

# Shawnee Trails

News of the Shawnee Group — September 2006

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



## Utah Redrock Wilderness Tour Comes to Carbondale

HIGHLIGHTS STEWARDSHIP OF ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES

The Sierra Club's Shawnee Group will host a special presentation on the wilderness adjoining Zion National Park and the nearby Mojave Desert on **Thursday, September 14 at 7:30pm. The event will be held at the Carbondale Township Hall at 217 E. Main St.** The presentation, entitled "An American Icon: The Zion / Mojave Wilderness", will address the impact of competing proposals: one to conserve natural resources and the other to sell off American's public lands to enable sprawl and private development.

The land area at issue lies just west of Zion National Park. Known as "Greater Zion", it contains redrock temples, profound gorges, and ponderosa-studded plateaus, which complete the fantastically complex Zion-Mojave wilderness. The Mojave Desert portion is also home to the endangered desert tortoise. It is all part of a citizens' proposal dedicated to the land's protection. In addition to describing threats to this world-class wilderness, the presentation and photos will illustrate steps citizens can take to help with the wilderness protection.

The speaker is Clayton Daughenbaugh, a field organizer for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). He is also co-chair of the Illinois Task Force for Utah Wilderness, and a member of the Sierra Club's Wildlands Committee. SUWA is a twenty year old organization of citizens who love Utah's wild lands and work together for their protection.

"Americans are blessed with the opportunity to be effective stewards of the nation's special places. Our natural heritage is threatened. There is a need and a means for people to act," says Clayton Daughenbaugh, the presenter.

All members are invited to join the speaker and leaders for **the Dinner Before the Meeting at 5:45 PM. The dinner in September will be at The Great Wall Restaurant** in Carbondale, just east of University Mall. ✍

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### Shawnee Group Event Calendar

**September 9th ~ (Saturday)** Chapter ExCom, Springfield IL

**September 14th (Thursday)** ~ Public member meeting at Carbondale Twp., 7:30 PM.

**September 12 ~ (Tuesday)** Wolf Creek Trail Hike

**September 23-24 ~** Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days

**October 14 ~ (Saturday)** Yard sale Fundraiser.

**October 20-22 ~** Bioneers Conference

## Announcements

### Welcome Back

After our summer hiatus, *Shawnee Trails* is back on a monthly publishing schedule. Effective with the January issue, we will, however, cease paper/mailed production in order to save both trees and money. In the next issue we'll describe the nature of the new online options that will be available to you to stay current with Sierra Club information and other environmental news in southern Illinois.

### Your Used Items Needed for Sierra Club Yard Sale

The Shawnee Group will be holding a yard sale on **Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**. Now is the time to clean out your garage, closets, house and donate your former "treasures" to Shawnee Group. Our funds are decreasing and we **REALLY NEED YOUR HELP!!** Please call Barb at 529-4824 to find out when/ where to drop off items. We could

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Descriptions of all outings of the Shawnee Group and five other Chapter Groups in Illinois are now available in 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>



**September 12 (Tuesday) Wolf Creek Trail Hike** . This moderate hike is a secret area between Pomona and Murphysboro. Meet at 9 AM at the Murphysboro ranger station. We will be accompanied by former ranger Ken Peterin. Limit to 10 people. Confirm your attendance by calling Bob Tyson at 684-5643



## Adventures with Uncle Bob Tyson

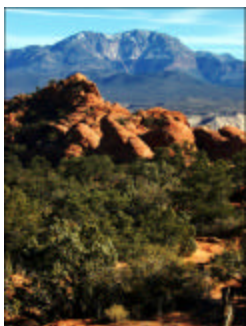
### Your Guide to Self-Adventure

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

This month I recommend to you **IRON MOUNTAIN TRAIL**. There are two approaches: Take Rt 127 south of Alto Pass. Just past the turnoff for Mt. Glen Road, continue on to cross a bridge and look for an unnumbered lane on your left. This is a steep, rutted drive up to the trailhead. You need a truck or high clearance vehicle. The Forest Service sign says open to hikers and equestrians; ATV allowed may to December. A better direction would be to turn left from Rt 127 onto Mt. Glen Rd and follow to Kaolin Pit Road; turn right and follow to Kaolin Pit lane with another right. Then one more right turn on an unmarked lane and follow to the parking area. It appears that any Forest service signs here have been trashed for firewood. Note the pine plantation, picnic area, benches, hitching post, and a large deep pond.

At one time Kaolin clay was a major industry. We speculate that when the resource was depleted, the pit naturally filled with water. This pond sits in a circular ravine. After parking, we( myself and Bob Emmett) walked back down the road about 40 ft to an unmarked trail and commenced our climb to the top. Now we have a top view of the pond and soon come to an isolated grave stone dating to a death in 1889. At the top we came to a "T" intersection. If you turn right, travel about one-fourth mile to the other trailhead. Returning to the intersection, we continued straight ahead and found ourselves on a ridge top backbone trail, enjoying continuous views over valleys and distant ridge tops. We have noted at least 6 wildlife pond pits on our hike and each is identified by the forest service with markers( 65w 1-6). At some point we reach a junction: turning right brought us to the boundary with Myers Ranch Farm. The sign says -all are welcome to pass thru the property. not responsible for accidents. A picnic table sits on the property line, available to the public.

After viewing, we return and take the left fork of the trail. Soon a sign directs horse traffic to take a right and make a loop thru the Myer pasture. The source of confusion here is that the owner used brown signs-same color used by forest service. We continued on and encountered a large stone foundation that likely dates back to the 1930s. The trail soon leads downhill into woods. We then turned around and retraced our route to the parking area. This will be our Sierra Club December hike. Alan McPherson's book, Fifty Nature Trails in Southern Illinois, shows Kaolin Pond as part of a loop to connect two spots on the ridge top trail. This trail is best during leaf-off. More information from Bob Emmett at 893-2667 or Bob Tyson at 684-5643



Utah wilderness photos by  
Jen Jackson

## ALERT!!! Demand Action on Global Warming

*Submitted by Barbara McKasson*

When it comes to global warming -- probably the greatest environmental challenge we've ever faced -- our government has been **alarmingly** slow to act. However, there are two bills in Congress right now that would remedy our leadership deficit on this issue and protect future generations from the disastrous effects of global warming. Sen. Jeffords has introduced the "Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act" in the Senate, and Rep. Henry Waxman has introduced the "Safe Climate Act" in the House of Representatives.

As Rep. Waxman said, "It's simply too late for legislative baby steps." If we act now, we can still protect our environment, our public health, and our future economic prosperity from the disastrous effects of global warming. **So take action today** -- and then pass this message along to some friends so they can take action too.

### Call to action:

Call or write your representative and senators to support Sen. Jeffords' and Rep. Waxman's legislation on global warming. Use the sample letter below and personalize it in some way. Don't have time? Then, a simple phone call will help too.

- ✉✉ Senator Dick Durbin: 332 Dirksen Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; (202) 224-2152: [www.durbin.senate.gov](http://www.durbin.senate.gov) (send E-mail from the website)
- ✉✉ Senator Barack Obama: SD-B40 Dirksen Bldg., Washington, DC 20510; Website & Email: <http://www.obama.senate.gov>; (202) 224-2854
- ✉✉ Rep. Jerry Costello: 2269 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515; (202) 225-5661; Website & Email: <http://www.house.gov/costello>
- ✉✉ Rep. John Shimkus: 513 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515; (202) 225-5271; Website & Email: <http://www.house.gov/shimkus>

### Sample Letter

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you in the strongest terms possible to co-sponsor proposed legislation to provide real solutions to the global warming crisis. Rep. Waxman's "Safe Climate Act" and Sen. Jeffords' "Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act" are our best shots of saving ourselves from the disastrous effects of global warming.

Both bills would gradually reduce greenhouse-gas emissions to levels needed to stabilize the climate and avoid catastrophic change -- 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. They would also advance cleaner technologies -- in the process creating good American jobs -- that would reduce U.S. dependence on oil, make our economy more efficient, and protect our pristine places from drilling.

In particular, Rep. Waxman's Safe Climate Act would provide flexibility to help companies meet the pollution-reduction goals through a "cap-and-trade" program.

Sen. Jeffords' Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act would require the U.S. to derive 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

These are exactly the bold, science-based solutions we need. Please consider our children and grandchildren, and what kind of world they will inherit. As a cosponsor, you will be carving out a cleaner and better energy future for us, and protection for the well-being of our environment, our economy, and future generations.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

**Extra Credit:** Write to your city council members and mayor about pledging to lower carbon dioxide emissions in your town or city. Cities can replace old municipal vehicles with hybrid vehicles, use more energy efficient lighting in street lights traffic control and municipal buildings; put solar panels on city hall, use more efficient appliances, etc. ✉



**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)

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## Announcements Continued

even pick up large items you cannot fit into your "environmentally correct", gas sipping car. Also, if you want to help with the sale on Saturday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, please call Barb or Yolanda (549-2119).

### Shawnee Forest Trash Bash

This year will be the fourth annual "Trash Bash" sponsored by Sierra Club's Northwest Cook Group. The last three years have been a great success - a fun camping weekend with like-minded people, the satisfaction that we helped keep Garden of the Gods area beautiful, and great PR with the public and employees of Shawnee National Forest.

This year, Sierra Club has joined forces with the Forest Service and "Beautify Southern Illinois" organization to expand the project. Sierra Club members will be leading groups of trash bashers to spread out over the eastern half of the forest. Sierra Club members will not only get the satisfaction of helping to clean up beautiful areas, we will also be treated to a post-clean-up party at Pounds Lake, free camping in our own camping area, plus a weekend of camping and hiking with Sierra Club members across Illinois. Good eats are included. To sign up, contact Linda Sullivan at (630) 620-5257, or <mailto:lsullivan23@hotmail.com>.

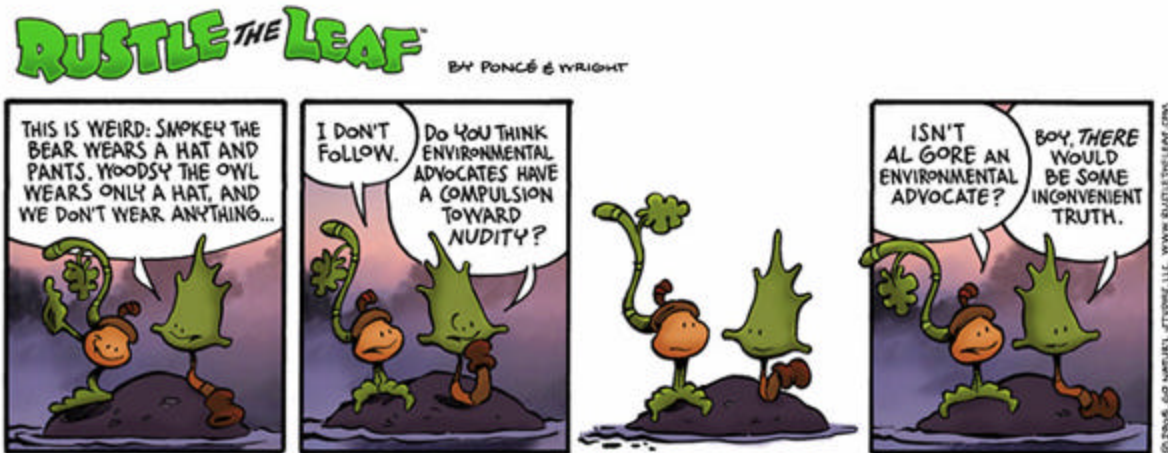
### Sierra Club Helps Natural Allies at Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days—September 23-24

National Sierra Club has recognized that we will be much more effective at saving natural areas and wildlife and keeping our planet healthy if we nurture relationships with natural allies. Thus, for the last three years, National Sierra Club has funded our sponsorship and activities at Southern Illinois Hunting and Fishing Days.

This year, we are once again sponsoring a fishing clinic for kids and a fly fishing clinic for all ages. We will also have an information booth. We need help from fly fishermen and also from people willing to talk to fishers about keeping our waters clean. For more information on how you can help, call Terri Treacy at (618) 683-2161.

### ExCom Nominations

Every January three of the six elected officers of your local Sierra Club Executive Committee (ExCom) must face re-election. The nominating Committee is seeking volunteer members to run for the ExCom positions. If you are interested or have questions, please contact: Barb McKasson at 529-4824 <mailto:babitaji@aol.com> .



"Rustle The Leaf" Comics characters courtesy of Go Natur'L Studios, LLC, 2005. The "Rustle The Leaf Comics" properties copyright and trademark of Go Natur'L Studios, LLC. All Rights Reserved. New "Rustle The Leaf" cartoons are available weekly on the Shawnee Group website. Check it out at: <http://Illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee>



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Third Planet from the Sun

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