

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — June 2004

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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The Burke Branch Proposed Wilderness Area Insert

This month's special insert is a guide to the proposed Burke Branch Wilderness Area. This 6,230 acre preserve is located in Pope and Massac Counties. Please read & save this insert.

Shawnee Group Event Calendar

June 6 ~ ExCom meeting @ McClure's, 6:00 PM.

June 19 ~ Members' Picnic @ Bill & Dottie Boman's home, 2795 S Rocky Comfort Rd, Makanda. Call 995-9976

Pentagon: Prepare for Catastrophic Climate Change

With the May 28th premier of the movie, The Day After Tomorrow, there has been a spurt of media hype regarding the prospect of a non-nuclear winter. What many citizens don't realize is that just last February the Pentagon released a startling report citing rapid climate change will occur over the next 20 years and accelerate dramatic worldwide ecosystem changes that are already causing political and social instability. From food shortages to violent storms, mass human migrations and wars for survival, the study suggests that the Bush Administration must reverse its position on climate change immediately. [1]

The report's authors believe that climate change "should be elevated beyond a scientific debate to a U.S. national security concern." The report was commissioned by Andrew Marshall, a strategist and futurist who has advised the Pentagon for 30 years [2]. So far, the Bush administration has ignored scientific evidence in order to placate a handful of large energy and oil companies. Are you surprised? Now that the US is a temporary member of OPEC and will continue to have influence in OPEC decisions because of its extent of control in occupied IRAQ, no one expects the Bush Administration climate policy to change until the Bush administration is voted out of office.

Great Britain's Sunday Observer newspaper has described the Pentagon report's findings:

- By 2007 violent storms or flooding will smash coastal barriers and large areas of **low-lying coastal and riparian areas worldwide will become uninhabitable.**
- **Access to water will be difficult.** At risk are the Nile, Amazon & Danube Rivers.
- Between 2010 and 2020, avg. **European temperatures will drop by six degrees F.**
- **Deaths from war and famine will number in the millions** until human population levels drop to a sustainable level.
- **Rich nations like the U.S. and Europe will become "virtual fortresses"** to prevent entry of millions of migrants fleeing flooded or starving lands.
- **Nuclear arms will proliferate** with Japan, North and South Korea, Iran, Egypt and Germany developing nuclear weapons capabilities.

Many scientists and ex-government officials assert that the Bush administration's close links to high-powered energy and oil companies are the cause of the Oval Office's irresponsible position on global warming. The Bush Administration has yet to publicly reverse any of its positions which oppose taking action to address global warming. In fact, as reported at the <http://www.BushGreenwatch.org> website, the administration is threatening to undermine an international treaty that has proven widely successful in

(Continued on page 4, Pentagon)

Meet and Greet: Summer Member Activities

Every Summer the Shawnee Group membership meetings shift into "outdoors mode." We cease our meetings normally held on the second Thursday of each month in favor of special events. In addition to the outings listed on page 3, every member is invited to this series of weekend events: a porch party on June 19, a pool party on July 17th and a beach picnic in August 15th. This is a great time for old and new members to meet the club's leaders, develop and renew friendships, ask questions about the Sierra Club's ongoing campaigns to protect the environment, talk about outdoor interests, eat lots of good food and enjoy the outdoors. See you there. Bring a friend. #



Message from the Shawnee Group

ExCom Chair

Ron Schmeck

Ron's Movie of the Week

Environmentalists across the country are being urged to see the movie entitled [The Day After Tomorrow](http://www.thedayaftertomorrow.com/). This is a film about cataclysmic climate changes that might follow what is commonly called "global warming" but could just as well be called "global chaos," i.e. it won't necessarily get warmer. (See: <http://www.thedayaftertomorrow.com/>)

Some people in the Pentagon are apparently taking climate change very seriously even if the Bush administration is not. A recent Pentagon report suggested that it may alter more than where we choose to build our homes. It may, in fact, be the foremost predictor of future wars and revolutions, more important than terrorism. But how? What might happen? Let's look at one scenario offered by Thom Hartmann in an at the Common Dreams website (See: <http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0130-11.htm>) This scenario looks at only one small part of the globe. We can only imagine what might happen in the other parts. Europe and Scandinavia are at the same latitude as Alaska, northern Canada, and Siberia, but the climate there is similar to that of continental United States. How can that be?

Well, the North Atlantic is colder and saltier than the Pacific. Colder, saltier ocean water settles to the bottom very fast and creates the current we call the Gulf Stream. The Gulf Stream is responsible for the relatively warm climate in Europe and the northeast coast of North America. However, if a melting polar ice cap and melting glaciers in Greenland dump enough water into the North Atlantic. The Gulf Stream could shut down. The worst case scenario is that this could happen in as short a period as two or three years. This would result in an "ice age" (worst case) or a "little ice age" (harsh winters, droughts, crop failures, and wars of the sort mentioned in the Pentagon's report).

In recent years, scientists have been studying cores of ice drilled from very deep in the glaciers in order to see how climate changed in the past. For example, the ice age took a long time to develop, right? Wrong!! It now appears that climate change can occur very rapidly. Imagine a Spring arriving late, a very weak Summer, then a very intense Winter, practically no Spring or Summer, and then an unending Winter. Apparently it has happened this fast in the past.

Could it happen again? The film, [The Day After Tomorrow](http://www.thedayaftertomorrow.com/), definitely presents a worst-case scenario. The director needed an opportunity to show those fancy special effects everybody expects in a modern disaster film. However, even if it is exaggerated, it may be one of those "pictures that speaks a thousand words."

When I told my friends that I feared too many human rights were being violated in the interest of homeland security, they said, "Oh, you worry too much. Everything is just fine." Then, recently, they saw just a few of the numerous pictures of prisoner abuse in Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq. "Oh, my God!" they said. "We have to do something!!" I could have voiced my concerns for human rights forever and not accomplished one-tenth of what that very small sample of pictures accomplished in a matter of seconds.

At one of the screenings of [The Day After Tomorrow](http://www.thedayaftertomorrow.com/), Al Gore said:

"The Bush-Cheney administration has worked very hard to create a false impression that the scientific community is uncertain about whether this is a serious problem or not — not unlike the misleading impression that we were given in the run-up to the Iraq war."

If [The Day After Tomorrow](http://www.thedayaftertomorrow.com/) does nothing more than get a majority of viewers to take climate change seriously, then it may accomplish more than the hundreds of scientists who have been addressing this problem for years. #

Safe, happy and inspired

Descriptions of all outings of the Shawnee Group and five other Groups in Illinois Chapter are now available 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. Plan your summer outings now! Go to the Group website for the link to this new feature:

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>

June 18 — 19, LaRue Pine Hills Family Camp and Clear Springs Wilderness Hike, Ware, IL

Join us for a car/base camp outing in the LaRue/Pine Hills Ecological Area. We will camp and have dinner Friday night at the Pine Hills Campground and spend Saturday hiking various areas in the Clear Springs Wilderness Area and the proposed Camp Hutchins Wilderness Area. Some trail sections are very steep and poison ivy and ticks may be present. Appropriate dress and preparation is required, but this is a safe trip. Leader: Bob Pauls, IL Chapter Outings Chair, <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org>. Make your reservations today: 618-549-9408. No walk-ins allowed.

June 26, Illinois Caverns Trek, Baldwin, IL

Illinois Caverns State Natural Area is a 120-acre preserve owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The main attraction of the site is an unimproved wild cave with nearly three miles of **walking-height** passage. Located in karst-rich Monroe County, the area contains fields, woodlands, native grasses and a half-mile long prairie trail. The caverns offers many different types of formations, wildlife and cave characteristics in one cave. Some of the passages like the Mushroom Passage are lofty canyonways with a stream meandering along the bottom. Massive stalagmites and stalactites dripping with water will be seen. Wildlife abounds, including several species of bats, salamanders, cave fish and insects. Contact: Bob Pauls, IL Chapter Outings Chair, <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org>. Make your reservations today: 618-549-9408. No walk-ins allowed. Minimum # participants to go: 4; maximum #: 12.

July 9 — 11, Paddlefest and Mississippi River Ecoregion Task Force Meeting, Sierra Club Midwest Regional Conservation Committee at Covington, KY (Cincinnati, OH)

Activists trying to protect the Mississippi River watershed face big challenges again this year. From navigation plans to lock and dam expansion to raw sewage, toxic and agricultural run-off, activists must continue some of the same battles they've waged for decades. The event will be held at a river monitoring station on the Ohio River. Besides activist training and development on the issues on Saturday and Sunday, a riverboat cruise is planned for Friday morning and an equipment swap will take place on Friday evening. On Saturday morning, in conjunction with Paddlefest, Big River participants will be among a flotilla of 1,000 canoes, kayaks and man-powered boats launched to highlight the recreational value of the nation's rivers. Contact: Susan Patton at sptristate@aol.com, 859-472-1190; Barb Frank at bdfrank@centurytel.net, 608-788-3914; or Bill Redding at bill.redding@sierraclub.org, 608-257-4994.

August 6 — 8, Eleven Point National Scenic River Weekend Canoe Trip, Missouri

The watershed of the 11 Point River encompasses some of the wildest lands in the state of Missouri: deep valleys, steep wooded hills, gushing springs and towering bluffs. The Eleven Point River offers just about anything a canoeist could want - moderate whitewater rapids, flat-water pools, caves to explore, rich, abundant flora and fauna, clean, cool and unpolluted water. The trip begins Friday night and ends Sunday afternoon. Starts at Greer and ends at Riverton, MO. Contact: Bob Pauls, IL Chapter Outings Chair, <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org>. Make your reservations today: 618-549-9408. No walk-ins allowed. Deposit and some canoe experience required. Canoe/kayak rentals available.

August 21, Lower Big Muddy Canoe Trip, Jackson County, IL

Our Saturday trip will leave from the Turkey Bayou-Oakwood Bottoms Recreation Area for put-in to the lower Big Muddy. Participants may choose to camp Friday night at the nearby Pine Hills Campground (\$5). We will paddle through forest and wetlands in the oxbows of the southern half of the Reservoir where the river forms the border between Grand Tower and Pomona Townships. Upon exiting the Reservoir, the river is bordered on the west by the Big Muddy River County Levee Road that protects the bottomland farms in the "claw" of land below Grand Tower. On the east are the bluffs of the Clear Springs Wilderness and LaRue Pine Hills. We will exit near the confluence of the mighty Mississippi River. You must provide your own canoe or kayak. Assistance is available in securing one with adequate notice. Prepare to experience the thrill of flying fish. Contact: Bob Pauls, IL Chapter Outings Chair, <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org>. Reservations and deposit are required. 618-549-9408.

Other outings are available. See our website today: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>





Message from the Shawnee Group Outings Chair

Bob Tyson

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

Adventures with Uncle Bob Tyson

Your Guide to Self-Adventure

This month I recommend for your hiking pleasure the Perry County Community Lake Trail, a four mile loop trail that is relatively level and well marked. From Chester, Illinois cross the Mississippi River bridge into Missouri and follow Missouri Highway 51 to Perryville. Turn right onto County Road T at the stoplight, and travel 1.6 miles. Watch for a sign to turn left into the parking area. This area is administered by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. The trail parallels the lake edge with constant views over most of the trail route. There are also benches located approximately every one-third mile along the trail.

The trailhead directs you to cross the long earthen dam. Afterwards, you enter woods along the west side of the lake. In the Spring, you'll discover the area lush with a variety of white and yellow wild flowers. After crossing another earthen dam you may see fish cages in the lake that are part of a DNR research project. After 2.5 miles, you'll arrive at another parking area that provides access to a boat dock, restrooms, picnic table, and an archery range with a 20 foot high platform. Walk north on the road to where you can re-enter the trail through the woods. This area is dominated by pine, cedar, and juniper trees. Within a mile, there will be another trail junction. Going to the right will take you to a campground. Go straight ahead. Finally, on the north end of the trail you'll arrive at a boat dock and parking area. Travel across this lot and return to your trailhead parking area. This trail is also listed in a booklet: **Conservation Trails: A Guide to Missouri Dept of Conservation Hiking Trails** by Teresa Kight. For more information on this adventure in Missouri, contact Bob Tyson at 684-5643 or e-mail him at:

<mailto:sh-outings@illinois.sierraclub.org>

NOTE: Now that summer is upon us in So. Illinois with all the season's famous humidity and ticks, Bob Tyson will not be leading hikes until September. His new adventures this Fall will include the Rambarger Trail, Perry County Community Lake (as described above), an alternative trail around Little Grand Canyon, and other new hikes to be named later. That doesn't mean there will be no outings. See the outings listed on page 3 and the Shawnee Group website for more than **70** interesting outings. #

(Pentagon) Continued from page 1)

reducing production of methyl bromide, the most potent ozone-depleting chemical still in widespread use. [3]

Except for Fortune Magazine [4] and the National Geographic Society News, most national media outlets have given little note of the pentagon's report. Fortune described several disturbing trends in the report that support the theory of rapid climate change, including the recent break-up of the Arctic's largest ice shelf, and increasing signs of a weakened ocean current which brings warmer water from the tropics north to the eastern U.S. and northern Europe. The report shows little doubt that global warming is real. In the last century the average worldwide temperature has climbed about 0.6 degrees Celsius (about 1 degree Fahrenheit). Most scientists say the higher temperatures are a result of an atmospheric increase in carbon dioxide, caused by the burning of fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum. Sea levels have risen 4 to 8 inches because of the expansion of warmer waters.

A study in the science journal *Nature* this year predicted that climate change could **drive more than a million species toward extinction** by the year 2050. Many scientists warn of a link between global warming and extreme weather events, like El Niño.

In February the Union of Concerned Scientists (<http://www.ucsusa.org>) also issued a report on behalf of **over 60 scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, accusing the Bush Administration of systematically distorting scientific findings to serve reckless, radical policy goals on the environment, health, biomedicine and nuclear arms.** [5]

There is a better way! Everybody needs to register to vote and elect representatives that honestly address these global problems.

SOURCES: [1] "Now the Pentagon tells Bush: climate change will destroy us," The Observer (UK), February 22, 2004. [2] Ibid.

[3] <http://www.BushGreenwatch.org>

[4] "The Pentagon's Weather Nightmare," Fortune, February 9, 2004.

[5] "Scientists Say Administration Distorts Facts," New York Times, February 19, 2004. #

The Bobs Go To Camp

On May 14-16 an Outings Leader CORE Training Workshop was held at YMCA Camp Tu-Endie-Wie near Elgin, IL. The Illinois Chapter Outings Chair, Bob Pauls, served as host and chief cook for the training provided by national Sierra Club outings staff and volunteers. Over fifty members from the Midwest and from two distant states came to the camp for rigorous training in Sierra Club structure, trip planning & design, interpersonal leadership skills, group management, insurance nuts & bolts, first aid, Leave No Trace, environmental conservation, emergency management and patient evacuations. Bob Tyson, Shawnee Group Outings Chair, was one of the participants for the weekend training.

Are you interested in becoming an outings leader? Contact Bob Pauls at <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org> for more information.



Some of the Illinois Chapter and Group Outings Leaders at training camp, May 2004



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ExCom Chair: Ron Schmeck. 529-8387 <mailto:rae50@siu.edu> (x)

Vice-Chair, Webmaster/Newsletter Editor, Publicity and Political Chair:
Bob Pauls. 549-9408 <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org> (x)

Secretary: Shelby Seegers. 529-5760 mailto:sseegars_schafer@hotmail.com

Treasurer: Bill Boman. 995-9976 <mailto:billbo@onemain.com>

Conservation Chair: Barb McKasson. 529-4824 <mailto:babitaji@aol.com> (x)

Membership Chair: Donna Ayers. 985-6917 <mailto:dayers@accessus.net> (x)

Outings Chair: Bob Tyson. 684-5643 <mailto:sh-outings@illinois.sierraclub.org> (x)

ExCom Member: Phyllis Oliver. <mailto:moonshadow53@yahoo.com> (x)

Program Chair: Sandy Anderson. 893-4545 <mailto:annansy@midwest.net>



WE CAN CLEAN UP
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Over the last thirty years, we've made real progress cleaning up our water. But the Bush administration is threatening that progress, proposing that "isolated" small streams, ponds and wetlands no longer be covered under the Clean Water Act. Work with us to strengthen the Clean Water Act and its enforcement. Together we can leave our children a legacy of clean water, air and wild lands. With your support, we can do better now.

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Message from the Shawnee Group Conservation Chair

Barbara McKasson

Alert! *Reject the Bush Administration's Dangerous Energy Bill*

Over the next few weeks, President Bush and his congressional allies will try once again to ram their disastrous energy bill through the U.S. Senate. They fell only two votes short in November and they've vowed to make passage of the bill their top priority. **This bill would pick your pocket, despoil your natural heritage, endanger your family's health and smother your hope for a more secure energy future.**

This disgraceful bill would pick our pockets to hand out as much as 100 billion dollars in taxpayer subsidies to the oil, coal and nuclear industries. That's their long-awaited reward for making big-time contributions to the Bush-Cheney campaign. They profit while the rest of us pay the price -- in tax dollars and environmental degradation.

This bill gives the energy giants a free pass to drill their way through our last wild places, burn more dirty coal, build a new generation of risky nuclear power plants and dramatically increase air pollution that would sicken the vulnerable — especially children and seniors — for decades to come.

It would establish oil and gas development as the dominant use of our federal public lands, open national parks to the construction of electrical transmission lines, exempt polluters from core provisions of clean air and water laws and waive liability for the producers of the toxic gasoline additive MTBE — even though it has contaminated at least 1,500 public water supplies in all 50 states. But unless millions of Americans speak out right now, the enactment of the president's energy bill will doom us to an apocalyptic future of blighted wilderness, poisonous air pollution, devastating climate change and endless wars over fossil fuels.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write and/ or Call our U.S. Senators and urge them to defeat the Bush/Cheney Energy Bill. See sample letter text and phone message below. Mail to D.C. is still being delayed for scanning, so use local address.

- ★ Senator Richard Durbin - (202) 224-2152; (618) 998-8812; 701 N. Court Street, Marion, IL, 62959
- ★ Senator Peter Fitzgerald - (202) 224-2854; (618) 692-0364; 230 S. Dearborn, Suite 3900, Chicago, IL, 60604

PHONE MESSAGE: I want to urge the Senator to do all he can to defeat the Bush/ Cheney Energy Bill, S.B. 2095. The Bush/Cheney Energy Bill is nothing but a give- away to big corporations. We need an energy bill that will conserve energy, promote alternatives to fossil fuel, and update our energy grid.

SAMPLE LETTER: Dear Senator Durbin: I strongly urge you to do everything you can to defeat the Bush/ Cheney Energy Bill, S.B. 2095. Their bill is just a huge corporate welfare bill that will further pollute our air and water and spoil many of our most beautiful national parks. I object to the billions of dollars of subsidies to oil, gas, coal, and nuclear energy companies in the bill. I object to bypassing the environmental laws that are there to protect us from the corporate polluters. I object to allowing the wholesale invasion of our national public lands to increase the private profits of large energy corporations. I object to allowing companies to pollute more my community drinking water sources with MTBE.

We need an energy bill that will really conserve energy, encourage alternatives to fossil fuels, and modernize our energy grid.

We need to subsidize clean, renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar. We must substantially increase the mileage standards for cars and trucks. We must increase energy efficiency standards for new buildings. We must create a more secure, livable world for our children and grand children, instead of the extreme pollution problems and increasingly expensive energy that the Bush/ Cheney Energy Bill would create. Please vote NO on the Bush/Cheney Energy Bill, work hard to convince other Senators to vote NO on the bill, and work for real energy solutions instead of corporate handouts. Sincerely, #



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