

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — July 2005

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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Shawnee Group Event Calendar

July 7 ~ Group ExCom meeting, 5:30 PM at McClure's.

July 9 ~ Members' Potluck & Pool Party, 2: 30 PM, 98 Edgewood Lane, Carbondale, IL

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 Road). First driveway on the left. Look for the 98 on the mailbox. New Era is under construction, but is generally open on weekends.

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

Bill Maher's New Rules for the Environment



Planet: I assume from the fact that you're the featured entertainer at the Sierra Summit this September that you take more than a passing interest in the environment.

Maher: Sure. I can't think of anything I worry about more. It's that little "wanting to live" clause in my contract, you know? All you have to do is read the paper and every day there's some bad news. It's either that the tuna are disappearing, or the ice caps are melting, or there's no snow on Mt. Kilimanjaro. It's just getting to a point where you can't ignore it. I asked Bobby Kennedy when he was on my show on Earth Day, when they put history on the clock of the day, how late in the day is it? Is it eleven at night? Is it two minutes to midnight? I don't know what has to happen to get people to wake up, but obviously something more than you or I are doing.

Planet: One problem seems to be that people are ill-informed, even though they're bombarded with so much information every day. You're an entertainer, but you're also an outspoken progressive. Do you feel educating the public is part of your role?

Maher: Yeah, and I bring up the environment as often as I possibly can without being such a bore that people turn it off, because then that doesn't serve anybody's purposes.

Planet: In speaking with Charles Schumer last Friday, you said there are some very important issues — and the environment was the first example you cited — that the Average Joe just finds too Byzantine and boring to latch onto. How do we get people to pay attention?

Maher: If you ask Robert Kennedy, he'd tell you that the big villain in this is the media. And I tend to think he's got a good point. The media's job is to make what's important interesting, and they have abdicated that responsibility. They fill their pages and their programs with tales of runaway brides and molesting pop stars, the sexy stuff that's easily graspable. That was part of my point to Schumer. People read and care about the things that are easily graspable. The tsunami's an example. Americans loved that story. Not the tsunami itself, obviously, but there was a sense that, "Oh, here's one that we can understand. Underwater earthquake makes big wave. I can get my head around that one." It was sufficiently far away, and of course, there was a super model involved, so it was the perfect storm of perfect storms.

Planet: You probably recall that in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, one of the things President Bush urged people to do was to get out and go shopping, to demonstrate that we weren't going to let the terrorists disrupt our daily lives. But unlike during WWII, say, it seems that Americans aren't being asked to make any sacrifices so far as our use of natu-

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FUNDRAISING CORNER — Yard Sale

Are you tripping over things that you no longer need in your home or office? Donate them to your local Sierra Club. We are participating in the annual Arena Yard Sale on Sept. 24, 2005. All proceeds go toward funding Sierra Club projects and the Shawnee Trails newsletter. We are facing cutbacks in the newsletter area and in order to keep you posted locally, we need your participation.

We will start collecting items in a central location in early September. If you cannot hold your items until then, call Yolanda at 618-549-2119 to make arrangements.

We had wonderful volunteers at the spring yard sale. Our planet could use your help also. Come for 2 hours of camaraderie in September and help with the sale of our grade AA recycled items. For additional info, mail Yolanda at mailto:yolandajeweler@hotmail.com

Descriptions of all outings of the Shawnee Group and five other Chapter Groups in Illinois 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. Go to the Group website for the link to this feature: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>

Sep 12 (Monday) Perry County Lake Loop Trail, Perryville, MO

Join us on this four mile shoreline trail hike that offers continuous lake views. We'll stop at the Missouri Dept. of Conservation fish research sites to learn about their conservation efforts. Meet at 9 AM at the Murphysboro Ranger Station or 9:45 AM in Chester, IL at the Popeye statue parking lot. Bob Tyson, leader at 684-5643.

Oct 16 (Sunday) Kinkaid Lake Trail Hike, Murphysboro, IL

This moderate-to-rugged 4 mile hike will commence from the Buttermilk trailhead. Traveling in a north and east direction, we will enjoy fall colors along the lakeshore, cliff lines, and views of rugged ravines. Come learn how the Sierra Club played a role in halting a resort development in this area some years ago. A brief mention of this Shawnee National Forest trail is in a book: Fifty Nature Walks in Southern Illinois, by Alan McPherson. This hike is limited to ten participants. Meet 12:30 PM at the Murphysboro Ranger Station. Call Bob Tyson, leader at 684-5643.

Adventures with Uncle Bob Tyson

Your Guide to Self-Adventure

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

This month I recommend to you a trip to the [waterfalls of Central New York](#). Earlier this year, I ordered a book called [200 Waterfalls in Central and Western New York](#), by Richard and Sue Freeman (It can be ordered at <http://www.footprintpress.com>).

I used this book on a recent vacation and visited at least 50 of the waterfalls. Rather than running a series of articles on this area, I am devoting this article to highlight falls which are easily accessible to the physically challenged. In much of the United States, waterfalls are only accessible by a long hike, or over rugged terrain. The ones I cite here can be viewed near a parking lot, along a roadside, a longer hike on flat terrain, or a crest top view. Keep in mind that many of these dry up during the summer. Also avoid mid-May if you need motel accommodations.

1. **Chittengo Falls.** Cazenovi, NY. 167 ft. Crest overlook.
2. **Pratt's Falls.** Manlius, NY. 137 ft. Close to parking lot.
3. **Bucktail Falls.** Spafford, NY. 35 ft with 45 degree turn. Near parking lot.
4. **Fellow Falls.** Tully, NY. 40 ft. Roadside.
5. **Eagle Cliff Falls.** Montour Falls, NY. 41 ft. in a deep gorge. See from parking lot.
6. **Shequaga Falls.** Montour Falls, NY. 156 ft. See from parking lot.
7. **Aunt Sarah Falls.** Montour Falls, NY. 90 ft. Roadside view.
8. **Watkins Glen State Park.** Watkins Glen, NY. Deep gorge with waterfall. close to parking lot.
9. **Hector Falls.** Watkins Glen, NY. 165 ft. Roadside view.
10. **Taughannock Falls.** Trumansburg, NY. 215 ft. The gorge walls are 400 ft high. The falls trail is 0.75 mile on level terrain, suitable for an electric wheelchair.
11. **Treman State Park (lower falls).** Ithaca, NY. 70 ft.. Take a level 0.25 mile trail in a deep gorge.
12. **Buttermilk Falls.** Ithaca, NY. 180 ft. View from parking lot.
13. **Ithaca Falls.** Ithaca, NY. 150 ft. Close to parking lot.
14. **Ludlowville Falls.** Ludlowville, NY. 36 ft tall and 100 ft. wide. Close to parking lot.
15. **New Hope Falls.** New Hope, NY. The flour mill has two drops. Each is 25 ft.
16. **Wolcott Falls,** Wolcott, NY. 50 ft. Crest view from a park fence.
17. **Seneca Mill and Cascade Mill Falls.** Penn Yam, NY. Both are along a 6 mile bicycle trail running through a deep canyon: 45 and 20 ft, respectfully. Both are within a mile of a parking area.
18. **Honeoye Falls.** Honeoye, NY. 30 ft view from parking lot.
19. **Letchworth State Park.** Portageville, NY. The park is 15 miles long with a 400 ft. deep gorge which divides this park into a west and east side. I suggest level trail #7 on the east side to take in several falls. The west side has a few with parking lot views. Waterfall heights vary from 30 to 350 ft.

For more information, contact Bob Tyson at 684-5643

WE MISSED YOU!

Nine of us hiked at Panther Den Wilderness on June 4. The loop trail takes about 3 hours. The hike was followed by a great party at the Boman's residence. ☺



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(x) = ExCom officers with voting rights

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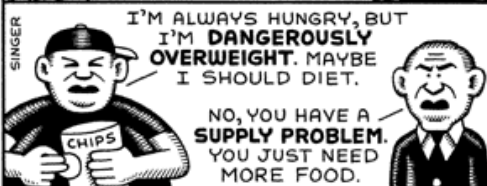
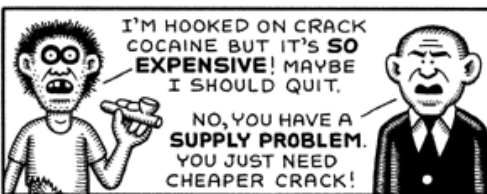
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NOTICE: There will be no August edition of the Shawnee Trails Newsletter.

NO EXIT © Andy Singer



ral resources or reining in our consumption. We seem to be such a freedom-loving country that we almost don't want to take responsibility. What do we do about that?

Maher: That's a question that I've not found an answer for. I wrote a whole book about it after 9/11, called "When you Ride Alone, You Ride with Bin Laden," and that was the theme of that book. It's a grafting of the idea of those WWII patriotic posters that got people to help out and get involved in the war effort. We created new ones for the war on terror, but some of them were just redo's of the old posters. There was one WWII poster that was imploring people to save gasoline, and it said "When you ride alone, you ride with Hitler." So riding with Bin Laden was just an updating of that. We got into that subject — sacrifice, asking people to make sacrifices — quite a bit in the book, and that was the whole idea: if your government isn't going to ask you and inform you, then I'll do it.

But obviously people need the call from the top. There's no substitute for a President making something an issue. And the sad thing about this President is that he's actually good at making something an issue. He's a very willful person. Nobody was asking for tax cuts when he ran for President. Nobody was thinking that we should invade Iraq when he proposed that. Nobody was asking that social security be put on the table right now. These are all issues that came out of this president's singular mind, and his willful mindset. If he turned that willful mindset toward the environment, toward conservation, toward asking people to make a sacrifice, the momentum that would bring to the table would be incalculable. But obviously it's not what he feels is important. Or he's just such a corrupt #&*%@! that he doesn't care.

Planet: The Sierra Club is opposed to Bush's environmental policies, but we've found that when we criticize Bush personally, people aren't as receptive. How do we oppose the policies without criticizing the person?

Maher: You're falling into the Al Gore-John Kerry trap, which is "Don't attack the President too much because it will offend his supporters." Who gives a #%! if it offends his supporters? This man needs to be attacked. You can't separate the man from the policy. He is the policy, OK? People need to know that he's a corrupt person, that he's selling his country and his countrymen down the river to pay back his friends in the energy industry. I would not hesitate to make this case at all. If people can't accept that, then I don't know what to tell you. The problem with the left, and the Democrats, and environmentalists, is not that they're too hard on this President, it's that they're too easy on him.

Planet: For much of the 20th century, protecting the environment was a bipartisan endeavor. But recently the GOP leadership, at least at the national level, seems to have turned its back on this tradition. James Jeffords, a moderate Republican who cared about the environment, felt he had to bolt the party in 2001 because there was no longer a place for him there. Christie Todd Whitman says in her new book that her party has been hijacked. Is there a place for environmentalists in the Republican Party these days?

Maher: That's a great question. There should be, and there are — I mean, John McCain just made an appearance with Bobby Kennedy. I think he's on that page. I think any Republican who's not beholden to the Christian right is on that page. The Republican Party has been hijacked by this Christian wing of the party, and the problem is that pollution isn't mentioned in the Bible, so it's not really important to

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AUGUST BEACH PARTY & BRATFEST

Sunday, August 7TH, 3:00 PM to ...

Spring Arbor Lake Beach. Hosted by Don Lawrence
Bring a dish to pass and beverage.

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 for info.

them. I'm sure you're familiar with the James Watt quote that I think says it all, about the environmental movement and Christianity. He was answering questions from angry senators about why he wasn't doing his job of guarding the henhouse, and he said, "I don't know how many more generations we can count on before the Lord comes back and ends the world." So in other words he was saying, "Look, the Bible says the world's going to end soon, so what are we really knocking ourselves out for protecting the planet, because the end is near." Use it or lose it – that was his attitude about the environment. You cannot argue rationally with religious people, so as long as this country is on this path toward theocracy, the environmental movement is greatly threatened. And it's going to be a self-fulfilling prophecy because the world will end – not because God came down, but because we actually destroyed it.

Planet: On your Earth Day show, you said, "I hate to tell you this, folks, but gas doesn't cost too much; it costs too little." We've found when we make this argument, the rebuttal is often, "Oh, but that will hurt the poor the most." What would you say to that? What's your rationale for supporting higher gas prices?

Maher: Not everything can be organized around the principle that poor people are hurt the most. It's something we should consider, and I certainly have sympathy for that argument, but the air is something we all breathe – rich, poor, and middle class. And for those of us who are aren't poor, well, if we don't like higher gas prices, maybe don't have a \$3 dollar latte at Starbucks. This country was able to accept the fact that smoking was something that could be overtaxed to discourage it because it's bad for us, but not gasoline. Somewhere along the line in the last 20 years we came to understand that smoking in public places was just intolerable, because it meant that you were befouling the air we all breathe, and if we all breathe it then you couldn't be so selfish as to dirty it up for everybody. Well, what about the bar that we call Earth? It's a big bar, and some people are smoking in it, and we all have to breathe the air. George Bush is like a selfish bar owner who's catering to his smoking clientele because they're very good customers.

Planet: Given the dark times we're in, at least so far as the environmental policy coming out of Washington, D.C., is concerned, is there something that gives you reason for optimism?

Maher: Yes, that Bush will be out of office in three years.

Planet: In this new century, do you think the environment is going to be something people pay closer attention to?

Maher: It's going to have to be. People are just going to have to wake up.



Help Protect Our Wild Heritage: Stop Logging National Forests

by Barbara McKasson

Did you know that the US Forest Service actually requested \$278 million from Congress for 2006 to plan commercial timber sales in ancient forests, roadless areas and other sensitive wildlife areas? This is just a part of an annual billion dollar subsidy that promotes commercial logging and logging road construction in America's National Forests. At the same time, citizens are being asked to pay fees for hiking their own public lands and some recreation areas are being sold off or closed. The federal logging program makes no environmental or economic sense. Instead, the Congress should stop this wasteful program and invest in the protection of communities from fires and the restoration of damaged forests and watersheds.

The National Forest Protection and Restoration Act, to be introduced soon by Rep. Jim Leach (R-IA) and Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY), proposes to end the federal commercial logging program and to redirect federal funding into pro-active forest restoration program. The NFPRRA will provide greater environmental and economic benefits by protecting communities from the threat of forest fires, promoting restoration jobs, and ensuring that National Forests will continue to provide clean water, quality recreation opportunities and abundant fish and wildlife.

The Bush Administration and the Forest Service under Chief Dale Bosworth are headed in a direction that disregards sound environmental stewardship. Since taking office, President Bush and Chief Bosworth have repealed protections for wild roadless areas, overturned forest management rules that protect wildlife and have worked to increase logging.

There is a better way. We can use federal resources and energy to "protect the best and restore the rest" of our National Forests. Our tax dollars and federal agencies should work to provide sound management that American citizens want, not the continued logging of ancient forests, ruined streams and closed campgrounds.

TAKE ACTION:

Contact your Representative today through the Capitol Hill switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and ask to be connected directly to their office. Or click on the following link to send a Fax directly to your Representative (Dist. 12 – Rep. Costello; Dist. 19-Rep. Shimkus). at: <http://whistler.sierraclub.org/action/?alid=396>. Urge Your U.S. Representative to support the National Forest Protection and Restoration Act sponsored by Representatives Jim Leach and Louise Slaughter by becoming a bill co-sponsor.



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