

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — January 2004

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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Shawnee Group Event Calendar

January 8 ~ Membership Program, 7:30 PM at the Carbondale Township Office, 217 East Main St., Carbondale. A social dinner will be held at the Great Wall Restaurant at 5:45 PM.

January 20—21 ~ Trail System Open Houses: 4-7 PM; Tuesday in Marion; Wednesday in Vienna.

January 30 ~ Deadline for SNF Trails Comments to USFS. See the back page.

Wildflowers In January

The Shawnee Group's member program in January will be presented by Gary Uhlir. For many years, Gary has been photographing nature, with an emphasis on wildflowers. One of Gary's goals is to photograph all the species of orchids in Illinois. So, come to the next member program at our NEW meeting location, enjoy a virtual walk in the woods, and renew your acquaintance with many of the native flowers of Illinois.

The meeting will be held on January 8th at 7:30 PM at a new meeting location: the Carbondale Township Office located at 217 East Main Street in Carbondale. Free parking is available in the Bank of Carbondale parking lot on East Main Street across from the Carbondale Township office, as well as behind the office.

The public is welcome to attend the member meeting and all Sierra Club meetings and outings. ☩

Crab Orchard NWR Management Plan *By Barbara McKasson*

The Shawnee Group is expecting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to make public their draft management plan for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (CONWR) early in 2004. However, they have now informed us that the draft plan has been delayed. A centerpiece of the plan was going to be a land swap between Southern Illinois University in Carbondale (SIU-C) and the Refuge. The Refuge managers were ready to trade Refuge lakefront property near Illinois Route 13 to the University for SIU-C land that borders the south end of the refuge. However, review by federal administrators revealed that the value of the lakefront land is much higher than the SIU-C property, even though the CONWR Refuge would be receiving many more acres of land than they would be trading away.

Now administrators at SIU-C and managers at CONWR are trying to figure out a way to make the swap more equitable. Thus, it is not known when the draft plan will be released, but we will let you know as soon as we find out. Administrators at SIU-C hope to build a hotel and marina on Crab Orchard Lake. Refuge managers would like to pass the responsibility of managing non-wildlife related recreational activities to SIU-C because the USFWS's mission is to manage for wildlife and related activities. ☩

We Can Help Save Illinois Wetlands *By Barbara McKasson*

Tens of thousands of Illinois wetlands — about 1/3 of our remaining wetlands — are unprotected because of a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2000. Illinois has no state-level wetland protection program, leaving critical wetlands at risk from harmful development.

The Illinois Wetlands Protection Act (Illinois House Bill 422) is an attempt to restore vital protections to wetlands. It will work by requiring a permit from the state before anyone can destroy a designated Illinois wetland. If the applicant can demonstrate that there will be no reasonable alternatives to destroying the wetland, and that it will not result in a loss of flood control, wildlife habitat, or water purification functions, then a permit would be issued by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The IDNR, which includes the state's experts on wildlife and flood control, would consult with the Illinois Environ-

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Carbondale Township Government Offices

Safe, happy and inspired

- ☀ All outings of the Shawnee Group and many of the other 15 groups in Illinois are now available in in one central location thus making it easy to find a wider range of outdoor activities by any Sierra Club member or the general public. Go to the Shawnee Group website for the link to this new feature: <http://Illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>
- ☀ The Sierra Club is developing new requirements for outings leaders with the goal of improving the safety and quality of all outings led by its thousands of volunteers. The Shawnee Group is seeking new volunteers to become qualified outings leaders. Please contact Illinois Chapter Outings Chair, Bob Pauls, for information: <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com>
The following four requirements currently apply to all Sierra Club outings leaders.
 1. **Sierra Club Membership:** All leaders and assistant leaders must be Sierra Club members in good standing.
 2. **Adherence to Sierra Club Policies:** All leaders should know and follow Sierra Club policies and procedures.
 3. **First Aid Training:** Leaders shall have completed first aid or comparable training and must maintain current emergency medical treatment knowledge appropriate to the location and type of outing being led. The leader shall also carry, or have access to, a first aid kit appropriate for the outing or activity. (The Shawnee Group will assist you in acquiring the requisite training and provide the first aid kit.)
 4. **Certification:** All outings leaders must be "certified." Each Club entity has an established method and procedure for determining that individuals are competent to lead their outings. Accordingly, leaders shall be appointed and authorized to conduct each outing.
- ☀ The trail master for the western section of Shawnee National Forest, Ken Peterin, retired at the end of December. A party was held for him on December 10th. Many tributes to his work and character were rendered by Forest Service personnel, as well as from representatives of the Sierra Club, the River to River Trails Society, and two horse camps.
- ☀ Eight people went on the Shawnee Group hike in December on the River-to-River Trail near Fern Clyffe State Park.
- ☀ **January 17 (Saturday) ~ Panther Den Wilderness Service Trip.** This is an opportunity to visit the Shawnee Group's adopted wilderness area in winter and perform some basic trail maintenance work and pick up litter. Leader: Bob Pauls. Reservations are required by Jan. 16 (<mailto:sg618@yahoo.com>) or call 549-9408. The group will depart from the Murdale parking lot at 9 AM and return by 4 PM. Difficulty level: moderate. ☀

Adventures with Uncle Bob Tyson

Your Monthly Guide to Self-Adventure

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

This month's journey is to the **LITTLE CEDAR LOOP TRAIL** in Shawnee National Forest. Go to Alto Pass and turn left at the fire station. This road descends for some distance into a deep valley, curves east, and then ascends to a "T" intersection at Hebron Church. Turn left and follow this road until you see a sign for Little Cedar Lane. Turn left, and follow until you arrive at a gate across the road. Park here, but do not block the other two farm gates. You may not want to traverse this road under muddy conditions. I am told that one can access this lane from old Highway 51 and turning at the Illinois migrant camp.

Walk about 2/3 mile down the lane and arrive at a "T" intersection. This is the R-R trail. Go left. Make note of this spot since you may miss it upon return. The trail will travel through dark pine and cedar plantations, as well as, pretty ravines. At some point there is an unidentified trail on your left. Pass it by for now — that will be our returning part of the loop. Follow straight ahead on this well-marked trail to the natural dam that separates Little Cedar and Big Cedar Lakes. Horse riders should tie up here, and walk the remaining loop as the rest of the terrain is vulnerable to horse damage.

Cross the dam and take the River-to-River Trail (R-R) on your left which parallels the lake. (The sign here also points hikers to the boat dock (3/4 mile) and Cove Hollow (6 miles). This segment of the trail is more rugged, but has continuous views of the lake, deep ravines, and cliff walls which have line patterns not typical of our forest, and some interesting rock formations. When you arrive at the south end of the lake it becomes a marsh fed by small creeks. The trail veers east to where a couple of creeks will need to be crossed on stepping stones. Upon crossing the second one, you will encounter a "T" intersection. Turning right, it will continue as the R-R trail going to Alto Pass (it will not take you to your car). Upon turning left, you are on the east section of the loop and it will eventually take you back to the main trail east of the dam. Turn right at the main trail and follow it back to the parking lot. While I credit the forest service and youth workers for much improvement to the west part of the loop, they forgot to include signage. When visited in late Oct. 2003, Ranger Peterin had indicated that signage had been, or will soon be posted for the two intersections marking the east section of the lake loop. For more information, contact Bob Tyson 684-5643. ☀

Wetland Protection — HB 422

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mental Protection Agency to determine if the proposed activity will violate Illinois' water quality standards.

The Illinois Wetlands Protection Act was passed by the Illinois House in 2003 and will be voted on in the Senate during the January 13 — 15 session. The bill will extend protection to 1/3 of Illinois' remaining wetlands. The Act uses the same definition of wetland, and the same method for delineating wetlands, that the previous federal program used. Therefore, an area will not be considered a wetland unless it has wetland plants, wetland soils, and wetland hydrology. There has been widespread consensus across the country on using this definition of wetlands. A detailed description of the many types of wetlands in Illinois can be found at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/wetlands/>



Southern Illinois Wetland Habitat

Illinois has already lost 85 to 90 percent of its original wetland acreage. These areas protected our communities from flood damage by absorbing rainwater, filtering pollutants out of our water supplies, and providing critical habitat for many species of wildlife. Illinois has 57 rare animal and 11 rare plant species that are dependent upon wetlands for at least part of their lives. Also, wetlands provide required habitat for many popular game species of waterfowl and fish.

Realtors, developers, and those who want to make it easy to convert wetlands into strip malls and sprawling subdivisions are expected to continue their full-court press on state senators to defeat HB 422. Not only do these interests oppose HB 422, but they also want to roll back the local wetland protection programs that Lake, Kane, and DuPage counties have implemented.

For further information about HB 422 please visit: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org> — Click on "Take Action"

WHAT YOU CAN DO? Call or write your State Senator by January 13, and ask that she or he co-sponsor HB 422, the Illinois Wetlands Protection Bill. The bill's main sponsor is Senator Terry Link. Please consider using this sample letter to send to the following Illinois senators:

Senator Dave Leuchtefeld: (618) 243-9013; (217) 782-8137; 103B Statehouse, Springfield, IL, 62706

Senator Gary Forby: (618) 439-2504; (217) 782-5509; M115 Statehouse, Springfield, IL, 62706

Dear Senator _____:

I strongly urge you to support and co-sponsor H.B. 422, the Illinois Wetlands Protection Act. We have lost over 85% of the wetlands in our state, so it is critical that we protect our remaining wetlands that have lost federal protection because of the Federal Supreme Court decision. Our wetlands perform many irreplaceable functions, such as flood prevention, filtering pollutants out of water, and providing important habitat for wildlife.

This bill already has compromises in it that would exempt current farms and mines from the permit requirements. The reasonable fees in H.B. 422 make the program "revenue neutral", so it will not affect the strained state budget. Also, because wetlands harbor many mosquito predators, wetlands reduce the threat of mosquito borne illnesses.

We need a permit system in place to make sure that new development does not cause flooding of adjacent property, does not destroy high quality wildlife habitat, and does not cause increased pollution of our waterways. Please restore the safeguards that were in place to protect these wetlands before 2000. Please become a co-sponsor and support H.B. 422, and oppose any amendments that would weaken HB 422.

Sincerely, (Your name & address)

Exposing the Underbelly



Do you believe that wetlands produce more pollution than they absorb?

Do you believe that Chevron deserves a corporate excellence award for their "pioneering" work in Africa?

Do you believe protecting endangered species only matters in this country and not around the world?

If you do, then stand up and cheer the Bush administration and read no further. If you don't, read on. Larry Fahn, national president of the Sierra Club, spoke on December 5th to Shawnee Trails Editor, Bob Pauls, and other volunteer web and newsletter editors from chapters around the country. Fahn said that the Sierra Club is launching a first of its kind campaign to mobilize its 750,000 members and volunteers. The mission: expose the underbelly of this administration's dismal environmental record and offer hope and alternative solutions.

It's called Public Education Allignment Campaign (PEAC). Sierra Club newsletter editors and webmasters are the key to exposing this underbelly and getting the message out to members that need to further spread the truth to voters.

In order to get people moved to act, Larry said, our message must connect local issues to a Bush administration policy. People are most impacted and moved to act on local issues that emotionally affect them. The words we use must mitigate the words the administration uses.

When the Bush administration says "Healthy Skies," "Healthy Forests" or "balancing environment and jobs," we

need to cut through this false labeling with words of truth, not lies.

Fahn indicated the task would be challenging. There is apathy within the nation and many distractions with larger issues, such as homeland defense. Bush's personal approval rating remains near 60%. But another four years of tactics like his going

after Greenpeace with the full vengeance of the federal government, while simultaneously backing-off enforcement of environmental laws being broken by the nation's top polluters, or creating an energy plan consisting of nothing but subsidies to oil, coal and nuclear companies, is too frightening to ignore. ☩

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 Newsletter 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 any Club Newsgroup):
<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>

Shawnee Webmaster And Newsletter Editor: Bob Pauls
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The Planet is an exclusive benefit for Sierra Club members who belong to the Environmental Rights Network, which links activists around the country.

Each issue contains:

- Environmental news;
- Legislative updates;
- In-depth look at regional conservation campaigns;
- Grassroots victories, Club organizing campaigns and more.

Please sign me up for the Environmental Rights Network and send me a free subscription to THE PLANET. I agree to get involved in efforts to protect the environment.

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Please clip and send to: The Planet, Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

The Miracle of Snowflakes

By Bob Pauls

The first snowflakes of the season have fallen and my wonder at the miracle of snowflakes has been reawakened. Growing up in Minnesota, snow was a part of my life six months of every year. I can unabashedly say that I love snow. I know its varied texture at different temperatures, the fragility of downy snowflakes, the patterns of snow drifts on wind swept country roads and the special crunching sound made by walking on frozen, drifted banks. While in grade school I cut paper in shapes I was told represented the symmetry of frozen water. Not until I was much older did I come to appreciate what I had been told as a youth — every snowflake is unique. As a child I really knew very little about snowflakes.

It turns out that no one did until about 1885. It took a man by the name of Wilson A. Bentley to pay them any attention. Those that knew Bentley call him the "snowflake man." He was born in 1865 and said he couldn't remember the time he didn't love the snow. He never went to school until he was fourteen years old. His mother taught him at home. She happened to own a small microscope. He became obsessed with studying objects under this microscope: drops of water, stone, feathers, leaves and, yes, snow.

He also made hundreds of pictures of frost, including wonderful photographs of window panes, the mysterious forms of hailstones, raindrops, clouds, still pools, and running streams. Bentley observed that "*Under the microscope, I found that snowflakes were miracles of beauty; and it seemed a shame that this beauty should not be seen and appreciated by others. Every crystal was a masterpiece of design and no one design was ever repeated. When a snowflake melted, that design was forever lost. Just that much beauty was gone, without leaving any record behind.*"

Scientists have since studied the crystallization process much further and can explain the uniqueness of snowflakes. The hexagonal symmetry of snowflakes originates with the underlying symmetry of the ice crystal lattice. Water molecules hook up in a hexagonal lattice, and the molecular symmetry is imparted to the snow crystal via faceting. Snow crystals are usually in the form of small hexagonal prisms. Why, you may ask do snow crystals have such complex shapes? If faceting always dominated snow crystal growth, then snow crystals would always be shaped like simple hexagonal prisms. Faceting does dominate when the crystals are very small, or when the growth is very slow, but larger crystals tend to branch out, through something called the *branching instability*. Instabilities like this often produce complexity in nature -- the complex fluttering motion of a flag in the wind and the complex motion of waves breaking on the beach are other examples of instabilities in nature producing complexity.

Bentley's 1931 book "Snow Crystals" containing more than 2,400 snow crystal images of the more than 5,000 he photographed during his lifetime. It was published by McGraw-Hill, but is out of print. A soft cover copy, identical in all respects, can be obtained today from Dover Publications, Inc. for under \$20.

In 1951 the International Commission on Snow and Ice produced a classification system for solid precipitation. This system defines the seven principal snow crystal types as plates, stellar crystals, columns, needles, spatial dendrites, capped columns, and irregular forms. To these are added three additional types of frozen precipitation: graupel, ice pellets, and hail.

Snowflakes don't last long in So. Illinois. I encourage you to get outdoors and become inspired by the uniqueness underfoot.

- The Snowflake Man: <http://snowflakebentley.com/index.htm>
- In Search of the Perfect Snowflake: <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/watching/watching.htm>
- Making Paper Snowflakes: <http://www.highhopes.com/snowflakes.html>

Next Month: Ground Force: From Snowflake to Ice. #

Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.
My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.
He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.
The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep

~ Robert Frost



Your Comments Are Needed**New Official Trails Proposed for the Shawnee National Forest:
Hiker/Equestrian Trails Designation Project (Phase 1)***By Barbara McKasson*

The U.S. Forest Service (Shawnee National Forest) has issued a Notice Of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) concerning designation of additional national forest hiker and equestrian system trails within four watersheds of the Shawnee National Forest: Lusk Creek, Upper Bay Creek, Eagle Creek, and Big Grand Pierre Creek. After trails are designated, equestrian use in these watersheds will be restricted to only designated trails. Cross-country riding (I.E. off-trail) and riding on non-designated/user-made trails will be illegal. Since the majority of equestrian rider use occurs in these four watersheds, they were chosen for the first phase. The Forest Service plans to analyze the remainder of the forest for trails after implementation of the decision on this first phase.

Since the release of the 1992 Forest Plan, public demand for trails has grown without any additions to the designated trail system. In the last twelve years, the number of commercial horse camps and ranches has grown from five to about thirty. This has put pressure on the forest resources, especially in popular, scenic areas where these commercial businesses have concentrated. Trails in some popular areas are becoming very eroded and braided. Many new, illegal, user-made trails have appeared. The results have been large areas of denuded of trees, decimated colonies of rare native plants, and degraded water quality in the creeks.

We are especially concerned with preserving high quality areas such as Southern Illinois' seven wilderness areas, the eighty designated Natural Areas, and the four high quality streams within the Shawnee National Forest. Lusk Creek, Big Grand Pierre, and Eagle Creek are also recognized as "biologically significant streams" in the Illinois Natural History Survey publication: Biologically Significant Illinois Streams. See: <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cwe/rra/rra.html>

To help preserve these resources, Illinois Chapter supports designated, well-maintained hiker/horse trails. We agree with the Forest Service that more such trails should be designated. We also agree that horse riders should no longer be allowed on undesignated, user-made trails, nor allowed to ride off designated trails in the forest. However, we must make sure that trail density is not increased too much in any one area. We must also make sure that the trails are well placed and well constructed in order to cause the least amount of erosion and damage to the resource.

The Notice of Intent marks the beginning of the Shawnee National Forest (SNF) Trails Designation Project scoping comment period (Phase 1). The Shawnee Forest Committee of the Sierra Club's Illinois Chapter will be analyzing the maps of the proposed trails. It will then distribute a more detailed action alert to members. Meanwhile, any general comments can be sent to: Matt Lechner, NEPA Coordinator, Attention: Trails Designation, Shawnee National Forest, 50 Highway 145 South, Harrisburg, IL 62946. The Forest Service SNF planners state that they are most interested in information that "might identify a specific undesired result of implementing the proposed action."

The deadline to send in comments is January 30, 2004. Maps of the proposed trails can be viewed at many libraries in Southern Illinois, including the libraries in Carbondale, Murphysboro, Marion, Vienna, and SIU-C, as well as at any of the ranger stations on Shawnee National Forest. Copies of the maps may be requested from the U.S. Forest Service office in Harrisburg, or by calling the main office at 1-800-MYWOODS. If possible, ask for a CD of the maps in order to conserve paper resources. The draft EIS is expected to be published in May 2004, and the final EIS is expected in September of 2004.

Send e-mail comments to: mailto:mailroom_r9_Shawnee@fs.fed.us and indicate "Trail Designation" on the "Subject" line. Two open houses will be held to answer questions regarding the trails designation:

- **January 20**, Tuesday, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 100 Columbus Dr., Marion, 4-7 PM.
- **January 21**, Wednesday, at the Vienna High School on Rt. 45 at 4-7 PM.

For further info, contact: Tim Pohlman, Recreation Program Manager, or Richard Blume-Weaver, Planning Staff Officer, at 618-253-7114, or at 1-800-MYWOODS, or <mailto:tpohlman@fs.fed.us>, with a copy to: <mailto:rblume-weaver@fs.fed.us> ☞



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