

# Shawnee Group, Sierra Club Environmental News

Spring 2007



## Protecting The Planet One Blog At A Time

It has been three months since the last distribution of the Shawnee Trails Newsletter because news delivery from the Shawnee Group has gone electronic with inauguration of our new and interactive Shawnee Group Blog: <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>. Most of the content of this publication has already been posted to the blog in the last month.

Instead of having to wait a whole month or more between editions, updates are now possible every day throughout the day. In addition, readers can subscribe to automatic delivery of important news that arrives conveniently in your personal e-mail. See the insert for more information. The printed version of the Shawnee Group News will only be delivered a few times a year.

The primary purpose of this special Spring issue is to provide you instructions on how to find the blog site, understand its importance, and optionally, have the updates e-mailed to you free — that's free as in 'doesn't cost a penny' to you or the Club. Please save this publication's insert with instructions on how to access and interact with the blog, our local website, and other online new online resources of the Sierra Club.

## Mark Your Calendars for April 28<sup>th</sup> Yard Sale!

The Shawnee Group needs your help to make our yard sale a success! Now is the time to clean out that closet, basement or garage and donate those useable items that are clogging up your space. We especially need: kitchen items, furniture, tools, sports equipment, jewelry, baby clothes, toys, outdoor clothes & equipment. We will NOT be accepting Christmas decorations, clothes other than baby clothes, or any bedding.

You can help the most by pricing your items before you bring them. If you need to get rid of the items ASAP, you can bring them to Barb McKasson's shed. Please call first at (618) 529-4824. Otherwise, bring items to Shelby's house at 1803 W. Sunset, Carbondale, from April 20<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>. Please call ahead at 529-5760.

The sale will take place April 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM at 1803 W. Sunset in Carbondale. We will be holding a pricing party on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5 PM to about 7 PM. Free pizza and drinks will be available for all who help with the pricing. Come join the fun!

If you can help with the sale on April 28<sup>th</sup>, or with pricing the evening before, please call Shelby at (618) 529-5760 or Barb at (618) 529-4824.

## Now Recruiting Chapter Lobby Liaisons Volunteers

Thanks to JoAnn Nelson, Tim Stenson, Terri Treacy and Barb McKasson, we now have more volunteers to help with lobbying our state legislators on the Illinois Chapter's priority bills in the state legislature.

Terri Treacy and Barb McKasson will be conducting lobby training for new lobby liaisons on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a second training the first week of March. To become a lobby liaison, or help us lobby legislators in their local district offices, please call Barb at (618) 529-4824 or Terri at (618) 683-2161.

Thanks to Traci Hart, Kevin Nagele, Frank and Harriet Schneidinger, and Tim Stenson for volunteering to be lobby liaisons to their state representatives and/or Senators. Thanks also to Shelby Seegers-Schafer and JoAnn Nelson for volunteering to accompany liaisons for in-district lobbying.

## Adopt A Trailhead Parking Area Project

and

## Service Outing

As readers may recall from our December newsletter, the Forest Service budget does not contain adequate funding for maintenance and trash cleanup. Also, funds from one category cannot be transferred to another activity. Shawnee Forest Service Ranger, Kelly Pierson, requested and is now receiving Sierra Club support for an *Adopt a Trailhead Parking Area Project*. When a volunteer adopts a trailhead, they assume responsibility for visiting the site at least once a month to clean up trash on the ground, empty full trash cans, check the visitor signboard, and report any vandalism to headquarters. As of this moment, we have sites in the western section of the forest adequately covered by six wonderful volunteer members. Both Ranger Pierson and I express our gratitude and the Club's for this contribution.

We are now focusing more attention on the eastern section of the forest. Two volunteers have stepped forward to help there: Bob Iltis (adopting Trigg Tower) and Aringtons' (adopting Millstone Bluff). We need volunteers for Old Stoneface, Jackson Hollow Climbers Lot, Burden Falls, Bell Smith Springs, and High Knob. Please call Bob Tyson at 684-5643 if you would like to adopt a trailhead or other location in the forest.

The Forest Service has scheduled trail work days using community volunteers for March 17, 31, and May 5. They will be working on a trail in the Johnson Creek Recreation Area (Lake Kinkaid) from 9- 4 PM. This service outing should be less strenuous than our January project. Please come and bring gloves, water, and lunch. Call 687-1731 to volunteer.

Explore, Enjoy and Protect

**ALERT!**  
**Priority**  
**Bills in the**  
**Illinois**  
**Legislature**

Shawnee Group lobby liaisons and staff will be educating the Illinois state legislators on Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club's five priority bills, but we need **your help** to convince many legislators to "do the right thing" for the environment.

Below is a short summary of each of the priority bills, and the message you can help convey in a phone call to your legislators listed below and on our blog site. More background information on any of the bills is available from the [Illinois Chapter website \(illinois.sierraclub.org\)](http://illinois.sierraclub.org). Go there and click on *Legislative* in the menu, select the bill that interests you and a fact sheet will appear.

**Protect**  
**Illinois**  
**Open**  
**Space**

The bill includes open space acquisition as a necessary part of our infrastructure in a line item of the state's capital budget. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has identified many areas that are of ecological, economic, and recreational significance that need to be preserved in a natural state. Many of the 424 state and 24 federally threatened species depend on these areas.

Message: Open space acquisition in Illinois has been neglected for years. We must allocate an adequate amount of money in the state capital budget for open space acquisition before the cost of land goes even higher.

**Cool Cities**  
**Act**  
**SB1242**

Since the federal government has not acted to alleviate the human causes of global warming, city governments have begun to fill the void. This bill would require the Illinois state government to provide technical expertise to help cities conduct energy audits to determine the most cost effective ways to cut back on global warming gases and also save money on gas and electric bills.

Message: If we are to avoid extreme consequences of global warming, the state should provide Illinois cities with expertise to perform energy audits.

**Reduce**  
**Phosphates**  
**in**  
**Dishwasher**  
**Detergent**  
**SB 376**  
**HB 619**

Phosphates need to be eliminated from all household cleaners including dishwasher detergents. These phosphates cause algae and other water plants to grow faster than normal. This leads to a large die-off of plants that depletes oxygen in the water as decomposition occurs. This, in turn, kills fish and other wildlife. 32% of Illinois streams (155) are impaired by phosphorus. Many states have already passed such a law, so phosphate-free detergents are now effective, reasonably priced and readily available.

Message: We must close the loophole allowing phosphates in dish detergents in order to reclaim all the rivers and streams in Illinois.

**Great**  
**Lakes–St.**  
**Lawrence**  
**River Basin**  
**Water**  
**Resources**  
**Compact**  
**SB50**  
**HB375**

The bill implements an agreement worked out between all eight states in the Great Lakes Basin. The compact must be ratified by all eight state legislatures without any changes, and then must be approved by the U.S. Congress. The compact would protect the Great Lakes from diversions of water outside of the basin, including proposals to pump water to southwestern states and to ship water to Middle Eastern countries. It would also require sound water conservation practices within the basin. Each state would retain flexibility in management. If ratified, it would become legally enforceable. The compact would not change the amount of water allocated to the state of Illinois.

Message: This bill is urgently needed to protect the Great Lakes from increasing water demands both inside the basin and from plans to divert water to arid states and foreign countries. Since only 1% of the Great Lakes' water is replenished by precipitation each year, it is not appropriate to treat it as an unlimited, renewable resource.

**Affordable**  
**and Clean**  
**Energy**  
**Standards**  
**Act**  
**SB 1184**

The bill would require electric utilities to meet some electricity demand increases through more energy efficiency measures, gradually increasing measures until 2015, when the utilities must meet 100% of their projected increased load growth through energy efficiency. The bill also requires electric utilities to "build or buy" renewable energy (within Illinois) as a percentage of their overall power mix – 5% in 2010, 10% in 2015 and 25% by 2025 (at least 75% with wind energy). This is projected to create 8,580 new jobs and decrease the monetary drain from Illinois, currently an annual \$22 billion to import fossil fuels.

Message: This bill will combat global warming, lower utility bills, and reduce Illinois dependence upon foreign and out-of-state fossil fuels.

**Illinois**  
**Legislators**  
**in Shawnee**  
**Group Area**

- IL Representative Mike Bost – District 115 – (618) 457-5787 or (217) 782-0387
- IL Senator Dave Luechtefeld – District 58 – (618) 243-9014 or (217) 782-8137
- IL Representative John Bradley – District 117 – (618) 997-9697 or (217) 782-1051
- IL Representative Brandon Phelps – District 118 – (618) 253-4189 or (217) 782-5131
- IL Senator Gary Forby – District 59 – (618) 439-2504 or (217) 782-5509
- IL Representative David Reis – District 108 – (618) 392-0108 or (217) 782-2087
- IL Senator John O. Jones – District 54 – (618) 242-9511 or (217) 782-0471

## Global Warming and Cool Cities Campaign Heats Up!

Shawnee Group volunteers are working to encourage municipalities to decrease global warming gases and make our cities more energy efficient. The first stage is often to pick the "low hanging fruit," such as putting LED bulbs in signal lights (Carbondale has already done this), changing incandescent lighting to compact fluorescents, and replacing gas guzzlers with hybrid vehicles. The next common step is for each municipality to conduct an energy audit to determine what further actions will yield the greatest energy savings for the money. If the state legislature passes our "Cool Cities" bill, it will be much easier to conduct those energy use audits and implement other climate saving measures.

We have also planned an **Energy Film Fest** (see below) to educate the public about the threats from global climate disruption and what individuals can do. The energy film fest will be March 22-31 (see schedule below). We also plan to sponsor the "An Inconvenient Truth" slide show presented by Aur Beck sometime this spring.

To be most effective, we need YOU to help by writing letters to the editor, sponsoring a showing of "Kilowatt Ours" in your town, helping with the Energy Film Fest, and pledging to cut your energy usage. Please contact us if you want to help with the campaign. Call Barb at (618) 529-4824, or Shelby, JoAnn or Tim (see ExCom contact list on page 4).



## Energy Film Fest Schedule - FREE Thought Provoking Films and Discussions

The Shawnee Group is pleased to announce the creation of our first Energy Film Fest. Held at locations around the city, the films will present both entertainment and food for thought on how to transition the region to a sustainable economy with a great quality of life.

### March 22 — ["Kilowatt Ours"](#)

(Thursday), 7:15 PM, Unitarian Church, 105 N. Parrish Lane, Carbondale

The film takes you from mountain top removal to large scale solar panel projects to one family's efforts to reduce their household energy use. Discussion and energy saving information after film.

### March 24 — ["Power Shift"](#) and ["The Vineyard Energy Project"](#)

(Saturday), 6 PM, Town Square Market, E. Jackson & N. Washington St., Carbondale

Power Shift explores the many ways energy touches our daily lives, and teaches personal action steps you can take to reduce global warming (26 minutes), and "The Vineyard Energy Project" documents the successful implementation of sustainable energy solutions through the use of solar power. Discussion afterward.

### March 26 — ["Too Hot Not to Handle"](#)

(Monday), 7 PM, The Mix Coffeehouse, 106 South Division St., Carterville

is a 90 minute HBO special on Global Warming that features leading climatologists and leaders who are taking positive actions to reduce global warming emissions. Information on cutting your own energy use distributed.

### March 27 — ["Out of Balance"](#)

(Tuesday), 7 PM, Church of the Good Shepherd, 515 S. Orchard Drive, Carbondale

The film exposes Exxon Mobil's efforts to distort the global warming science and debate, and presents global social changes that must take place to preserve our planet for future generations. One hour film followed by discussion.

### March 28 — ["Earth to America"](#)

(Wednesday), 7 PM, SIU-C - Location to be announced.

This hilarious 90 minute film celebrates life on Earth while taking aim at Global Warming. It features well known people such as Jack Black, Tom Hanks and Robert Kennedy Jr.

### March 30 — ["Kilowatt Ours"](#)

(Friday), 7 PM, Longbranch Coffeehouse, 100 East Jackson St., Carbondale

(see March 22nd) Film and discussion plus energy saving information. If time allows, the film ["Sundance Summit"](#) will also be shown.

## Sierra Club Outings

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Details of all local Sierra Club outings and those held by other groups throughout Illinois are available from either our website or blog: <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>. *Adventures with Uncle Bob* features will only be available on our blog site from now on.

- **March 11 – Forest Roads 741 & 346C** – Beginner level. View some unique cliff lines, wetland habitat, waterfall & early wildflowers. ATV damage will be noted. Meet at 12:30 at the Murphysboro Ranger Station.
- **April 18 – Indian Point Trail, Garden of the Gods**. Advanced beginner. This 2-mile loop trail is in the Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area. We will see caves, shelter bluffs and interesting rock formations. We may also visit two nearby natural bridges.
- **May 6 – Kinkaid Lake Trail, Ava** – Intermediate. 4 mile hike with lake views and cliff lines.

For safety management, there is a limit of 10 per persons on most outings.

**Please pre-register for all outings by calling Bob Tyson at 618-684-5643.**

## Public Programs

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Member meetings for Shawnee Group start at 7:30 PM, and are held at the Carbondale Township Office meeting room at 217 East Main St. in Carbondale (directly across the street from the Bank of Carbondale). Please enter using the back door. The front door will not be open. It is best to park in the Township parking lot behind the building, which is accessed directly off of Monroe Street, just west of Marion Street. Dinner before the meetings is a gathering of members, the public and (usually) the speaker.

- **March 8<sup>th</sup> – The Hidden Life of Our Local Birds** – John Schwegman is a retired biologist having worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. John will share his best photos of local birds, including some seldom seen species and unusual behaviors. Join us at 5:45 at the Great Wall Restaurant, located east of Bed, Bath and Beyond on the University Mall frontage road.
- **April 12<sup>th</sup> – A Nocturne of Owl Photography** – Jeff Fox, a professional nature photographer, will present information on the nocturnal world of owls, and photographing owls in their habitat – in trees at night. Join us for dinner at **5:30 PM** at Kaya Restaurant (Korean & Japanese Food) at 817 S. Illinois Avenue in Carbondale.
- **May 10<sup>th</sup> – The Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services** – Dr. Chris Lant, SIU-C professor of Geography and Environmental Resources, will lecture on the greater appreciation of the free services that nature provides, and how our legal assessment of the value of these services must change. Dr. Lant has co-authored a book of the same name and hopefully will autograph book copies at the meeting.

## Sierra Club Calendars on Sale

>50% off

We have a limited number of the 2007 Sierra Club wall calendars and engagement calendars for sale at \$6 each, reduced from \$12.95 (Wall) and \$13.95 (Engagement). You can pick these up in Carbondale or you can have them mailed to you for \$2 each. Contact Yolanda at (618) 549-2119 or <mailto:yolandajeweler@hotmail.com>

## Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Shawnee Group activities are managed by an all volunteer executive committee (ExCom):

- Chair: Barbara McKasson, [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com), (618) 529-4824
- V-Chair: Bob Pauls, [bob.pauls@sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.pauls@sierraclub.org), (618) 549-9408
- Secretary: Shelby Seegers-Schafer, [Sseegers\\_schafer@hotmail.com](mailto:Sseegers_schafer@hotmail.com), (618) 529-5760
- Treasurer: Cindy Mathews, [Cjm800@hotmail.com](mailto:Cjm800@hotmail.com), (618) 942-2387
- Outings: Bob Tyson, [Robkay43@webtv.net](mailto:Robkay43@webtv.net), (618) 684-5643
- Political Chair: Tim Stenson, (618) 559-9377

Contact any member for information



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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
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**Shawnee Group Blog Guide**

**Part 1**



The Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce the availability of its new [blog](#) that will enable you to stay informed of meetings, alerts, outings updates and other important news about the environment in Southern Illinois.

The address of the Shawnee Group Blog is <http://Shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

The blog will supplement the primary website home of the Shawnee Group that will continue to serve important functions. You may also access the blog from the primary website at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee/>

All important news will be posted in this blog by members of the Executive Committee (ExCom). You and the public are able to **participate** in the blog by posting replies to any news presented there. You do not need any password to do this, but if you want to be able to sign your name to any comment, then you need to register for a free account with [Google](#), the company that hosts the blog at no charge to us or you for the group. (<https://www.google.com/accounts/NewAccount> )

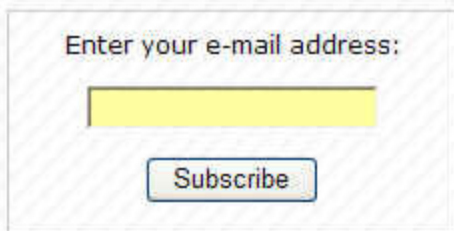
Once you get accustomed to the great features offered by blogging technology, we think you will appreciate the benefits of moving our delivery of news to this electronic medium.

Our use of the blog does several things for us:

1. It eliminates an annual expense for the group of over \$1500.
2. It allows more timely delivery of news especially when there is critical news that we need your help in addressing, such as an important bill before the legislature, or a change in meeting place, time or speaker.
3. It gives you the choice of having the news either automatically delivered to your e-mail account OR enabling you from anywhere in the world to go to the blog site for the latest updates, and lastly,
4. It makes our information sharing a two-way proposition. For any topic that we publish you can share comments, questions, or opinions about the information. Your ExCom wants to hear from you about Sierra Club priorities, programs and activities. You can contribute your views either anonymously or by adding your name to anything you submit to the blog.

We realize that for some members the transition to this electronic system is going to be less convenient. Some of you may not have convenient access to the Internet. For others, we heard from you that you appreciate the four advantages listed above. We hope the combination of a few printed on paper issues each year combined with the blog system will make for a suitable solution for everyone.

We appreciate your membership support and hope you remain active in your support of the Sierra Club in its important mission to help you explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



If you want the blog content to be conveniently delivered to your preferred e-mail account, all you need to is the following steps:

1. Visit this blog website at <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>
2. In the box that looks like the one shown here at the left, enter the e-mail address where you want to receive the blog updates.
3. Next, click the **Subscribe button**. Doing this will launch a process to weed out spammers from abusing this system. A screen will then appear that asks you to type into a box the squiggly characters then shown on the screen. Once you type them and click the button that says "**Complete Subscription Request**" you will be almost done. You will shortly receive an e-mail at the address you provided in Step 2.
4. As a means of confirming the accuracy of your e-mail address, you will be asked to click a customized link in the e-mail that is unique to you. Once you have done that you will be subscribed and will start receiving news with the next announcement.
5. See the reverse side for Part 2 of this guide to receiving Sierra Club blog news.

**Other  
Sierra  
Club  
and  
Environ-  
mental  
Blogs**

**In addition to the Shawnee Group's blog, an increasing number of other Sierra Club entities are using blogs to share environmental news and information. We want to recommend a few to you for consideration.**

Illinois Chapter Director's ([Jack Darin](#)) Blog: <http://www.sierraclub.org/carlpope/>

[Sierra Club Chronicles Video Blog](#):

<http://googlevideo.blogspot.com/2006/09/highlight-sierra-club-chronicles.html>

Bob Pauls' [Illinois Environment & Technology Blog](#) (aka The Ultimate Answer Blog):

<http://seriouscybernetics.blogspot.com/>

[Eagle View Group](#), Sierra Club (Quad Cities) Blog: <http://eagleviewgroup.blogspot.com>

National Sierra Club Director ([Carl Pope](#)) Blog: <http://www.sierraclub.org/carlpope/>

Sierra Club's National Blog ([Compass](#)): <http://www.sierraclub.org/compass/>



**Shawnee  
Group  
Blog  
Guide**

*You only need to read the rest of this page if you want an alternative means of electronically receiving the blog news updates from the Shawnee Group.*

**Part 2**



If you have been to the Shawnee Group blog site and reviewed its content, or have other experience with receiving syndicated news feeds from web content providers, you may already understand that there are actually three ways of receiving our blog content:

1. You can directly visit our blog website: <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>
2. You can subscribe to delivery of all updates to your preferred e-mail box, as described on the reverse side of this page. and
3. You can have the blog content delivered automatically to your computer's web browser memory.

Put another way, your choices are to either **goto** the blog site, have the content **pushed** to your e-mail, or you can **pull** it into your browser. To **pull** it to your browser, the process will vary according to a host of factors such as the brand and version of web browser you use, or if you use special (usually free) software (often referred to as a "feed reader or aggregator.") The process is too detailed to devote more space here, but you may want to look into the option.

People that read many blogs sometimes prefer using a software program that combines multiple blog content (called feeds) into a neatly organized system. You should consider this option, as blog technology is very quickly and widely proliferating on the Internet. There are already **tens of millions** of blogs available on the Internet with more being added every hour. Anybody can have a blog. Maybe you want to blog about the environment?

You can download blog feed software programs from many sources, two of which are listed below.

[Newsgator](http://www.newsgator.com/rs): <http://www.newsgator.com/rs>

[Feedreader](http://www.feedreader.com/): <http://www.feedreader.com/>

For users that want to learn more about blogging technology, a visit to the following Wikipedia website is recommended: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_feed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_feed)