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Shawnee Group Calendar

April 10 – Public Meeting
Wildflowers of So. Illinois

April 19 – Shawnee Group Yard Sale Call Shelby

April 19 – Annual Hazardous Waste Collection

April 27 – HIKE, Dixon Springs State Park, Call Bob

May 8 – Public Meeting
Fire as a Management Tool
in our Forests

May 13 – Invasive Plant Training

May 17 FAMILY HIKE (Any Age) Cache River Wetlands, call Shelby

May 17 – Invasive Plant Training

May 22 – ExCom Meeting

May 22 – Energy Sustainability Program

Shawnee Trails – Apr.-July, '08

Shawnee Group Sierra Club

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

Blog: shawneegroup.blogspot.com

All programs are held at 7:30PM, the second Thursday of the month, September-May in the back meeting room at the Carbondale Township Office, 217 East Main, Carbondale. You are invited to join other members, along with the speaker, at the **dinner before the meeting**. Dinner times vary slightly

Wildflowers of Southernmost Illinois - Thursday, April 10, 7:30

PM Tracy Evans, a biologist with Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, will help refresh our memories on all the beautiful wildflowers - both common and threatened - that bloom here in southernmost Illinois in the spring. Tracy conducts environmental review focusing on threatened and endangered species and wetlands (CERP). She used to live in our area, but now is in the Springfield IDNR office. She is happily returning for the program and a chance to view the spring flowers here just when they will start to bloom. **Dinner before the meeting - Applebees**, 1125 E. Main St. (by University Mall), **5:30 PM**.

Shawnee Group Yard Sale - Saturday, April 19th - Mark your Calendar!

One of our group's main annual fund raisers is our yard sale. We need:

- Your "high class" discards (no clothes except baby clothes or outdoor related clothing, no Christmas decorations.) We ask that your discards be in relatively good/clean condition – the kind that presents the best chance of being sold quickly.
- Your help on Friday, April 18th, 4pm-8pm, for a **PRICING PARTY**. Pizza and soft drinks will be available and your assistance will be greatly appreciated. You can also drop off last minute items for pricing.
- Your help at the yard sale - just two hours of your time is all we ask for.
- Help to spread the word and/or come to the sale ready to find some real bargains

Contact Shelby at 529-5670 or 303-1984 OR Barb at 529-4824 if you can help or if you need directions to the sale. Call Shelby to arrange to drop off items.

The sale will be 8 AM to 2 PM at 1803 W. Sunset in Carbondale.

**Alert: Illinois
Legislature Could
Act to Reduce
Global Warming
NOW!**

Climate scientists are telling us that we have ten years at most to cut global warming emissions in order to avoid tipping points that would cause extreme climate instability. Unfortunately, the U.S. Congress and the Bush administration have dragged their feet, and have passed very few measures that would curb greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Even if we get a new president and Congress that are committed to tackling the problem, they will not take office until 2009 and who knows how long before concrete solutions would be put into practice.

Fortunately, city and state governments have been leaders in helping to cut GHG emissions. Recently, Illinois joined several other Midwestern states and the province of Manitoba in signing the Midwestern Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord. SB 2220 and HB 5254 are two bills that have been introduced in the Illinois legislature that would implement the Accord in our state.

**(See Clean Cars
Information on
Page 5)**

This legislation - **The Global Warming Response Act** - contains five key provisions:

- > Cap on GHGs that would lower emissions gradually to 1990 levels by 2020,
 - > Adopt the Clean Car standards that have already been passed by 13 states
 - > Require lower carbon motor fuels
 - > Energy Efficient standards for all new furnaces
 - > Energy Efficient Building Codes for all new construction
- (Go to: Illinois.sierraclub.org/legislation/SB2220.html for more details)*

These provisions would lead to more savings in energy and money for us all by lowering demand for fuels. It would benefit us all by making our climate more stable and by decreasing economic disruptions.

Your state senator and representative need to hear from you to make sure they vote in favor of these bills. **Message: I urge you to co-sponsor 5254 (for Senators - SB2220), the Global Warming Response Act. This bill is necessary to combat global warming, lower utility bills, decrease health problems caused by air pollution and stop the huge drain of money from Illinois spent on foreign and out of state fossil fuels.**

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

Shawnee Group Sierra Club Programs – Apr. – May, 2008

Wildflowers of Southernmost Illinois - Thursday, April 10, 7:30 PM

Tracy Evans, a biologist with the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, will help refresh our memories on all the beautiful wildflowers - both common and threatened - that are found in southernmost Illinois in the spring. Tracy conducts environmental review focusing on threatened and endangered species and wetlands (CERP). She used to live in our area, but now is in the Springfield IDNR office. She is happily returning for the program and a chance to view these wildflowers rights when they are starting to bloom here.

Dinner before the meeting - Applebees, 1125 E. Main St. (by University Mall), **5:30 PM**.

Fire as a Management Tool in Our Forests - May 8, 7:30 PM

Charles Ruffner, a professor in the Forestry Department at SIU, will tell us about his research on prescribed burns for managing forests. Fire is being used increasingly to favor oaks and hickories in the forest, much as Native Americans are believed to have done. Controlled burns are also being used to prevent large forest fires and to restore prairie barrens within the forest. The Forest Service is planning thousands of acres of prescribed burns on Shawnee National Forest. **Dinner before the meeting - Mi Pueblito, Glenview Drive**, in the strip mall just south of Murdale Shopping Center in Carbondale (set back from road) - **5:45 P**

SUGGESTIONS FOR 2008-09 PROGRAMS

The Group ExCom is soliciting membership assistance to identify program topics for the 2008-09 membership meeting cycle. The topics must be relevant to the Sierra Club philosophy, membership interests and offer an educational and entertaining experience. Your input is valued – drop Barb a line (babitaji@aol.com) with your suggestions, including the name of the potential presenter and the person's contact information.

MAYOR'S CLIMATE PROTECTION AGREEMENT

Carbondale Mayor Brad Cole has signed the agreement, which dovetails into Sierra Club's "Cool Cities" initiative. The Shawnee Group is encouraging members to contact Carbondale City Council members requesting their formal support of the Agreement. Implementation of the Agreement requires a total city government commitment to realize the reduction of the community's carbon footprint. You can find the Council member names, official mailing address, phone numbers and email addresses at ci.carbondale.il.us, click on City Officials and Staff. If you would like to receive a suggested letter, please contact Barb at babitaji@aol.com.

NATIONAL TRAIL DAYS

Shawnee National Forest will sponsor this again on June 7 at the Pine Hills Campground. We will do trail work in Clear Springs at 8:30. Festivities start at noon with workshops, kid's activities, contests, booths, music, dinner, and camping. Any questions, call 687-1731

The same National Trails Day will be sponsored by the River to River Trail Society at Glen O. Jones Lake near Equality. Meet at the Indian statue. Lunch followed by short hikes. Any questions, call 618-252-6789.

SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS: April through May, 2008

April 27 – Dixon Springs State Park: Ghost Canyon and Bluff trails. Car pool starts at Murdale Shopping Center sign in Carbondale at 9AM; or, “old, old” Wal-Mart parking lot in Marion at 9:30AM. Expect pretty canyons and waterfall cascades – easy to moderate. Participants need to contact Bob Tyson at 684-5643 prior to the outing.

May 17th Family Hike (All Ages): Cache River Wetlands. Car pool starts at 9am at Parking Lot North of McAndrews Stadium at SIUC (off of 51). Todd Fink-Heron Pond Trail (1.5 miles, easy) and Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center. Returning approx. 1pm. Participants need to contact Shelby Seegers-Schafer at 529-5760 prior to the outing.

POST THE OUTINGS ON YOUR CALENDAR

Check our website at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee> and go to the outings page. Click Missouri . The St Louis group has outings scheduled in Southern Illinois and Eastern Missouri. You just missed two which were only 60 miles away from Carbondale.

SERVICE OUTINGS

The last Shawnee National Forest trail work day in February was cancelled due to weather. The next one is May 3. Call 687-1731 to volunteer. The work will be in Clear Springs and working from 9-1pm. Bring lunch, gloves, and appropriate footwear.

We had a request from Terri Treacy to get volunteers to be trained for doing inventories of invasive species in natural areas. Our thanks to two people who stepped forward: Courtney and Steve

SELF ADVENTURES WITH UNCLE BOB

Subsequent to our last newsletter, the following trails were featured on our blog site (<http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>) : Lusk Creek Canyon and the Cache River Trails. Be sure to click the "subscribe" button so as to be notified whenever a new item is posted. You will **not** be inundated with Emails.

Here are some updates on trails:

1. The Forest Service plans to initiate agreements with township road districts to maintain roads to Hidden Cove trail head and also to Newbolt trailhead(Little Cedar Loop Trail).
2. Someone put up permanent ladders into that beautiful canyon above the Fountain Bluff waterfall.
3. Reconstruction work is almost done on the Godwin Trail.

**WANTED:
LOCATIONS OF
INVASIVE PLANTS
SPECIES HIDING IN
THE SHAWNEE**



Non-native invasive plants species have been invading our beautiful forest for decades—the time has come to take action to protect the most fragile and special places in the Forest—our Natural Areas.

The Sierra Club is partnering with the Forest Service to conduct a massive inventory of invasive plants within twenty-one high-priority Natural Areas across the Shawnee National Forest this spring. Your volunteer help is needed!

Volunteers will be trained to identify several species of invasive plants, how to map their locations using GPS technology, and how to record the information on pre-printed data sheets.

Volunteers need to agree to attend a one-day training workshop on Tuesday, May 13 or Saturday, May 17 AND to go out, on your own schedule, at least three or four times during May and June to conduct inventories in your assigned Natural Area(s). *Training workshop locations to be determined—you will be notified.* You must register no later than 1 week prior to the workshop dates so that the appropriate number of materials can be prepared ahead of time.

Training workshops will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will end at approximately 4:30 p.m. There will be both indoor and outdoor study, so dress for the field and bring your lunch with plenty of water. Also, please bring a hand lens or magnifying glass.

Long-term sustainability of this project will depend on the success of this initial phase. Ideally, you will enjoy the contribution you are making so much that you will want to stay on and monitor “your” areas in subsequent years to identify how well eradication treatments are working, to record changes in population, to find new infestations, etc.

Please contact Terri Treacy at 618-683-2161 or terri.treacy@sierraclub.org as soon as possible to register for one of the trainings.

**Cars come in clean
and dirty models -
and Illinois has the
more polluting
models.**

While you are on the phone, also **urge them to vote in favor of the freestanding Illinois Clean Car Act -HB 3424 (SB2238 in the Senate)** - in order to implement the Clean Car standards even if the Global Warming Response Act does not pass right away. This would not affect sales of cars in Illinois because all new cars registered in Illinois would have to meet these standards, even if they were purchased in another state. Any increase in car price would be offset by better gas mileage. The requirements would apply only to new cars, starting in 2012. The proposed standards would result in an 18% reduction of global warming pollution by 2020 and 27% by 2030 from cars in Illinois.

**Energy Sustainability
Keynote & Panel
Discussion- May
22nd**

This program will present the "big picture" of the current and possible future of our energy system, including demand side technology. It will also include information on conservation, and energy efficiency. Refreshments served 5:30 - 6:00 PM. Keynote speaker and panel discussion 6-8 PM. Call Tammy Kirk at (618) 998-0970, Ext. 215 or Email Tammy at TammyKirk@mantracon.org to make a reservation. The program will be held at the Dunn Richmond Center's Entrepreneurship Network facility, on Pleasant Hill Rd., just East of Rt. 51 (just south of SIU-C campus).

Hazardous Waste Annual Collection - April 19th - 8 AM - 3 PM

Take advantage of this once-a-year chance to safely dispose of hazardous substances you have been harboring in your house or garage. The collection is held at the Southern Illinois Airport. Take Rt.13 west of Carbondale, then take Airport Rd. North and follow the signs. Just drive up and the guys in hazmat suits will take your waste. You just drive through. It only takes a few minutes.

Items Accepted include: paint, pesticides, petroleum products, chemicals, batteries, antifreeze, poisons, mercury, thermostats, fluorescent bulbs, aerosol products, old medications in original packaging, etc.

Items NOT accepted include: explosives, ammunition, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, propane tanks, medical waste, radioactive material, fireworks, tires, syringes, needles, controlled substances and appliances.

Be one of the first 100 people to bring in a mercury thermometer (silvery liquid inside) and you will receive a free digital thermometer in exchange! For more information, call 618-684-3143, ext. 128 - Jackson County Health Department.

Reduce Clutter and Waste: Stop Delivery of Unwanted Catalogs!

Visit www.catalogchoice.org - a free online service that gives you the power to decline catalogs you no longer want to receive. You will be saving energy, resources and our overtaxed environment at the same time!

Shawnee Group Executive Committee/Leaders

- Group Chair/Programs/Conservation...Barb McKasson; habitaji@aol.com (618)529-4824
- Vice Chair/Secretary/Publicity.....Shelby Seegers-Schafer; Sseegers_Schafer@hotmail.com
(618) 529-5760
- Treasurer.....Cindy Matthews; cjm800@hotmail.com (618)942-2387
- Membership/Newsletter Editor.....Rod Tally; rville1309@verizon.net
- Outings.....Bob Tyson; robkay43@webtv.net (618) 684-5643
- Political/Lobbying.....Tim Stinson; timstnson@aim.com (618) 559-9377
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- Newsletter Mailing.....JoAnn Nelson
- Chapter Delegate/Blog.....All ExComm Members
- Fund Raising.....VACANT
- Web Master.....VACANT