

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — February 2006

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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Shawnee Group Event Calendar

February 2nd (Thursday)

Shawnee Group ExCom Meeting, 6 PM at Clara McClure's, Carbondale

February 6 (Monday)

Shawnee Group Effectiveness Discussion, Carbondale Township, 217 E. Main, 7 PM

February 9th (Thursday)

Public member meeting at Carbondale Twp., 7:30 PM.

February 14th (Sunday)

Kinkaid Lake Trail hike

February 23rd (Thursday)

Newsletter Folding, Carbondale Township, 6 PM.

The Tree Doctor Makes House Calls

Mike Plumer, a forestry and wildlife specialist with the University of Illinois Extension Service, will give a slide show on native Southern Illinois trees and ornamentals for the Sierra Club meeting in February. He will also show us how to recognize common maladies of trees. In addition, he will answer specific concerns about your trees.

Mike's official title is Natural Resource Management Educator. He has degrees in Wildlife Management and Agronomy. He gives adult programs and acts as a consultant on wildlife management, forestry plans, tree diseases, watershed management, and water quality.

Join us on Thursday, February 9th at 7:30 PM at the Carbondale Township Hall for this program. Better yet, join Mike and other Sierra Club members for dinner beforehand at 5:45 at the Newell House Restaurant, which is on the corner of Main St. and Washington St. in Carbondale, just a few doors down from the Township Hall. #

Legislative Liaisons Needed

by Barb McKasson, Group Chair

The Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club is recruiting volunteers from every Illinois legislative district to be a liaison to the local state legislators. Linda Sullivan and Cory Jones, Sierra Club leaders with extensive lobbying experience, have already trained dozens of volunteers who have pledged to be a legislative liaison for at least two years.

The responsibility for each liaison is to first become familiar with the legislator's voting record and views and then develop a working relationship with that legislator. The goal is to educate and persuade him or her to support pro-environmental legislation that the Sierra Club supports in Illinois.

The Shawnee Group is seeking six **new** volunteer liaisons from among out 500+ members. These volunteers will be trained by Linda and Cory. The volunteer liaisons do not have to travel to Springfield, since lobbying can also be conducted in-district.

If you need more information or want to volunteer, call Shawnee Group Political Chair, Tim Stenson 687-5456 or e-mail him at mailto:Timstnsn@netscape.net or Group Chair, Barb McKasson 529-4824; mailto:babitaji@aol.com

Stone Soup Began a New Year

by Tim Stenson, Election Committee Chair

Giant City State Park, shelter two, New Years Day, members of the Shawnee group gathered for our annual Stone Soup picnic. We added what we brought to the ever evolving soup pots, hiked, mingled with members and the attending Press, and counted votes to determine which three candidates would begin serving a two year term on the six member Executive Committee ExCom). More ballots were returned this year (both in number and percent of members) than in the recent past. While unsure exactly what to attribute this to, we hope it continues.

Counting went smoothly and the results were announced immediately. Barb McKasson, Bob Pauls, and Bob Tyson will all retain their seats on the Executive Committee. Many thanks go out to Cindy Matthew's and Shelby Seegers-Shaffer for running. We expect they will stay involved and committed to The Club and I am sure readers of this newsletter will see their names here again in future efforts. #

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>

February 12 (Sunday) Kinkaid Lake Trail, Murphysboro, IL

The outing features views of the lake, cliff lines, deep ravines, canyons. Along the way we will discuss the role environmental groups played in preventing a resort development in this area some years ago. The trip leaves from Murphysboro ranger station 12:30. Our hike 5 mile hike will start near the dam. Leader is Bob Tyson 684-5643. Limit: 10 hikers.

March 13 (Monday) One Horse Gap Hike, Herod, IL

Join us for a 3 mile hike to observe continuous cliff lines and rock formations, an unusual geological formation, and a spur trail along a cliff for outstanding views. We will also see the number of harmful user-made trails as discussed in the new Shawnee National Forest service plan. Meet at 9 AM at the Murdale Shopping Center big sign in Carbondale, or 9:30 at the Marion Wal-Mart north parking lot. A car shuttle is available. Leader: Bob Tyson 684-5643.

April 2 (Sunday) White Pines Trail Hike, Wolfe Lake, IL

This moderate to rugged three mile hike will provide participants with Springtime views of the valley and the steep ravines along a backbone path. The trail construction demonstrates innovative techniques for water diversion, and design modifications to satisfy both horse riders and hikers. Leave Murphysboro ranger station 12:30 PM, or meet at Pine Hills campground 1 PM. Limited to ten participants. A car shuttle is available. Leader is Bob Tyson 684-5643.

May 8 (Monday) Mill Branch Trail Hike, Dellwood, IL

This two mile loop rim trail in Bell Smith Springs affords continuous views into a sandstone canyon, sculpted by water erosion. If time permits, we may also visit nearby Burden Falls. As part of a wilderness designated area, we will discuss the value of such protection and previous threats to it. Leave Murdale Shopping Center big sign in Carbondale 9 AM, or Marion Wal-Mart north parking lot at 9:30 AM. Leader is Bob Tyson 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 **One Horse Gap (West)**. A previous article was written on this area in 2002 with an eastern approach (see the above website and go to the Adventures with Uncle Bob archives). This article takes a western approach and seems more rewarding and less arduous.

From Herod, IL turn at the sign for Williams Hill. Drive about 1.5 miles to a "T" intersection of Raum Road. Go left on Raum Road. Travel approximately 8 miles and turn left at the Grand Pierre Cemetery and the sign for Dutton Chapel (Don't confuse this with Concord Cemetery that is before the chapel). Drive a short distance on this road and take another left. Now you are on Forest Road FR-186. Ignore the first River to River spur trail sign near a parking lot. It descends on terrain which is virtually impassible due to horse traffic on damp soil. At the bottom I almost got lost, although I did end up on a side trail with a pretty cliff canyon.

Instead, continue on FR-186 for approximately 1.5 miles until you see a One Horse Gap sign (a parking pull-off precedes it by 50 yards). At this sign, follow the white diamonds and descend about a half mile to the heart of the Gap: rock glades, mazes of narrow boulder passageways, etc. Note that three trails intersect here. Take the left trail (R-R Trail diamonds) heading north. This will provide continuous views of cliff lines and rock formations. At a point approximately 1.75-2.00 miles down the trail, you will encounter an unmarked intersection of three trails. Turn right and look for a long hitching post. Continue on the trail to the edge of a cliff for a superlative view over valleys and ridge tops. Take the unmarked trail on the left to continue these views for 0.3 mile; the trail makes a sharp turn and ascends back to the cliff line. Turn right here and follow the R-R diamonds. You'll continue to enjoy cliff walls and two rock shelters. The trail ends on FS-186. You can either retrace this route back, walk the road back to the car, or set up a car shuttle. I estimate the trail to be 3 miles long. This will be our March '06 outing of the Shawnee Group. My spouse and I rate this trail as easy. A map of the One Horse Gap trail system is available at Forest Service offices. For more information, contact Bob Tyson at 618-684-5643 or John O'Dell at 252-6789

WE MISSED YOU!

Nineteen participants enjoyed our Shawnee Group outing on the LaRue Swamp/Pine Hills road on January 16th. The weather was perfect. While appreciating the value of wetlands, we also were treated to a presentation on beaver dams by Laura Hersh from the Cache River Natural Area office. #



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 and Political 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/Midwest Outings Subcommittee
Chair:** Bob Pauls, 549-9408
<mailto:bob.pauls@sierraclub.org> (x)

Program Chair:
Phyllis Beck, 549-9819

Publicity Chair:
Shelby Seegers-Schafer, 529-2022
<mailto:sseegers-schafer@hotmail.com>

It Takes a Village to Protect a Planet

The Shawnee Group would like to recognize the continuing support of its more than 500 local members from throughout Southern Illinois and the nation. We are especially fortunate to have so many members that have supported the Sierra Club for two or more decades. Thank You!

Years 30 + Year Members

- 38+ Professor Robert E. Beck
- 35+ Mr Ronald D. Springer
- 34+ Drs. John H. & Edith S. Summey
- 34+ Roland C. Person
- 34+ Lillian K. Adams
- 33+ Phillip & Jean Shelton
- 32+ James Fralish
- 32+ Stephen & Barbara McKasson
- 30+ C. J. Matthews
- 30+ Anne Hill

(Effective: 1/1/2006)

We also appreciate the special support of eighteen **Life Members** of the Sierra Club:

Stephen & Barbara McKasson, Clara McClure, C. J. Matthews, Jean Graber, Peter & Kimberly Gregory, Jim Balsitis, Robert C. Wilson, Laurel Toussaint & Tom Bik, Mike & Jyothi Wainer, Louise Gerken, Dr. Sandra L Shea, Nelda Hinckley, and Ann & Thomas Price.

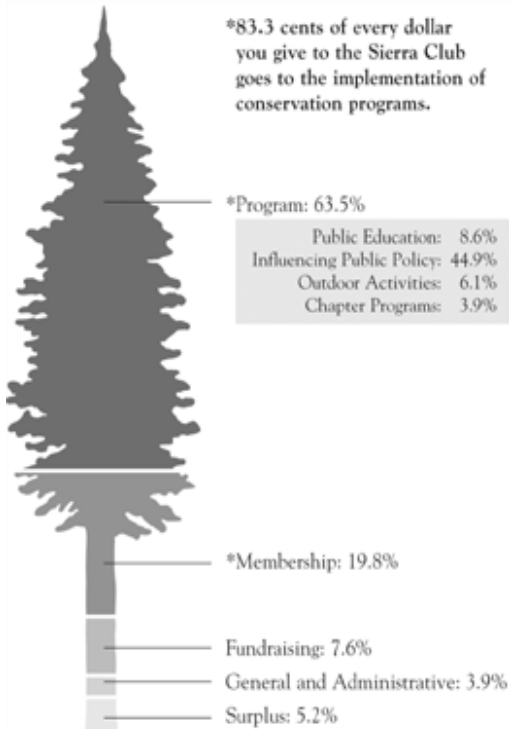
The dues of Life Members are invested in a special Life Member Fund. Since its inception in 1905, the principal in this fund has been preserved, and the income has been used to support Sierra Club conservation programs and campaigns.

Benefits include having perpetual Sierra Club Membership, a special Life Member Certificate with an Ansel Adams image, Life Member Pin, quarterly issues of *The Planet*, the Club's activist newsletter, and special Life Member mailings. #

Years 20+ Year Members

- 28+ Jean W. Graber
- 27+ Dorcy Prosser
- 26+ Robert & Ruth Mueller
- 26+ Gordon & Monika Plumb
- 26+ Clara McClure
- 25+ Bill Eichfeld
- 25+ Peter & Kimberly Gregory
- 24+ C. Lackey & D. Barnett
- 24+ Wesley Heyduck
- 24+ Richard & Carol Lawson
- 24+ Mr. & Mrs. Donald Meltzer
- 23+ Eldon Benz
- 23+ David D. Bork
- 23+ Susan S. Sawers
- 23+ Jeff Kotner
- 23+ Billie & David Douglas
- 22+ Sharon Shrock
- 22+ Maria L. Hafford
- 22+ Jo Ann N. Nelson
- 21+ Stephen L. Aschieris
- 21+ John Kirkpatrick
- 21+ Donald Lawrence
- 21+ Clint Hisey
- 21+ Robert C. Wilson
- 20+ Mary & John Johnson
- 20+ Esther Hays Wander
- 20+ Jim & Regina Glover
- 20+ Laurel Toussaint & Tom Bik
- 20+ Steve Moore
- 20+ Eugene F. Timpe

Dollars for Conservation



Help Shawnee Group Be More Effective!

The "National Purpose, Local Action" Study of Sierra Club effectiveness by Harvard researchers is complete and the report is out. Now is the time to put into action the findings and recommendations in that report. We need YOU to come to the special Shawnee Group Sierra Club meeting where we will discuss the report and recommend actions that our group can take to use our resources more effectively.

When: Monday, February 6th, 7 PM

Where: Carbondale Township Office Meeting Room, 217 E. Main St. Free parking is in back, off of Monroe St., or across the street in the Bank of Carbondale parking lot.

Who: All members of Shawnee Group are invited. If you can read this, we need you at the meeting! #

Five Minute Action to Save Endangered Species and Their Habitat

By Barbara McKasson, Group Chair

Last fall, the U.S. House of Representatives narrowly passed the "Pombo Extinction Bill", H.R. 3824, which would gut the Endangered Species Act, the strongest national environmental law on the books. Now, Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) has introduced S. 2110, the so-called "Collaboration for Recovery of Endangered Species Act." This bill would also shred the safety net we now have for endangered species, and leave holes in the web of life. Crapo's extinction bill would:

- ★ Waive fundamental habitat protections
- ★ Indefinitely delay designation of critical habitat
- ★ Indefinitely delay listing and protection of endangered species
- ★ Give industry and other special interests control over recovery planning
- ★ Undermine the Endangered Species Act enforcement
- ★ Use funds to pay developers to obey existing law instead of enforcing the law and developing conservation plans
- ★ Abandon commitment to recover healthy numbers of species facing extinction

Your Five Minute Action

Call both Illinois Senators and tell them to oppose Senator Crapo's misnamed "Collaboration for Recovery of Endangered Species Bill."

Tell them that Crapo's Senate Extinction Bill - and Pombo's Bill passed by the House - is a tremendous give-away to greedy developers and other special interests. The current Endangered Species Law has been a success in helping wolves, eagles and 99% of listed species recover from the brink of extinction. **The act should not be weakened!**

- ★ Senator Dick Durbin (202) 224-2152;
- ★ Senator Barack Obama (202) 224-2854

Do not assume that Durbin and Obama will "do the right thing" without our lobbying! Durbin's response to my letter was non-committal. Obama said that the Endangered Species Act needs reform!

Go the Extra Mile

Write a letter, send an e-mail, or FAX explaining why you oppose any weakening of the Endangered Species Act.

- ★ Senator Durbin: 332 Dirksen Bldg., Washington DC 20510; dick@durbin.senate.gov; FAX: (202) 228-0400
- ★ Senator Obama: SD-B40 Dirksen Bldg., Washington DC 20510, barrack@obama.senate.gov; FAX: (202) 228-5417



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Shawnee Group
P.O. Box 117
Carbondale, IL 62903-0117
Third Planet from the Sun

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