



Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — March 2006

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



Sierra Club Adventures

In 1901 John Muir and friends set out to change the way the public views nature. It all began with invitations to attend an elaborate two-week excursion to the High Sierra, specifically to Tuolumne Meadows in the newly designated Yosemite National Park. (Read portions of the 1901 trip announcement on page 3.) This risky experiment in conservation education has since evolved into the world's largest, volunteer run, self-supporting, non-profit, conservation-oriented, outdoor adventure program.

It may come as a surprise that what the public now calls "camping" is not a far cry from the concept held by people at the turn of the previous century: bring as much technology and comfort as you can transport with you so that you might enjoy raw nature from the security of your temporary "civilization" in "the wilderness." Using today's \$40-500,000 motorized camper homes and light-weight, high-tech gear is oddly somewhat consistent with the goal of the first trips to "combine comparative ease and comfort with the opportunity of seeing some of the grandest scenery..."

Since the first annual Sierra Club outing, the Sierra Club's outings program has grown to become the world's largest grassroots conservation & recreation system that operates over 18,000 outings every year.

At the next general meeting of the Shawnee Group on March 9th, Bob Pauls will detail the growth and involvement of Sierra Club outings in shaping all outdoor activities as we know them today. He will describe through photos and story how the Club's massive outings program came into being, its place in today's complex recreation industry, how leaders are trained and supported to carry out these 18,000+ outings and the opportunities for any person to become involved in group, chapter, national, international and inner-city outings. Photos from assorted Midwestern outings will punctuate the talk exemplifying the character and potential for outings to change people, institutions, and the environment for a better future.

Bob Pauls is the Sierra Club's Chair of both the Illinois Chapter's Outing Program and the Midwest Outings Subcommittee that manages national Sierra Club outings in the central sixteen states and three Canadian provinces.

The free presentation begins at 7:30 PM at the Carbondale Township Office, 217 East Main, Carbondale, and will be preceded by a social dinner at Hunan Restaurant beginning at 5:45. The public, as always, is invited to both events. #

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Shawnee Group Event Calendar

March 2nd (Thursday)

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

March 9th (Thursday)

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

March 10-12 (Saturday-Sunday)

Canoecopia 2006, World's Largest Paddle sport Expo, Madison, WI

March 13th (Monday)

One Horse Gap Trail hike

March 23rd (Thursday)

Newsletter Folding, Carbondale Township, 6 PM.

Tongass Rainforest Presentation

by **Shelby Seegers-Schafer**

Gregory Vickrey of the Tongass Conservation Society presents *Roads to Nowhere*, a slide show, Tuesday, March 7th at 7:30 pm at the SIU Student Center Auditorium in Carbondale.

The Tongass National Forest currently stands at a critical juncture. Learn more about the Tongass and what you can do to help preserve America's ONLY rain forest! Over the past two decades, over a billion dollars of taxpayer money was spent building roads and logging our nation's largest national forest — the Tongass. The result? Crumbling roads, stump-filled landscapes, and harm to drinking water, fish and wildlife. According to current Forest Service plans, American taxpayers will continue to lose tens of millions of dollars annually on subsidized Tongass logging.

The event is free and open to the public. Sponsoring organizations include the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club, the Student Environmental Coalition, the Alaska Coalition of Illinois and the Tongass Conservation Organization. #

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>

March 10-12 (Friday night, Saturday and Sunday) Canoecopia, Madison, WI

The Sierra Club Outings and Advertising departments are a major co-sponsor of the annual **Canoecopia**, the world's largest paddle sport expo. Volunteers and lovers of the silent sport are invited to help Bob Pauls and other Midwest Sierrans staff the booth and explore the exhibits and many workshops that Canoecopia provides. Free admission for volunteers. Contact Bob Pauls at 618-713-2069 for more information. Visit: <http://www.rutabaga.com/canoecopia>

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 AM at the Marion Wal-Mart's 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 the 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.

May 20-21 (Saturday-Sunday) Illinois and National Midwest Outings Leader Training, Elgin, IL

In a very special joint gathering of Illinois Group Outings leaders and qualified national outings leaders in the Midwest, a two day training session will be held at Camp Tu-Endie-Wie YMCA camp. Topics include how to become qualified for outings leadership at both the Group and National level, plus a dozen workshops on special outdoor topics. Join the adventure. Contact event organizer, Bob Pauls, IL Chapter Outings Chair and Midwest Outings Subcommittee Chair at 618-713-2069. This is free training to Illinois Sierra Club members who commit to volunteer leadership. Free carpool transport from Carbondale is available. #



Adventures with Uncle Bob Tyson

Your Guide to Self-Adventure

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

This month I recommend to you **St. Francois State Park**, Missouri. Directions: Cross the bridge at Chester and follow MO 51 to County H. Turn right and follow H to the end, near St Mary's. Turn left and look for County Road Z. Turn right and follow this road to I-55 North. You will travel on the interstate past St. Genevieve and get off at County Road Y. This county road is very scenic and will end at US Hwy 67. Turn left on 67 and follow to the park (the sign points left).

Upon entering the park, look for the first picnic area wherein you will find the trailhead for Mooner's Hollow Trail. This is a three mile loop and is rated as moderate. The first section of the hike is in a valley: . The creek on your left, and continuous dolomite rock outcrops imbedded into the ravines are on your right. Note the huge moss-covered boulders. Once you ascend the stone staircase you will be walking on a glade ridge top with views over the ravines. The trail descends to a creek crossing over stepping stones. Note the waterfall cascade. The trail will head west ascending and descending the ravines until you arrive at an open glade with a great view over other ridge tops. Further on, the last segment of the trail has continuous rock outcrops. The trail ends on the north side of the picnic area parking lot.

Drive to the south side of the park for Swimming Deer Trail. Turn into the campground and take a right. Look for campsite #30 where the trail starts. This is also a three mile moderate loop. Remember to note the signage for this trail is green. There are intersecting trails. The first half mile has the river on your right, and layered dolomite bluffs on your left. Note the small cave. The trail will ascend stone steps through a cliff. Turn right at the top. Now you are on a ridge with numerous spurs to overlooks over the valley (200-300 ft high). Cross two wood bridges. The next mile is through woods on a rocky, level path. Note the two deep sinkholes. The trail gradually descends and now you'll walk along huge boulders and rock outcrops. When you get to a "T" intersection, turn right and return to the trailhead.

The Pike Run Trail (an eleven mile loop) isn't worth your effort. These trails are described in the book, *Hiking Missouri*, by Kevin Lohraff. More information regarding this adventure is available from Bob Tyson at 684-5643. #



Outings History

Proposed Summer Outing of the Sierra Club — Report of Committee — (Abridged Announcement, 1901)

Realizing that the Sierra Club has heretofore neglected one of the most effective means for promoting its objects, a committee has been appointed by the Directors to investigate and report on the feasibility of having a general club outing during the coming summer. An excursion of this sort, if properly conducted will do an infinite amount of good toward awakening the proper kind of interest in the forests and other natural features of our mountains, and will also tend to create a spirit of good-fellowship among our members. ...

The committee have canvassed the situation thoroughly, and after considering possible routes have decided that our initial trip should be made to the Tuolumne Meadows. It is essential that this first trip — inaugurating, as we hope, a series of annual outings — should be as complete a success as possible. ... The first trip should combine comparative ease and comfort with the opportunity of seeing some of the grandest scenery in the Sierra, not too commonly visited as to lack of distinction. The Tuolumne Meadows is the most attractive region in the High Sierra proper which can be reached by road, thus admitting of travel thither by stage. It is particularly fitting that our first trip should be into the very heart of our grandest and most

widely known mountain scenery. ...

Dr. John Muir has promised to go with us on this trip and in all probability Prof. Joseph Le Conte will accompany us. The committee has corresponded with the departments of Geology, Botany, and Zoology and both Berkeley and Stanford, and we are almost certain to have professors to represent each of these branches of science. We will have campfire talks on all the scientific phases of the trip. ...

Some have raised the objection that traveling with a crowd will be disagreeable. On the contrary, we feel it will add largely to the interest of the trip. ... The evening camp-fire will be the most attractive feature. Many will have musical instruments, and lectures, story-telling, and songs will make a most delightful ending for the day's pleasure.

The discomforts ordinarily incident to mountain trips will be reduced to a minimum. The irksome duties of cooking, dishwashing, and provisioning will be turned over to a commissary department. All transportation of outfits etc., will be attended to by the committee, thus relieving the party of all drudgery and leaving their time entirely free for enjoyment of scenery and mountain life. The trip will be particularly attractive for women, and every effort made to secure comfort usually lacking in excursions to the high mountains. ...

Very respectfully,

Wm. E. Colby,
Secretary of the Sierra Club.



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, 529-5760
mailto:sseegers_schafer@hotmail.com



High Revelation

On the first Sierra Club high trip, 49 Club members hiked 20 miles and ascended 4,000 feet to the summit of Mt. Dana in one day. Twenty climbed Mt. Lyell, the highest peak in Yosemite National Park.

The next year's *Bulletin* carried two reports of the summer outing, one by Ella Sexton, subtitled "a woman's view of the outing," and the other the "man's view" -- written by Edward Parsons.

Parsons noted of the women who ascended Mt. Dana, most of them "Berkeley or Stanford girls," "their vigor and endurance were a revelation to all of us."

Sierra Club Looking For a Few Good Men ...

By Bob Pauls

... and Women to lead outings. 43% of Illinois' outing leaders are women, 57% are men. We need more of each. We need new leaders like you to lead all types of trips. Statewide, local Club members lead hikes in

Outing Categories

- 50+/Seniors
- Activist
- Backpack
- Base Camp
- Beginners
- Bicycle
- Canoe
- Family
- Grandparent/Kids
- Highlight
- Kayak
- Lodge
- Multigenerational
- Raft
- Sailing
- Service/Volunteer
- Singles
- Ski
- Teens
- Women's

nearly 20 categories (See panel). We are especially interested in new leaders that would like to work with youth and build partnerships with other community organizations to help their constituencies "explore, enjoy and protect the planet"

Today's youth are increasingly alienated from nature and often need help to understand and appreciate the environment. Research has shown that the most effective instructional strategies for developing environmental responsibility are case studies, **field trips**, community inventory projects, and community action projects. The Sierra Club conducts all these activities.

You can help! Can you hike a mile through a local nature preserve? Can you teach a child anything about nature? Can you conduct a litter pickup event? Can you demonstrate a skill such as wildlife viewing, flower identification, fishing or photography? If the answer is yes, then you should be a local outings leader!

Becoming an outings leader is not difficult. The Sierra Club provides extensive training in trip location selection, design, safety and first aid, leadership and other specialized skills.

Leading outings is also a lot of fun and rewarding. Sierra Club outings are a great way to learn about and teach local conservation issues while enjoying the great outdoors!

Please contact the Outings Chairs listed below or visit the outings website listed on page 2.

Bob Pauls
Illinois Chapter Outings Chair
<mailto:bob.pauls@sierraclub.org>
618-549-9408

Bob Tyson
Shawnee Group Outings Chair
<mailto:robkay43@webtv.net>
618-684-5643



RUSTLE THE LEAF™

BY PONCE & WRIGHT

TO THOSE
WHO REALLY CARE
ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT,
IT'S AN ISSUE OF
RIGHT VS. WRONG...



TO THOSE
WHO DON'T,
IT'S AN ISSUE OF
RIGHT VS. LEFT.

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

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