

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — June 2005

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Vision and Dreams: The Changing American Landscape

The 2005 Town Square Chautauqua
Produced in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service, Shawnee National Forest
June 26 – 29, 2005

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Join your neighbors for another fascinating historical and cultural journey as America celebrates the 100th anniversary of the U.S. Forest Service and the emergence of the conservation movement of the late 1800s. Each evening you'll experience musical performances evocative of the period, followed by special "guests" who will describe their part in the emerging conservation consciousness of America. Daytime lectures and family activities, offered at locations throughout the area, will offer additional information about the changing American landscape of the 1800s. An educational exhibit about western artists of the period will round out the "picture" throughout June at the Carbondale Civic Center.



Meet the amazing Hidatsa gardener known as "Buffalo Bird Woman" (Waheenee-wea). The traditional Native American gardening techniques she practiced and taught in the late 1800s still offer valuable lessons about living in harmony with the land.
(Portrayed by Diane Moran)



Take a new look at Henry David Thoreau, the 19th century writer and apostle of the wilderness. His words will take you back to the time when railroads and industry were changing the character and pace of our lives, but when few Americans had yet begun to consider the value of our wild lands.
(Portrayed by Kevin Radaker)



See a different side of Theodore Roosevelt – a lover of nature, a big game hunter and expert on songbirds – who was the first president to make conservation the cornerstone of his domestic policy. It was during his term in office that the independent U.S. Forest Service was established.
(Portrayed by Derek Evans)



Hear Gifford Pinchot, an environmental leader of the 1800s, take you through the U.S. Forest Service's early history and explore the different approaches to conservation and land management advocated by conservation leaders of the 19th century whose divergent viewpoints remain with us today.
(Portrayed by Tony Farque)

Shawnee Group Event Calendar

June 2 ~ Group ExCom meeting, 6 PM at McClure's.

June 4 ~ Panther Den Wilderness Hike, 10 AM

June 4 ~ Members' Potluck & Porch Party, 1 PM

June 25 ~ Newsletter content submission deadline.

June 30 ~ Newsletter Folding at Carbondale Township Office, 6 PM

July 9 ~ Members' Potluck & Pool Party at Harris', 2: 30 PM

August 7 ~ Members' Potluck & Beach Party at Spring Arbor Lake (Lawrence's), 3 PM

For more information, turn the page or go to:

<http://www.carbondalearts.org/Chautauquas.htm>



Shawnee Group ExCom Leaders

(x) = ExCom officers with voting rights

ExCom Chair/Conservation Co-Chair:

Barb McKasson

529-4824 <mailto:babitaji@aol.com> (x)

Secretary:

Jo Ann Nelson

529-1884 <mailto:jnelson@siu.edu> (x)

Treasurer:

Yolanda Comiskey

549-2119 <mailto:yolandajeweler@hotmail.com> (x)

Membership Chair/Conservation Co-Chair:

Tim Stenson

687-5456 <mailto:timstnsn@netscape.net> (x)

Outings Chair: Bob Tyson

684-5643 <mailto:robkay43@webtv.net> (x)

Vice-Chair/Webmaster/News Editor/Chapter Delegate/

Chapter Outings Chair:

Bob Pauls

549-9408 <mailto:sg618@yahoo.com> (x)

Program Chair:

Phyllis Beck

549-9819 <mailto:wdswlker@midwest.net>

Publicity Chair:

JaDean Johnson

203-9679 <mailto:johnson812@hotmail.com>

Chautauqua Schedule

Sunday, June 26

6:45PM Folk/Instrumental Music by Pat Frank

8:00PM **BUFFALO BIRD WOMAN** - as portrayed by Diane Moran

Monday, June 27

10:00AM Arboretum tour/lecture - Management of a Modern Forest Marberry Arboretum (Carbondale)

1:00PM Native American Folklore and Legends - lecture by Diane Moran (Carbondale Public Library)

6:45PM American Chamber Music - Chicago Chamber Orchestra Ensemble

8:00PM **HENRY DAVID THOREAU** - as portrayed by Kevin Radaker

Tuesday, June 28

10:30AM Thoreau's passion for the Wild and the Wilderness - lecture by Kevin Radaker (Murphysboro Public Library)

2:00PM Exploring the scope of the Shawnee National Forest - lecture by Mary McCorvie and Sue Hirsh (Murphysboro Public Library)

6:30PM "David Kenney Service to Country & Community Award" (by Carbondale Lions Club - Teresa Jenkins, Presenter)

7:00PM Independent Silver Band - Bill Reynolds, Director

8:00PM **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** - as portrayed by Derek Evans

Wednesday, June 29

10:00AM Theodore Roosevelt: Family, Wilderness and the American Ideal - lecture by Derek Evans (Carterville Public Library)

2:00PM Pinchot and Muir - One Path or Two? - lecture by Tony Farque (Carbondale Public Library)

6:45PM Pitch Catcher Barbershop Quartet

8:00PM **GIFFORD PINCHOT** - as portrayed by Tony Farque

June 27 - June 29

ARBORWILD CONSERVATION CAMP (9AM - 2PM)

Activities provided by the Shawnee National Forest, U.S. Forest Service.

For information call 1.800.mywoods.

June 1 - July 6

WESTERN ARTISTS OF THE 19TH CENTURY

An educational exhibit in the Carbondale Civic Center Corridor Gallery.

Carbondale City Hall (8AM - 5PM Monday-Friday)

All evening presentations will be held at the Town Square Freight Pavilion.

Rain location: First United Methodist Church .

Summer 2005 Member Gatherings

JUNE PORCH PARTY and HIKE

Saturday, June 4TH

1:00 PM to ...

Explore private prairie, fish, swim, talk, etc.

Bring a dish to pass and beverage

Hosted by Bill & Dottie Boman at 2795 S. Rocky Comfort Rd.

(Driveway across from Panther Den Lane)

Porch Party will be preceded by a hike in Panther Den

Wilderness Area at 10 AM (Call Bob Tyson @ 684-5643).

JULY POOL PARTY

Saturday, July 9TH

98 Edgewood Lane, Carbondale, IL

2:30 PM - ?; Hosted by Stan Harris

Come for a swim and the croquet tournament
and stay for supper !

Bring a dish to pass and personal beverage

Directions: Rt. 13 to New Era Rd., North on New Era Rd. 1 ½ miles to Edgewood Lane and turn left (just before Charles Rd.). First driveway on the left. Look for the 98 on the mailbox. New Era is under construction, but is generally open on weekends. Call Stan at 457-7078 if you have any problems getting there.

AUGUST BEACH PARTY and BRATFEST

Sunday, August 7TH

3:00 PM to ...

Spring Arbor Lake Beach

Bring a dish to pass and beverage

Don't forget swimsuit, beach toys, kayaks, cameras, etc.

Hosted by Don Lawrence

Directions: From Rt. 13, turn South onto Giant City Rd. Go 6 miles or so to Spring Arbor Drive on the right. Follow Spring Arbor Drive to where it ends at the beach. Stop before entering the water! Call Don at 457-8989 if you have any questions. ☎

Safe, happy and inspired



There is only one outing this June sponsored by the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club and that is a hike at Panther Den Wilderness Area on June 4th at 10 AM at the trailhead off Rocky Comfort Road. There are usually few outings sponsored by the Shawnee Group in summer due to the rather extreme conditions and shortage of qualified leaders. There are fiftyseven (57) other outings scheduled throughout the State of Illinois and surrounding areas from May through November. Surely there are some that would interest you and give you a chance to explore other parts of wild Illinois. Descriptions of these outings are available in one central location. Simply point you web browser to the Group website for the link to this feature: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>.

The Shawnee Group is seeking new outings leaders to sponsor more and a greater variety of outings throughout the region. Are you a photographer, mushroom hunter, bird watcher, teacher, cave explorer, bicyclist, canoeist, kayaker, skier, hiker, nature lover or exercise enthusiast? If so, you can become a Sierra Club outings leader. You will be provided free outings leadership training, assistance in planning and leading your first few outings and financial subsidies to acquire first aid training so that you can lead safe and stimulating adventures outdoors. Please contact Bob Pauls, Illinois Chapter Outings Chair, for more information on becoming a distinguished outings volunteer: <mailto:outings@illinois.sierraclub.org>

Adventures with Uncle Bob Tyson

Your Guide to Self-Adventure

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

This month I recommend to you [HAMBURG HILL TRAIL](#). It and its trailhead parking lot used to be maintained by the Forest Service, but not since the Atwood fire tower was taken down several years ago. The only published resource I could find for this trail is the book, *Fifty Nature Walks in Southern Illinois* by Allen Pherson. I tried to locate the northern terminus of the trail off of Berryville Road and was unsuccessful. Here are directions to the southern trailhead.

At Hwy. 127 in Jonesboro, go south 5.3 miles on Hwy. 17 to old Cape Plank Road. After passing a cluster of houses by the road, start looking on your right for an opening and a wood Forest Service sign (trail identification info is blank). The parking lot is deeply rutted so just park close to the entrance, unless you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Proceed on the trail until you cross a creek bed (wherever you can) and make a sharp right turn. Soon you will see a wide gravel trail. It is a fire lane.

As you traverse this trail you will have constant views of the marsh on left, and the steep ravines and cliff walls on the right. The trail is level most of the time. There are times when you will encounter mud holes, thanks to ATV riders; furthermore, water has eroded three low spots in the trail. Take note of the different texture of the cliffs as compared to the cliff geology north of Jonesboro. Once you've traveled approximately two miles, look up on your right at a nice shelter bluff. The climb is a little steep, but worth it. I estimate the opening as 25 ft wide, 20 ft deep. It has a small waterfall after rains and a stone arch connecting the floor and the roof. Muskrats have built a number of wood piles in the marsh and wildlife is abundant. There are frequent natural area signs on your right. I turned around after 1.5 hours and did not satisfy my curiosity by continuing to the northern terminus. At that point it became less scenic anyway.

At the parking lot, there is also a wide trail going west which traverses wetlands. I traveled no more than a quarter mile. Best scenic views of the ravines are after the Fall leaf-off. You may want to avoid this trail during fowl hunting season or after heavy rains. In 2004, duck hunting was November 13 to January 11. Goose hunting was November 13-14 and again from December 11 to January 31. I plan to lead a Sierra hike on this trail for early November, 2005. For further info from Bob Tyson, call 684-5643.

WE MISSED YOU!

15 participants enjoyed a beautiful day on May 15 to visit Draper's Bluff, Cedar Bluff and Goreville Falls. Reminder: elsewhere in this newsletter is the announcement of June 4 membership party that will be preceded at 10 AM with a hike at Panther Den Wilderness Area.

TRAIL UPDATES

One of the owners (the Ulmers) of Draper Bluff report that the extreme east end of Draper Bluff has new owners, so it is not advisable to climb to the top for rim top views. A similar rim top overview is available at Cedar Bluff. Go right at the "T" bluff line intersection. I put a red ribbon around a tree which indicates the upward route. Upon arriving at the top, go left on the fire lane and on to the stone glades.

MISCELLANEOUS

If your church's adult Sunday school class would be interested in my presentation: "The Scriptures and Global Climate Change", please give me a call at 684-5643. The presentation lasts approximately 60 minutes.



The Drive to Find Roadless Area Conservation Act Co-sponsor Begins !!

by Barbara McKasson

U.S. Representatives Jay Inslee (D-WA) and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY) are the main sponsors of a new bill that would protect almost 60 million acres of Roadless Areas that are now on the chopping block due to the Bush Administration's recent repeal of the Roadless Area Rule protection.

On March 5, 2005, the Bush Administration repealed the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, issued by President Clinton, which prohibited most road-building and resource extraction on 58.5 million acres of National Forests. Under the new Bush plan, State Governors are required to petition the US Forest Service with their recommendations for which roadless areas in their States should be considered for protection. These petitions are a phony, non-binding process, where the Forest Service is free to accept, reject or modify them at will. Without question, this plan is a wholesale reversal of protection for nearly 60 million acres of America's last intact wild forests as millions of acres of our last wild forests are now immediately at risk.

In Illinois, there are two roadless areas in the a couple of the proposed wilderness areas in Shawnee National Forest: Burke Branch and Ripple Hollow. These two sites encompass over 11,000 acres.

TAKE ACTION: Call your U.S. Representative (numbers below) and ask them to become an original cosponsor of the 2005 National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act today.

THE MESSAGE: Please become a co-sponsor of the 2005 National Forest Roadless Area Conservation Act today! These roadless areas help keep drinking water clean for millions of people, reduce the number of large fires, provide the best hunting and fishing areas, and provide recreation for millions of people. America's National Forests already are covered with 386,000 miles of roads, many of them poorly maintained, causing erosion and stream siltation. The Forest Service already has a maintenance backlog of \$10 billion needed to maintain these crumbling roads.

Let's get our Representatives to stand up for Roadless area protection!

- ★ Rep. Jerry Costello (District 12): (202) 225-5661; (618) 233-8026; <http://www.house.gov/costello>; 2269 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
- ★ Rep. John Shimkus (District 19): (202) 225-5271; (618) 344-3065; <http://www.house.gov/shimkus>; 513 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C., 20515

To view the congressional "Dear Colleague" letter asking Representatives to become a co-sponsor of the Roadless Act go to: http://www.ourforests.org/risk/DearColleague_5-10-05.pdf



Help Wanted: Hospitality Chairperson for the Shawnee Group Sierra Club .

Job Requirements: Be able to put one foot in front of the other and smile.

Put out snacks and coffee/tea prior to monthly member meetings on the second Thursday of each month (except for June, July and August) and maintain supplies. Club funds will purchase needed items.

For more information or to apply, call Yolanda Comiskey at 618-549-2119.



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