

Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — April 2006

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



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Shawnee Group Event Calendar

April 2nd (Monday)

White Pines Trail Hike

April 6th (Thursday)

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

April 8th (Saturday)

Wildflower Hike at Fountain Bluff & LaRue Pine Hills

April 13th (Thursday)

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

April 16-22

Earth Week 2006.
See Our Website for Earth Week Event Updates

April 27th (Thursday)

Newsletter Folding, Carbondale Township, 6 PM.

An Ecotourism Adventure in Australia

Join us down under for a presentation from John and Martha Schwegman on Thursday, April 13th at 7:30 PM at Carbondale Township, 217 East Main Street, Carbondale. The Schwegmans will present a slide show on their three week trip to Australia in October 2005. They toured both the east coast and far north of the continent with a keen eye to the ever changing environment. Their presentation will cover the birds, mammals and other wildlife they observed, as well as, pictures of the vegetation, wildflowers, waterfalls, and the native peoples and their rock art.

John has spoken several times before to the Shawnee Group. He is retired from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources after a career in nature conservation that included natural area preservation and management and native plant conservation. He's a native of Metropolis, IL and hold a B.A. in Zoology and M.A. in Botany from SIU. Martha Schwegman is a native of Anna and has a B.S. in Education from SIU.

John says "Our primary goal was to photograph birds, but in searching for them we saw so much more. We were surprised by how common the Duck-billed Platypus was and at the number of parrot species." The public is invited to meet the Schwegmans at the pre-meeting dinner at 5:45 PM that will be held this month at Carbondale's Great Wall Restaurant. #



King Parrot



Regents Bowerbird

Who Has Water? Who Has the Right to Water??

by Jo Ann Nelson

As this newsletter went to press some 130 nations were attending the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City where 10,000 protestors, angry over shortages and privatization efforts of big corporations, are protesting. Over a billion people lack access to safe water. The Third World is becoming a captive market for Coca-Cola, PepsiCo and Nestle, for selling bottled water — once only a 1st World health craze.

The Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship is sponsoring two public events concerned with the human right to water. On Friday evening, April 7 at 7:30 PM, Patricia Jones, a lawyer specializing in international water rights, will speak at the Fellowship headquarters located at Sunset and Parrish in Carbondale. Ms. Jones will cite examples of groups in Latin America who are experiencing the effects of privatized water services and are mobilizing for alternative publicly owned and managed water supply systems. Current US legislation on AID policy on water services will also be reviewed. Ms. Jones is an Environmental Justice advocate for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee which conducts worldwide human rights projects. She has experience working in Asia and Africa, as well as, in Latin America. Discussion and a reception will follow the presentation. Child care will be provided.

On Saturday April 8, from 9:30 AM to Noon, Patricia Jones will lead a workshop on the human right to water, with implications for homes and our own Southern Illinois community. Sierra Club members and other environmentalists are encouraged to participate. For more information contact, Bob Camp, 351-0083; Jo Ann Nelson, 529-1884; or Lois Hayward, 529-5603. Both events are free and open to all. #

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>

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.

April 8 (Saturday) Wildflower Hike at Fountain Bluff & LaRue Pine Hills, Ware, IL

Join us for this two-part wild flower hike along the LaRue Swamp road and in the Fountain Bluff area. Flower experts Clara McClure and Stan Harris will assist outings leader, Bob Pauls, for this guided tour of Springtime flowers in Southern Illinois hike. Group size limited to 12. Carpool from Murdale Shopping Center's big sign at 1:00 PM or meet at 1:30 PM at Winters Pond at LaRue/Pine Hills. Contact Bob at <mailto:bob.pauls@sierraclub.org>.

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.

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 interested in outdoor adventures. 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 **Rocky Bluff Trail**. This is a moderately easy loop trail of only 1.4 miles.

Directions: From Hwy. 13 in Carbondale follow Giant City Road south 6.6 miles to the turnoff for Devil's Kitchen Lake (brown sign) on Grassy Road. Stay on this winding road for 3.6 miles until you see the entrance sign and campground for Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge. Upon turning into it, turn right again and go to the concessionaire building to get a parking permit (unless you have a golden passport decal for seniors). Next, drive downhill to the lake and turn left on Tacoma Lake Road. Follow it across the bridge and locate the trailhead parking area.

Near the trailhead carefully step out onto the ledge for a view of the canyon. Both ends of the loop are in front of the parking area. I went right and traversed a pine plantation. At 0.2 mile, I stepped across a shallow cascade with a cliff canyon view below me. Going further, the trail continues thru woods with continuous views down into deep ravines. The trail intersects a fire lane. Go left. The trail is well marked. Further on, the sign directs you left down a descending trail. Near the bottom is a handrail to guide you over rocks. Next, the trail follows a line of sandstone outcrops, as well as a creek, for some distance. The next handrail takes you into a side canyon and waterfall. Look for another set of handrails about 30 feet further on the left. The trail then ascends, passes another cliff canyon, and returns to the parking lot.

The trail is well maintained. It trail is noted in the book, *Fifty Nature Walks in Southern Illinois*, by Alan McPherson. Further information is available from Bob Tyson at 684-5643.

HELLO EFFINGHAM!

The Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club has a growing number of members in the Effingham area. Since our outings and meetings are usually a considerable distance from these members, we would like to schedule an outing to Rock Cave Nature Preserve near Altamont later this year. This will also give our members an opportunity to get acquainted with each other. To make this worthwhile, I need you to contact member, George Mitchell, at 217-342-9378 (or <mailto:linandgeo@effingham.net>) and indicate your preferences for such an outing. Please indicate your preference for either a day during the week, a Saturday afternoon, or a Sunday afternoon. This response does not commit you at this point. We just want to get an idea of how to best schedule outings in the Effingham area. Thanks. #

**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

Quotable: *Not to escape from but to escape to: not to forget but to remember. We've been taking care of ourselves in places where it really matters. The next step is to take care of the places that really matter."*

— From *On The Loose*,

a book written by young Sierra Club members Terry and Renny Russell, published by the Sierra Club in 1967

Two Preservation Opportunities:**Preserve a Natural Area and Green Space in Carbondale**

Opportunity #1: Green Earth, Inc. has been promised a gift and a grant totaling \$160,000 in order to purchase 11.6 acres of woodland adjacent to the Green Earth II, a mixed woods and prairie preserve on North Oakland in Carbondale. In order to receive the grant and gift, Green Earth must raise \$11,000 from the community. Your gift of \$20 would raise \$320! Please make donations payable to: Green Earth, Inc. and mail it, along with your name and address to: Green Earth, Inc., P.O. Box 441, Carbondale, IL 62903. If the \$11,000 target is not met, your money will be returned.

Opportunity #2: Hickory Lodge Park is an 11-acre park on West Sycamore in Carbondale which was donated to the people of Carbondale in the 1970's. This property has many possibilities as valuable urban park land. However, due to budget problems, the Carbondale Park Board has voted to sell Hickory Lodge and all the surrounding acreage. Many people in Carbondale are opposed to this reduction in community assets and vow to go to court to stop the sale. Volunteers have also pledged to help fix-up the building and the grounds. In order to pay for litigation to prevent the sale, donations are needed. Checks can be written to: "Don Prosser, Attorney at Law", mailed to Ed VanAwken, 1009 W. Sycamore, Carbondale, IL 62901 or visit/donate at <http://www.hickorylodgepark.org>. #

5-Minute Action:**Help Pass State Legislation to Clean Up Diesel Exhaust****By Barbara McKasson**

HB 4782 would limit the amount of time certain large diesel trucks can remain idling. This would reduce the amount of particulates and other pollutants in the air we breathe, plus would save fuel. This bill has already passed the House and has now been passed to the Illinois Senate.

Illinois Health Facts for Diesel Pollution:

- ★ Every year in Illinois, diesel exhaust triggers over 19,000 asthma attacks and nearly 1,200 heart attacks and causes 878 premature deaths.



- ★ In Illinois, the average charge per hospital stay for asthma is \$5,283.
- ★ The cancer risk that diesel exhaust poses is 8 times greater than the cancer risk from all other 133 air toxics tracked by EPA combined.
- ★ Very small particles of soot can even enter the bloodstream and cause heart attacks.
- ★ Over 5,000 tons of direct fine particle matter pollution is emitted by diesel vehicles in the Chicago area alone every year. Idling is estimated to account for nearly 300 tons of direct diesel particle pollution each year in the Chicago area.

Other Costs of Unnecessary Idling:

- ★ A truck can waste a gallon of fuel for every hour of idling. On average, a truck idles six hours per day.
- ★ Idling diesel engines causes needless wear and tear on engines.

Take Five

Take five minutes to call your state Senator and ask him to vote YES on HB 4782 to limit pollution and fuel waste by limiting how long large diesel vehicles can be idling.

- Senator David Leuchtefeld (District 58); (217) 782-8137 or (618) 243-9014
- Senator Gary Forby (District 59); (217) 782-5509 OR (618) 439-2504
- Senator John O. Jones (District 54); (217) 782-0471 OR (618) 242-9511

ACT FAST - This legislative session is scheduled to end April 7th, so it will be voted on the first week of April. For more details, visit: <http://www.illinois.sierraclub.org/legislation/index.html>. Within this *Legislative Tracker* resource, select the **Cleaning Up Diesel Truck Exhaust bill** and read all about it. #

Alert: Critical Habitat for Endangered Species at Stake

By Barbara McKasson

Opponents of the environmental protection are expected to soon introduce legislation in the U.S. Senate that would undermine the Endangered Species Act and put countless endangered species at risk of extinction.

For over thirty years, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been a safety net for wildlife and plants that are on the brink of extinction. But last fall, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Rep. Richard Pombo's bill to cut the heart out of the successful ESA. If made law, this bill would not only end critical habitat protection for the forests, beaches, wetlands and meadows that at-risk species need to survive, it would also require taxpayers to pay people not to break the law and kill endangered species. "Critical habitat" is defined as habitat that must be preserved in order for a threatened or endangered species to survive.

Now that the Pombo bill has passed the House, it has been sent to the Senate for consideration. Unfortunately, any endangered species bill passed by the Senate this year would have to be merged with Rep. Pombo's terrible bill. That means we have to convince our Senators to vote NO on any ESA legislation that would endanger our natural heritage and wildlife.

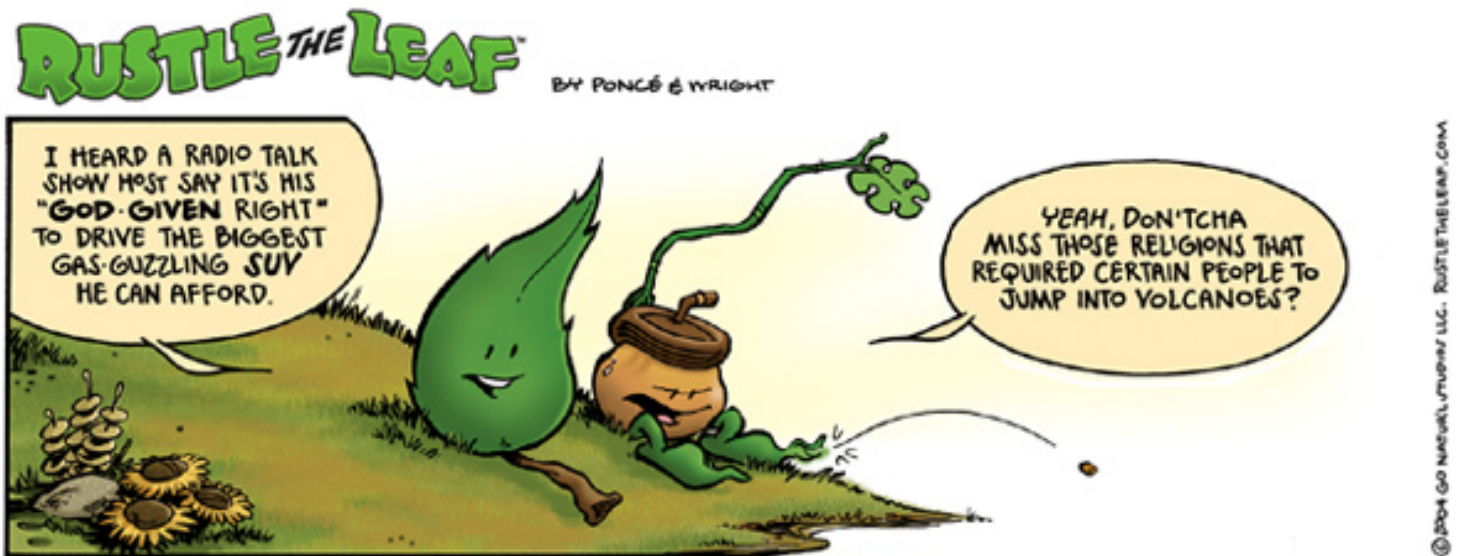
If any version of the Pombo bill makes it to President Bush's desk this year, he'll be signing the death warrant of the Florida panther, the Puget Sound orca whale, many Pacific salmon stocks and countless other endangered animals and plants.

TAKE ACTION: Call Senators Durbin and Obama TODAY and tell them to vote NO on ANY legislation that would weaken the Endangered Species Act.

★Senator Dick Durbin: (202) 224-2152

★Senator Barack Obama: (202) 224-2854

You can download the **Rustle the Leaf's Earth Day Book**: http://www.rustletheleaf.com/06Earth_Day_Book.html



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