senior administration official who asked that his name not be used."

~ Article in the Philadelphia Inquirer, October 16, 2003

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

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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