

## ~Shawnee Trails- Shawnee Group Sierra Club Newsletter~

### URGENT ALERT - LITMUS TEST FOR CLIMATE CHANGE REGULATION

Sierra Club and other environmental groups fought in the courts for years to prove that the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate global warming gases. **Now, just as the Obama administration's EPA has announced it plans to use the Clean Air Act to reduce global warming pollution from the largest sources, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski is on a mission to dismantle the Clean Air Act.**

Murkowski has introduced a resolution to take away the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases. If she succeeds, there is no telling how far her attacks on public health and the environment could go. This resolution is so extreme that it would legally overturn scientists' very conclusion, based on decades of scientific study, that greenhouse-gas emissions threaten public health and the environment, and it would have the effect of prohibiting the EPA from making the same conclusion in the future. It could block any action by the EPA to protect our families, our communities, and our economy from greenhouse-gas pollution.

Our senators must know that we will not stand for Murkowski's attack on the Clean Air Act. Speaking out against this resolution is doubly important. It is being used as a litmus test to see how much public pressure there is to pass a bill that will curb global warming and climate change.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP: Call Senator Durbin & Senator Burris ASAP. If you must call before or after office hours, leave a message on their voice mail. Call as soon as possible. You can even call over the weekend.**

**Phone Message: I urge you to oppose Sen. Murkowski's attack on the Clean Air Act. Please do not support any effort that undermines the Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to rein in greenhouse gases. Vote NO on Senator Murkowski's resolution and on any action that restricts EPA's authority to regulate global warming pollutants.**

**Senator Dick Durbin - 202-224-2152 (D.C.) 618-351-1122 (Carbondale)  
Senator Roland Burris: 202-224-2854 (D.C.) 618-529-7471 (Carbondale)**

Want to do more? Go to: <http://sierraclub.org> and click the "Take Action" button at the top of the home page.

### **Update on Climate Change & Energy Bill**

Harry Reid stated on Wednesday—the day after the Massachusetts election—that the Senate still plans to tackle energy and climate in order to “strengthen our national security, our environment and our economy.” There is an ongoing bipartisan effort by Senators Kerry, Graham and Lieberman to produce a bill that both Democrats and Republicans will support.

The blue-green alliance continues to urge the Senate to move forward with a comprehensive energy bill that includes a cap on greenhouse gas emissions. In fact, with Congress and the administration's new focus on “jobs, jobs, jobs,” passage of a climate and clean energy bill is more relevant than ever. Climate and clean energy measures create jobs. Even without national clean energy policies, green jobs have grown at more than twice the rate of overall jobs over the past decade, according to a [study](#) by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Meanwhile, as the federal government grinds on, states and cities are still taking the lead in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy. **Remember, when the people lead, the leaders will follow!**

### **Cache River Wetlands Activities:**

Friends of the Cache River Watershed newsletter with a wealth of year-round activities can be found at the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge website. Go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/cypresscreek> OR just type [Friends of Cache River](#) and click [Go](#).

### **Household Chemical Collection Program**

JCHD anticipates conducting one household chemical collection event in 2010, likely in the spring. Check back in March 2010 for more details. You can look for the announcement at <http://www.jchdonline.org>

### **CFL Lightbulb Recycling Keeps Mercury out of the Food Chain**

Under a grant from the Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Ameren is providing free collection and recycling of compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). Disposal of CFLs is a concern due to the presence of a small amount of mercury in each lightbulb. Go to <http://actonenergy.com> and click on "recycle CFLs" on the left sidebar for a list of CFL drop-off locations, listed by City.

Residents can drop-off CFLs inside the **Jackson County Health Department's** (JCHD) back building during normal business hours. No fluorescent tubes or incandescent bulbs are accepted. Residentially-generated CFLs only. Also, please remember that no lamps or bulbs should ever be placed into curbside or drop-off recycling containers. For more information, call 618-684-3143, Ext. 128.

Drop-off sites also include **Effingham and Saline County Health Departments**.

### **Carbondale Climate Action Network - CCAN**

This is a new group that welcomes anyone interested in working at the local level to alleviate and adapt to the two looming problems of climate destruction and rising oil prices. Projects include "Cool [Sustainable] Cities," Earth Week Events, Transition Town activities, Community Greenhouse and more.

For details, contact Sarah at [sacamixta@gmail.com](mailto:sacamixta@gmail.com), 618-453-8989 or Janet at [glendagreenhouse@gmail.com](mailto:glendagreenhouse@gmail.com), 618-525-0199

### **Shawnee Forest Trails Information**

FOREST SERVICE VOLUNTEERS will be working in the Hutchins Creek area Saturday Feb. 20, Sunday Feb. 28, and Sunday April 11. Hours are 10-5, but be at the Murphysboro station by 9:30. Bring lunch, water, and appropriate footwear. No report from the Hidden Springs District (Vienna) yet.

### **Tidbits of Interest**

The December hike produced an **armadillo skin** at Fountain Bluff. It is now housed at Murphysboro High School science dept. Someone from the R-R trails group sighted a **cougar** crossing the road near the junction of Rt. 147 and 145.

You may be interested to know that the Forest Service plans to fix the road from Jonesboro water plant to the top of Karbers Ridge in the spring.

### **Shawnee Blog Update**

Since the last newsletter, the following trails for self-adventure are added to the blog site: Thacker Hollow and Bell Smith Springs. Go to <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com> and scroll the right index. Hit the "subscribe" button to be notified when new postings are added. Between our blog and our website (<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/unclebob/adventure.htm>), we have approx 80 trails.

### **Other Outings: St. Louis Area**

**Jan 23-4** Hawn State Park. Trail work.

**March 14** Hawn. Explore the backcountry on the east side of the park. Contact Bob Gestalt at 636-296-8975 on both.

**Jan 29 and March 26.** Hawn State Park. 8-10 miles on the main trails. Contact Suzanne Smith 618-281-4762.

**April 16.** Bluebells at St Francois St Park. 6=8 miles. Contact Suzanne as above. From M'boro, Hawn is about 60-70 miles; St Francois, another 10 miles.

### **Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland** by Jeff Biggers, a native of Saline County, an award-winning journalist and cultural historian. The book is due on your bookseller's shelves in February. It is already nationally acclaimed by environmentalists and literary pundits.

Reckoning at Eagle Creek takes us on a journey into the secret history of coal mining in the American heartland. Set in the ruins of his family's strip-mined homestead in the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois, Biggers delivers a deeply personal portrait of the largely overlooked human and environmental costs of our nation's dirty energy policy over the past two centuries.

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Watch for events featuring Jeff Biggers throughout Southern Illinois this spring. Meanwhile, please check out [Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland](#) (Nation/Basic Books) online. Book trailer at: [www.jeffbiggers.com](http://www.jeffbiggers.com)



This iconic American Wilderness landscape  
and the critters that live there will be gone  
forever if we don't...

# CHILL THE DRILLS

Join us for a special presentation:

Oil Development and Climate Change in America's Arctic  
by Kit McGurn, National Arctic Organizer for the Sierra Club

**Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 PM**  
**SIUC Lawson Hall Lecture Hall 151**

Event co-sponsored by: Shawnee Group Sierra Club (618-529-4824)  
Shawnee Audubon Chapter Illinois Audubon Society (618-521-1030)  
SIUC EcoDawgs

## **Shawnee Group Programs ~ Feb. - May, 2010 - Mark Your Calendars!**

**Our Newsletters Are Quarterly, So Save This Page & Mark Your Calendar**

**Shawnee Group Programs** are held at **7:30 PM** in the back meeting room at the **Carbondale Township Office at 217 East Main St. in Carbondale**. Parking lot is behind the building, and is best accessed from Monroe St., just West of Marion St. and the first street south of Main St. Enter the meeting room through the green door off of the parking lot. Front door will be locked. Free and open to the public!

### **Chill the Drills: Oil Development and Climate Change in America's Arctic - February 9 - 7:00PM - Lawson Hall Room 151:**

The Arctic ecosystem on the North Slope of Alaska is a microcosm of the realities that we face with the inter-related problems of fossil fuel dependency, climate change and the importance of protecting our last wild and pristine places. Find out what is being done to protect America's Arctic, and what you can do to help!

**Kit McGurn** is the National Arctic Organizer for Sierra Club, formerly an organizer for Northern Rockies wolf protection and Roadless Area preservation. Kit has degrees in both Economics and Environmental Studies. **Dinner before the meeting** at 5:15 PM at Tequila's, 100 N. Glenview Drive, Carbondale

### **Natural History of Southern Australia & Tasmania - March 11th - 7:30PM - Carbondale Township Meeting Room:**

John Schwegman, well known naturalist and photographer, will give us a wildlife picture tour of his trip to the land downunder. Photos and narration include many birds, wildlife, plants and geology of Southern Australia and Tasmania.

John is retired from a long career in the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources, including the Natural Areas Program Manager, Botanist for the IL Nature Preserves Commission, and State Botanist. He is currently a commissioner on the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

**Dinner before the meeting** at 5:30 at Great Wall Super Buffet, on Rt. 13 frontage road, just East of Mall.

### **Creating Local Links to the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan - April 8th - 7:30PM - Carbondale Township Meeting Room**

Dave Myers, the Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) project manager for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), will tell us about the COAs in Southern Illinois. He will also describe how conservation partnerships are working to manage habitat for fish and wildlife. With climate change and invasive species threatening wildlife and their habitats, this adaptive management program is more important than ever!

**Dinner before the meeting 5:30** at Kaya Restaurant 817 South Illinois Ave., between Grand and Mill Streets.

### **Middle Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge - May 13th - 7:30PM - Carbondale Township Meeting Room**

Robert Cail, the manager of this wildlife refuge, will describe the progress and plans for restoration, recreation and further land acquisition for this refuge. Wilkinson Island, one of the seven islands in this refuge, is located partly in Jackson County, and is open daily to the public. This area is of international importance for migratory birds. Restoration includes restoring wetlands and native giant cane areas, a very rare habitat.

**Dinner before the meeting 5:30** at Tres Hombres, 119 N. Washington St., Carbondale.

**Come early and stay late to enjoy our snacks and to visit with other Sierra Club members!**

**All of our programs and outings are FREE and open to the public.**

# ~Shawnee Trails~

February - May, 2010

## Shawnee Group Sierra Club

Website: [Illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee](http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee) & Blog: [shawneegroup.blogspot.com](http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com)

### Shawnee Group Outings, Feb. - May, 2010

Mark your Calendar and Save this page. This is a Quarterly Newsletter

Details also online at: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/outings.htm>

#### Feb. 15 (Monday) Jackson Hole & Double Branch Hole, Eddyville, IL

Meet 9AM Murdale Shopping Center by the big sign in Carbondale, or 9:30 former Wal-Mart parking lot in Marion. One trail in Hayes Canyon affords views of a double waterfall cascade and continuous views into a sandstone canyon. The other trail affords rim top views over a waterfall and canyon. Access to the base of the falls will depend on weather conditions. Observe a good example of dual-use trail construction. Leader is Bob Tyson at 684-5643. More info at <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

#### March 14 (Sunday) Round Bluff Nature Preserve/Bork Waterfall, Goreville, Meet 12:30

Murdale Shopping Ctr sign in Carbondale, or 1 PM former Wal-Mart parking lot in Marion. This easy to moderate one mile loop contains impressive rock formations and rare plants. Learn the goals of the Nature Preserve Commission. We will also drive over to a nearby waterfall with the option of the base trail or rim trail. Leader is Bob Tyson at 684-5643. More trail info at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/unclebob/adventures.htm>.

#### April 11 (Sunday) Perry County Community Lake Loop, Perryville, MO

Meet 9:30 Murphysboro Ranger Station or 10:15 Popeye statue in Chester. This 4 mile easy trail provides continuous views of the lake, spring flowers, and wildlife. Observe a restored prairie designated area. As time or energy permits, we may visit Ball Mill Conservation Area or stained glass art at the shrine chapel. Leader is Bob Tyson at 684-5643. More info on the lake and Ball Mill at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/unclebob/adventures.htm>.

#### May 11 (Wednesday) East Trigg Trail, Simpson, IL

Meet 9:30 Murdale Shopping Ctr sign in Carbondale, or 10 AM former Wal-Mart parking lot in Marion. This section of the River to River Trail will parallel steep ravines and cliffs below the railroad track on the way to Bay Lake. Near the lake, we view impressive rock formations. Distance approx 4-5 miles total out and back. We will also drive to Trigg Fire Tower and a shelter cave under the road. Discover the history of this tower. Leader is Bob Tyson at 684-5643. More info and picture of the trail at <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com> (scroll the right index).

**NOTE: When you see that an outing has two pickup locations, we will leave the first one at the exact time noted. If you are running late, we cannot wait and inconvenience people at the second location: You have the option of making haste to next pickup point.**

#### Shawnee Group Executive Committee/Leaders

Group Chair/Conservation	Barb McKasson	<a href="mailto:babitaji@aol.com">babitaji@aol.com</a>	618-529-4824
Vice Chair/Treasurer/membership	Cindy Matthews	<a href="mailto:cjm800@hotmail.com">cjm800@hotmail.com</a>	618-942-2387
Outings	Bob Tyson	<a href="mailto:robkay43@verizon.net">robkay43@verizon.net</a>	618-684-5643
Secretary	Peggy Hayes	<a href="mailto:psyprotect@aol.com">psyprotect@aol.com</a>	618-684-6567
Programs/Publicity	Joanne Evans	<a href="mailto:joannesnave@gmail.com">joannesnave@gmail.com</a>	618-684-3760
Conservation Co-chair	Tim Werner	<a href="mailto:drapersbluff@earthlink.net">drapersbluff@earthlink.net</a>	618-995-2959
Webmaster	Rob Gallegly		

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#### ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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## **Be Part of the Action**

Illinois Chapter Sierra Club will be holding its 5th **annual issues briefing** for members who plan to help lobby their state representatives and senators on our 2010 priority issues. The issues briefing will be held in Chicago on Saturday, Feb. 6th, 10AM - 4PM. It's a great opportunity to learn about the top issues, learn more lobbying skills, and get to know Sierra Club activists across the State of Illinois.

The top issues include: opposition of a bill that would force electric companies to buy from a new (dirty) coal fired power plant, a bill encourage use of solar energy by commercial users, and a bill to cut down on fertilizers that are a cause of the "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico. Call the IL Chapter office (312) 251-1680 or Linda Sullivan (630) 310-9996 to sign up.

It's convenient to take the train from Carbondale to Chicago. The state office is about a mile from the train station. If you want to travel to Chicago on Feb. 5th and stay overnight in Chicago, please call Barb for possible arrangements (618) 529-4824. The downtown hostel, a homestay with a Chicago area member, or a winter rate downtown hotel are options for Friday, Feb. 5th.

Face-to-face lobbying takes place in Springfield and at in-district offices. The annual environmental lobby day will take place March 10th.

### **Can't Travel? Be an Armchair Activist!**

It always helps to have backup support from members who cannot make it to Springfield on Lobby Day. If members are interested, we can schedule in-district meetings with state representatives or senators. You can also help by calling when we send out alerts or by writing a letter to the editor on a bill.

Also, you can get updates on our priority bills by going to <<http://illinois.sierraclub.org>> and clicking on "Legislative" in the sidebar on the left of the home page. Our great staff in the Chicago office will be keeping us up-to-date on this

"Legislative Tracker" as soon as the 2010 legislative session starts heating up.

## **Anti-Water Privatization**

Citizens in Carbondale recently beat back an attempt by Mayor Brad Cole to privatize the city water system. However, the "Committee to Protect Our Water" has pledged to remain vigilant against any further attempts at water privatization.

Citizens managed to win in Carbondale for now. However, with rising pension costs and another budget shortfall looming, the water privatization issue may come up for a vote again in the Carbondale City Council.

Several international water corporations are actively promoting water privatization as a "quick fix" solution for municipalities to solve budget problems - especially during this economic downturn. A number of cities in Illinois have taken the bait, and sold their water systems to private companies. Usually, this leads to rapidly rising water rates, along with deteriorating service and infrastructure.

Sierra Club's position is that water resources must be protected as a public trust. Water is a basic human and ecological necessity, which must be protected. It is definitely not appropriate for water to be managed as a monopoly.

It is very hard to regain public ownership of a water system once it is privatized. When the City of Peoria tried to buy back its water system, Illinois American Water Corporation said it was worth \$300 million. The corporation then sued the city over its right to buy out the company in 1998, when it looked like the city would proceed with looking into a buyout. The system is still privatized.

To join the steering committee for the "Committee to Protect Our Water" contact Yolanda at [yolandacomiskey@gmail.com](mailto:yolandacomiskey@gmail.com). For more information on this issue, go to <[www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org)>