

Shawnee National Forest: Personal Natural Histories from Southern Illinoisans

Collected by Terri Treacy, Chapter Wildlands Outings Coordinator

Bell Smith Springs

by Sam Stearns

I have been visiting Bell Smith Springs since before I was born. My mother used to tell me how she visited the shady canyon in the summer before my birth, wading in the pools and soaking her feet in the cool water.

My earliest memories are of watching tadpoles in the rock basins above a little waterfall there. Some of my most pleasant recent memories include lazing around those same pools, contemplating a new generation of tadpoles. Their lives and mine are inextricably intertwined and will continue to be so.

I appreciate now the privilege I took for granted as a child. Bell Smith Springs is an essential destination for anyone interested in native ecology and local history. It is designated a National Natural Landmark by the U.S. Park Service, a Natural Area by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and a recreation area by the U. S. Forest Service. This gorgeous canyon and its surrounding watershed have been studied by scientists and enjoyed by visitors for generations.

Untold thousands of citizens have visited this piece of public property through the years to observe the rare phenomenon of interconnected, com-

plete, functioning ecosystems. There are four creeks which come together in the canyon at Bell Smith Springs, and even when the creeks are parched, there are a dozen ice-cold spring pools which never go dry. The unique hydrology of the canyon contributes to its vegetative diversity: over 700 species of plants flourish at Bell Smith Springs.

Native Americans utilized the canyon for its abundant water and huge shelter bluffs. Early settlers farmed the ridge tops, grazed livestock on hillsides and harnessed one stream to power a gristmill. Massive trees of the virgin forest were felled. Cougar, wood



Swimming, wading, fishing, and tadpole watching are some of the many activities enjoyed by visitors to Bell Smith Springs. Photos by Tony Jones.

bison, bear, elk and many other species which once drank from the pools have long since been extirpated. But bobcat, turkey, deer, fox, a plethora of songbirds and other animals are still glimpsed at Bell Smith Springs.

The rugged, isolated topography of parts of the canyon serve as a repository for species that have disappeared from many other places. The Netted Chain Fern is found in upland areas of the watershed, its fruiting bodies rising above the foliage. Pale, greenish, spongy-looking tufts of Sphagnum Moss line the sides of some north-facing slopes. Rosy blooms of Flower-of-the-Hour appear in arid patches, display their short-lived beauty and then wither away within a couple of hours. The rare French's Shooting Star occurs in drip lines of the bluffs. Alder trees tap their roots deep in the cold soil adjacent to spring pools. There are Lichen Grasshoppers, endangered crayfish and unusual minnows that inhabit the cliffs, rocks and pristine water.

During the decades that these hills and hollows have been protected as public land, natural regeneration has restored much of the area's biological diversity. Pine plantations on the ridge tops now nurse a diverse understorey of native oaks, hickory and other hardwoods. Continued protection and respect for the land will insure its survival for future generations.

My own daughter has a deeper appreciation of Bell Smith Springs than I do. I grew up thinking the tadpoles I observed were part of a food chain that culminated with human beings at the top. My daughter realizes that those tadpoles are part of a complex web of life, the intricacies of which are sometimes too subtle for us to understand fully.

Bell Smith Springs will continue to be a nurturing classroom as long as we are humble enough to listen to the lessons it has to offer.

Sam Stearns lives near Bell Smith Springs in the central part of the Shawnee Forest and has been a strong voice for many years for the protection of the forest. He is the founder of Friends of Bell Smith Springs, an organization that promotes the protection and conservation of the area.

Ripple Hollow

by Les Honey

One of my favorite places to hike and commune with nature is Ripple Hollow, located primarily in southwest Union County.

Ripple was a small community until around the 1930s and, until the 1950s, could be accessed from the Grape Vine Trail in Alexander County or the Old Cape Road in Union County. The old road still exists as a good foot trail both to the north and south. Ripple is an excellent place to hike for a number of reasons, including its rich history, its beauty, its unique topography and its variety of plant and animal species.

Ripple has an interesting history. There are few remnants left of the community itself, although if you look hard, you will find them. I have found a few, including a fender from Model "T" Ford.

I was surprised to find building remnants located on a mound at the mouth of Ripple. The mound is probably a vestige of one built by prehistoric Native Americans. This mound can be located on a

U.S. Geological Survey map at the mouth of Ripple by a black dot representing a dwelling encircled by an elevation contour line. I have heard accounts that many years ago, there were Native American mounds to the west of Clear Creek that have been removed by farming operations. There are



The French's Shooting Star, found only along the drip line at the base of shelter bluffs, is only one of many rare plant species found in the Shawnee.

other evidences of prehistoric habitation of the area including a burial ground on the north ridge of Happy Hollow. It was looted in the 1930s or 40s and all that is left are the stones used to line the graves.

A second reason Ripple is a great place to hike is the simple beauty of the area. In the spring and summer, there are an abundance of wildflowers of upland and lowland species one doesn't see everywhere else, such as Shooting Stars and Cardinal Flowers. In the fall, of course, the color of the foliage is excellent.

Next, the topography of the area is unique and diverse. You can walk south of Ripple and see limestone bluffs, which delineate the Mississippi flood plain from the Ozark Hills of Illinois or follow the trail up Ripple Hollow to a ridge of the Illinois Ozarks approximately 300 feet above the valley floor.

Finally, the area is rich in wildlife and unusual vegetation. Of particular interest to me are the many species of birds. The area attracts both wooded bottomland as well as upland species. A hiker in the



This American Beech was photographed in the Ripple Hollow area and is part of habitat critical for the survival of migrant and resident birds, as well as healthy populations of Bobcat and Beaver.

Ripple area might see or hear

Prothonotary Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker or a Wild

Turkey, just to mention a few. If you are interested in snakes, you may be able to find species such as Cottonmouths and Timber Rattlers, as well as non-poisonous varieties. As for unusual vegetation, the largest stand of Giant Cane I have ever seen grows at the mouth of Ripple.

It should be noted that Ripple has north and south forks; however, most of my hiking has been in the North Fork. I would suggest use of the USGS map of Mill Creek quadrangle. Having a map of the area allows a person to choose option of access to Ripple or to follow other trails in the area. Ripple is really an interesting and beautiful place to visit.

The historical rem- continued on page 2

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 3252

The Sierra Club
200 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 505
Chicago, Illinois
60601-5908

Lake & Prairie
Volume 43, Number 1
1st Quarter 2002

Lake and Prairie is published quarterly by the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club.

Production and Distribution:
Specialty Mailing, St. Louis, IL

Production Coordinator:
Sue Lannin

Editor:
Christine Williamson

Layout and Design:
Lisanne Freese, Graphic Design, Chicago, IL
773-792-1224 lisfreese@aol.com

Contributors:
Joyce Blumenshine, Fran Caffee, Les Honey, Gene McArdle, Craig Rhodes, Rand Sparling, Sam Stearns, Terri Treacy, Christine Williamson

Contributions:
Send all contributions to the Chapter office. All articles receive equal consideration based upon merit. Please send articles on a disk or by e-mail. Hard copy is also accepted. Photo submissions are also very welcome. Contact the office for more information.

Editorial Policy:
Sierra Club policy and Executive Committee decisions set the overall philosophy of the Chapter and the tone of this newsletter. We welcome articles and letters from members and other concerned environmentalists. Opinions expressed in *Lake & Prairie* are not necessarily those of the Sierra Club or the Illinois Chapter. However, *Lake & Prairie* will not advocate positions directly opposed to adopted Sierra Club policy positions. We also reserve the right to condense or revise articles for space, clarity, or libel. Knowledgeable local environmentalists may be consulted for fact checking.

Subscriptions:
Lake & Prairie is sent free to all Chapter members. One dollar of annual dues is for *Lake & Prairie*. An eight dollar (\$8) subscription is available for non-members who wish to receive it. Send requests for non-member subscriptions to the Chapter office.

Advertising:
For information about advertising rates and deadlines, contact Sue Lannin at the Chapter Office, 312-251-1680.

Illinois Chapter Offices

Northern Illinois area:
200 N. Michigan Avenue
Suite 505
Chicago, Illinois 60601-5908
Phone: 312-251-1680
Fax: 312-251-1780
E-mail: illinois.chapter@sierraclub.org



Chapter Staff:
Director: Jack Darin (jack.darin@sierraclub.org)
Conservation Field Representative:
Douglas Chien (doug.chien@sierraclub.org)
Administrative Assistant: Sue Lannin
(ilsierra@flash.net)
Data Entry: Sylvia Yeh

Downstate:
(maintained by Piasa Palisades Group)
223 Market Street
Alton, IL 62002-2631
Phone and fax: 618-462-6802
E-mail: ppgsc@juno.com

Next issue: 2nd Quarter 2002

Copy receipt deadline: **February 2, 2002**
Outings receipt deadline: **February 2, 2002**

Send all copy to the Chicago office by e-mail, if possible (see above for address information).

Illinois Chapter Hires Terri Treacy, New Wildlands Outings Coordinator

The Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club is in the middle of an important campaign to get three additional areas of the Shawnee National Forest designated as Wilderness Areas. The Club promotes conservation through understanding and understanding comes from being in the wilderness. There is no better way to get to know the Shawnee than through a Sierra Club Outing.

As part of its campaign, the Illinois Chapter received a grant to fund a limited-duration position called Wildlands Outings Coordinator. Terri Treacy from Carbondale was hired to fill the position.

"It is a privilege to have been chosen by the Illinois Chapter to fill this position. My goal is to inspire each Chapter member to become familiar with the Shawnee, to instill a sense of ownership with your favorite area and to enlist your partici-

pation in conservation efforts," said Terri of her new job.

Terri's primary role is to facilitate Sierra Club outings within the Shawnee, as well as to encourage individuals to visit the southern tip of Illinois. It shouldn't be a difficult task!

Noted for its geographic diversity, the Shawnee encompasses everything from rugged, forested hills with prominent rock outcroppings to ancient cypress-tupelo swamps. The 270,000-acre National Forest has miles of hiking trails, seven Wilderness Areas, three proposed Wilderness Areas, numerous Illinois Natural Areas and several large lakes.

Terri can be contacted for more information about recreation and conservation in the Shawnee Forest at 618-521-1030 or by e-mail to territreacy@yahoo.com.

continued from page 1

nants, the unique topography and the abundance of wildlife make it an ideal spot. Have a good time and good hiking.

Les Honey, who now lives in Cairo, Illinois, grew up near the proposed Ripple Hollow Wilderness in northeast Alexander County in the Shawnee National Forest. He has served on a variety of boards and committees in the pursuit of forest preservation, including volunteering one day per week at the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge.

Burke Branch

by Craig Rhodes

I've been exploring the 6,000 or so acres of Burke Branch for almost 25 years now and I've only scratched the surface.

The countless hours I've spent in Burke Branch have taught me to expect the unexpected. The surprises might include a new species of orchid, a record-sized white oak, a quiet prehistoric bog with six-foot Cinnamon Ferns, or an undiscovered cave. I've come to realize I can spend the rest of my life exploring the area and never exhaust the possibility of discovery in both Burke Branch and myself. It is infinitely entertaining.

While I am by no means wise, I have learned that wisdom, more often than not, comes after deep reflection. It is these qualities that drew most of the world's great religious leaders to use wilderness as a refuge from the cacophony of civilization, as a means to communion and, ultimately, to seek enlightenment.

For this reason, the wilderness, as both metaphor and necessity, has become an integral part of our culture. The Burke Branch wilderness has afforded me the opportunity for serenity, solitude and needed reflection. It is quiet in ways that go beyond the mere absence of noise. It encourages meditation.

I've learned over time that to gain conviction, one should speak softly. Burke Branch speaks softly to the attuned. It doesn't shout at you like the Garden of the Gods, which is also in the Shawnee. It has a much subtler and quieter appeal to the senses. It requires attention.

Moreover, the lessons aren't given gratis, but have to be earned. All true art requires something of the viewer — partici-

ipation, not just observation. In this respect, the Burke Branch wilderness can be considered art in the truest sense. To be appreciated, one must bring something of oneself to the experience or the experience isn't complete. It doesn't lend itself to the superficial, the drive-by view. Something has to be given.

Each individual alone can determine what is taken and given. There is no formula. But for me it must be, first and foremost, a sensory experience divorced from the abstract and the analytical. In the end, science will play an important role in how the Burke Branch wilderness will be legally defined. But, for me, its deeper truths can only be appreciated as art not as science.

My time in Burke Branch has taught me that the deepest truths are known through synthesis rather than analysis.

Burke Branch is wilderness in the truest sense. It doesn't require an Act of Congress to make it so, no more than an oak requires an Act of Congress before it can be an oak. But it will require an Act of Congress to keep it as wilderness. For this reason, I pray that we will continue to value the ineffable qualities inherent in wilderness that have played such an important role in our cultural evolution.

Craig Rhodes lives on property adjacent to the proposed Burke Branch Wilderness located within the southeastern portion of the Shawnee National Forest in Pope County. Craig is a high school art teacher, potter and musician. His love for the Shawnee has inspired him to become a fervent activist on many of the environmental issues facing the Shawnee.



Among the 23 different habitats within Burke Branch, the most breathtaking is the unique Cretaceous Hills Nature Preserve. Seep springs there are home to Cinnamon Fern like these unfurling in the spring, as well as Royal Fern, Sphagnum Moss and Whorled Pegenia, a federally endangered orchid found nowhere else in Illinois.

Grassland Birds: Restoration at Orland and Bartel in southern Cook County, January 21 Meeting to Preview Plans

Orland Grasslands and Bartel Grasslands, both in southern Cook County, are one of the last strongholds in the Chicago metropolitan region for grassland birds such as Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, Henslow's and Grasshopper Sparrows and Bob-o-Links. Grassland bird populations have plummeted due to habitat loss nationwide, but have been particularly badly impacted by agriculture and sprawl in Illinois.

Habitat quality at both Orland and Bartel Grasslands is deteriorating, but the Cook County Forest Preserve has been working with ornithologists, environmentalists and bird watchers to develop master plans for habitat restoration. The rehabilitation efforts include brush control, drain tile disablement, and restoration of sustainable and fire-maintained grassland vegetation. The habitat work plans are designed to secure nesting and feeding areas for grassland birds for coming decades.

On Monday, January 21, the National Audubon Society - Chicago Region and the Cook County Forest Preserve District will present a slide show focusing on the habitat and birds of Orland and Bartel Grasslands. Here's a chance to get a look at current thinking about management of large grasslands and learn how to get involved with these projects.

The program will be held at the Field Museum (enter through the West entrance) on Monday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. The 146 bus services the museum until 8 p.m. and the nearest el station is Roosevelt on the Red Line (about a 15-minute walk to the museum). Parking may be available in the West lot; otherwise, park on Solidarity Drive east of the Shedd Aquarium. Bike racks are available outside the museum. Entrance is free.

The presentation is cosponsored by the Chicago Ornithological Society and the Bird Conservation Network.

Illinois Chapter Fund Appeal: Coming to Your Mailbox Soon!

Patriotism is running high and there's no better way to protect your nation than through a donation to the annual fund appeal of the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club. The Illinois Chapter asks members for a special donation just once a year; its 25,000 members have always been generous with their support.

Member support dollars are used to fund diverse conservation activities such as:

- Citizen brigades of water quality monitors in Kane and DuPage Counties;
- Protection of the woods, bottomlands and bluffs and woods of the Illinois River Valleys;
- Testimony in opposition to the expansion of a landfill at the new Midewin National Tall Grass Prairie in Joliet;
- A campaign to extend Federal Wilderness protection to three important natural areas within the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois;
- Technical support in researching water quality standards

in Illinois;

- Lobbying work aimed at the IL Dept. of Natural Resources to protect habitat of the highly endangered Massachusetts Rattlesnake in Eldon Hazlett State Park at Carlyle Lake.

Your support ensures that the Sierra Club can continue its defense of Illinois' environment, including an ambitious campaign planned for 2002 to protect isolated wetlands left vulnerable by last year's Supreme Court decision regarding the Bartlett Balefill. The Club intends to expand its water campaign to include more citizen water monitoring of more streams and Lake Michigan. And the club's Sprawl Campaign has many creative ideas for controlling irresponsible development and promoting sane, sustainable growth.

So please watch for the Fund Appeal letter due to arrive in your mailbox in March and make as generous a contribution as you can. Illinois' environment needs your help!

New Illinois Chapter Campaign Planned for 2002: Isolated Wetlands Protection Campaign

by Christine Williamson, Chapter Conservation Chair

Last year's U.S Supreme Court decision regarding the Bartlett Balefill has a devastating kicker. The Court not only sided with the Solid Waste Association of Northern Cook County, which asserted that it could build a landfill in a wetland area, it also removed protection from waterways that are not navigable.

That puts millions of acres of isolated marshes, fens, bogs, swamps and seeps in America that are not connected to rivers and streams used for boating or shipping at severe risk.

Illinois wetlands will not be spared by state law, at least so far. In fact, Illinois Chapter Executive Director, Jack Darin, filed a Freedom of Information Act on the Army Corps of Engineers in Chicago and found that the Corps made approximately 200 declaration of no jurisdiction for just the six-county area in northeastern Illinois in the seven months after the Bartlett Balefill/SWANCC decision. In plain English, that means that the Corps said it could not/would not stop development on those 200 properties where some-

one bothered to ask for an opinion. Undoubtedly, many thousands of other projects are being contemplated where the builder won't bother to seek a Corp opinion.

The counties of Lake, DuPage and Kane have moved to protect at least some of these areas by including wetlands in their storm water ordinances. McHenry County officials are drafting a storm water ordinance now. Will County, on the other hand, issued a draft ordinance that ignores wetlands entirely. And these are the only five of Illinois' 102 counties that even have storm water regulatory authority granted by state statute.

Luckily, some state Representatives and Senators are intent on developing protective legislation next year and the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club intends to build a campaign to give that legislative effort sufficient momentum.

Part of that campaign needs citizen involvement to identify important isolated wetlands across the whole state. Sierra

Club members can then lobby state and local officials to protect the important, vulnerable wetlands that they find and push for state and county protections.

Help is needed on the local and statewide level. You are invited to join the initial planning of the Isolated Wetlands Campaign. A kick-off meeting for the IWC will be held in February, with further formal campaign training planned for mid March.

Let the Chapter know of your interest by calling Jack Darin in the Chapter office at 312-251-1680 (days) or e-mail to jack.darin@sierra.club.org or Christine Williamson at 773-935-8439 (evenings) or e-mail to birdchris@aol.com. You can be as active (be a founder of the campaign or organize your local group's efforts!) as you like or join a list of people interested in receiving regular updates on the progress of the campaign.

Stop the destruction of Illinois wetlands! Join the IWC today!

Illinois Environmental Council Receives Strong Chapter Support

by Rand Sparling, Chapter IEC Delegate

The Sierra Club Illinois Chapter continues its long-standing support and active leadership of the Illinois Environmental Council (IEC) through a special grant in 2002.

The IEC is a coalition organization of 53 environmental affiliates and 300 individual members. It is dedicated solely to monitoring and improving environmental legislation and administrative practices in Illinois and is the only full time environmental lobby in Springfield.

IEC is member-driven: Energy is focused on the issues and legislation determined as important by its members.

The Illinois Chapter is actively involved in many ways. Rand Sparling is the Chapter's delegate to IEC and is an IEC director, as well as its Treasurer. Chapter Executive Director, Jack Darin, heads up the Clean Waters Taskforce of IEC. Several members of the Valley of the Fox Group have actively assisted the Standup Save Lives campaign led by IEC. Dick Worthen was one of the founders of the IEC and a director for several years.

These Sierrans and many others remain committed to having an effective voice of the environment in Springfield.

A committee of the chapter including Joyce Blumenshine, Owen Dratler, Dick Worthen, Jack Darin and Rand Sparling

was formed in the summer to assist the Chapter in finding ways to support IEC even better. This effort is part of a long tradition stretching back to IEC's formation 26 years ago.

The committee recommended that the Illinois Chapter make a special monetary contribution to the IEC in 2002 in addition to its regular organizational dues to help IEC become an even more effective organization with strong staff and a flourishing volunteer network to promote grassroots lobbying. The Executive Committee of the Chapter accepted the committee's recommendation. Other environmental organizations are being encouraged to step up to the plate and help with both cash and organizational energy.

The Illinois Environmental Council Honors Local Environmentalists

During its annual meeting at the Morton Arboretum, The Illinois Environmental Council presented "Distinguished Citizen Awards" to four members of the Sierra Club Valley of the Fox Group.

The award winners were Marion and Ron Harding, Patricia Dawson and Fran Caffee who participated in the IEC Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign, which was centered on clean air. The local volunteers were instrumental in getting their hometowns (Aurora and Oswego) as well as Kane County to sign onto resolutions calling for an end to the exemption allowing old coal-fired power plants to pollute more than new plants.

"These old coal-fired plants operate without benefit of modern pollution controls and technology, and are exempt (but should not be) from the modern emissions standards of the Federal Clean Air Act to which modern facilities must adhere. Stand Up/Save Lives Campaign represents the public mandate to our elected officials, that this is no longer acceptable nor is it fair to the health of our citizens," said Fran Caffee.

Kane County, Aurora and Oswego are now part of a list of almost 100 governmental bodies representing near 4,000,000 residents of metropolitan Chicago who have taken a stand for clean air.

The Illinois Environmental Council Education Fund Invites You to a Fun-Filled Benefit Evening!

Saturday, January 19, 2002

FAMOUS/FORTHER MUSICAL POLITICAL SATIRE...
"THE CAPITOLSTEPS" LIVE...FROM WASHINGTON!
4 p.m. Lobby Ticket Pick-Up, 5 p.m. "The Capitol Steps" Performance, 7 p.m. Gala Silent Auction & Buffet

North Shore Center for the Performing Arts
9501 Skokie Boulevard in Skokie, Illinois

Tickets at \$100 per person bring you the show, dinner and silent auction. Contact Rand Sparling, 312-944-7042 or randsierral@aol.com for tickets.

A Fable For Our Times

by Fran Caffee and Gene McArdle, Valley of the Fox Group

In world literature, a fable is a narrative story. It is usually fictitious, but is always intended to teach a moral truth or precept and one in which animals or inanimate objects are often the speakers and actors. Here is just such a fable, tailored for our times.

The Fable

There once was a Fox who lived in a beautiful valley that bore the same name as he did. He ranged all over that familiar valley, diligently hunting for his food and building comfortable dens in which to rest at night. He took it for granted that it would always be a pleasant place to live.

One day, as he trotted along, he chanced upon a mother duck and her new brood of ducklings lying dead in a foul ditch leading to the river. He saw they had been killed by chemical pollution originating from a nearby manufacturing plant. The Fox made a gut-wrenching decision. He decided to "give a damn and then do something about it." The Fox, always a cautious one, now became sly and covert. He slunk around corners and, as he did, took note of the chief polluters of his beloved valley.

Finally the day came when he was ready to take action. "Over the last twenty nine years, I've capped smokestacks, plugged sewers and hung signs. I've distributed broadsides, defaced products and dumped sewage and rotten fish in corporate offices. I have also deposited, hung, sailed and poured (yes, poured) more dead skunks in more unusual places than anyone I know of. I'm probably the only person in North America who considers a road-killed skunk to be a natural resource," explained The Fox.

The Fox became well-known throughout the entire valley for these clandestine activities. Because some articles were written about his exploits, he was widely introduced to the public at large. A few trusted friends became his "kindred spirits" and quietly helped him with his ecotage. But it was The Fox himself who sniffed the air and picked the targets for their attention.

Whenever he could, he told his story to the young ones in the valley and urged them to become defenders of the local environment. He loved being a teacher and talking with the kits, especially as his fine red coat became streaked with graying hair and his long, fleet legs became sore. It became harder for him to range across the valley, but he had his memories to recall of the

ecological good he had done.

Finally one day, the vital spirit that had enervated him for so many years began to slip away. He knew the end was near and so, in a quiet voice, he said goodbye. It was his message for all of us here in the Fox River valley and all across the nation: "Keep listening. I will be in touch, one way or another. Adieu for now."

The Fox's Identity Revealed at Last

It was our friend, Jim Phillips of Aurora, who died October 3rd, 2001. Recognizing in 2000 that he was failing in health, his friends in the Sierra Club honored Jim with the Valley of the Fox Group's "Best Friend" Award as the person who helped the group the most during the year. Since Jim never really officially revealed his identity as The Fox, we conspired to aid and abet him in keeping his thin disguise intact.

Surprisingly, after some years of capturing headlines, Jim abandoned his less-than-legal forays by the end of 1973. He hunkered down and was quiet during the '80s. Perhaps it was because environmental organizations like our Valley of the Fox group were founded during this time and were addressing ecological concerns of citizens in a less confrontational way. Certainly there was a notable rise in public involvement and legislative responsibility. The activist trail chosen by The Fox was a very different one than that pursued by the Sierra Club.

In the 80s Jim turned his efforts toward organizing the Fox River Conservation Foundation of Aurora. When he offered to help our monitoring studies of Fox River waters, we were delighted. His foundation provided funds which enabled us to purchase state-of-the-art water-testing equipment. His only stipulation was that we share our information with teachers and school children along the Fox River which, of course, we were delighted to do.

The Fox remained out of the public eye for most of the 1990s too. Then one day, Jim called and asked us to preview a new video with him called "The Legend of The Fox." It told The Fox's story in his own words and in interviews with those who knew him. It had been carefully produced and directed by two of



Jim Phillips, aka, The Fox

his dedicated friends, Jennifer Howard and Terry Romine, of Aurora. We were thrilled with what we heard and saw. Here at last was a summation of all he had tried to do! And, better yet, it was in an appealing format that would lend itself to school assemblies and classrooms. Our V.O.F. Group agreed to write a Teacher's Guide based on it that could accompany the video to the classroom. It would be designed to encourage discussion and the exchange of ideas. It would be written and distributed by kindred spirits, Gene McArdle and Mike Brock.

In order to promote the viewing of the video, we organized its premier public showing at the Shoemaker Nature Center at Tekakwitha Woods F.P., on Dec. 11, 1999 with the producer and director in attendance, but not the sly Fox himself. Both the video and the Teacher's Guide were enthusiastically received.

In the last years of his life, Jim would shake his head in wonderment at how influential his autobiographical book, *Raising Kane*, and the Legend of The Fox video had become. Copies of the video were being viewed and discussed in college and high school ecology classes coast to coast. And copies of the book were covertly sneaking into homes, classrooms and libraries all across the county as well. They had taken on a life of their own.

The man who wore the persona of The Fox has departed, but he is still managing to keep in touch, much as he promised. His ideals, his sense of justice and fairness, his deep-rooted concern for clean water and clean air, linger on. A preacher once gave a sermon based on Jim's activities. He said, "Now, I ask you, is The Fox a dangerous character? I do not believe so. I have never heard of any road graders that have been damaged or dams blown up by The Fox. But if ideas are dangerous, well then, of course The Fox is a hazard."

Ask yourself, as we have many times over the years, how many times do you encounter such men and women of action? The Fox had the courage to act boldly on his deep-felt convictions about the environment. It's not a frequent occurrence. So long, Best Friend.



ILLINOIS CHAPTER DIRECTORY

The Illinois Chapter Executive Committee meets bi-monthly. ExCom meetings are held during the 2nd Saturday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. Call the Chapter office for details, 312-251-1680.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair:	Tom Prost (tomprost@aol.com).....	618-281-5042
Vice-Chair:	Craig Gilbertson (L10csg1@com.cso.niu.edu).....	815-748-5037
Secretary:	Joyce Blumenshine (joblumen@yahoo.com).....	309-688-0950
Treasurer:	Rich Warrington (rcw@famvid.com).....	217-793-2986
At-Large:	George Etu (gjetu@yahoo.com).....	847-432-3787
At-Large:	George Gore (geo_gore@yahoo.com).....	217-483-7432
At-Large:	Rudolf Habben (habben@webtv.net).....	309-685-5605
At-Large:	Linda Sullivan (LSULL10032@aol.com).....	630-620-5257
At-Large:	Christine Williamson (birdchris@aol.com).....	773-935-8439

Note: At-large members and group delegates are voting members.

COMMITTEE AND TASK FORCE CHAIRS

Computer:	Jim Bensman (jbensman1@home.com).....	618-259-3642
Conservation:	Christine Williamson (birdchris@aol.com).....	773-935-8439
-M.R.C.C. Delegate:	Jack Norman (jnorman@htc.net).....	618-281-5460
-IEC Rep/Legislative:	Rand Sparling (rand.sierra1@aol.com).....	312-988-3696
-Issue Subcommittees & Task Forces:		
-Agriculture:	Jack Norman (jnorman@htc.net).....	618-281-5460
-Land Task Force:	Christine Williamson (birdchris@aol.com).....	773-935-8439
-Mississippi Basin CAFO Task Force:		
	Mark Beorkrem (mbeorkrem@hotmail.com).....	217-526-4480
-Shawnee Natl. Forest:	Jim Bensman (jbensman1@home.com).....	618-259-3642
	Ed Cook (galed@midwest.net).....	618-995-9309
-Sprawl Task Force:	Evan Craig (aek@interaccess.com).....	847-680-6437
-Water Task Force:	Albert Ettinger (aettinger@elcp.org).....	W312-795-3707 (aettinger@earthlink.net).....H 773-381-9738
Finance:	Rich Warrington (rcw@famvid.com).....	217-793-2986
Fundraising:	Rand Sparling (rand.sierra1@aol.com).....	312-988-3696
Internal Problems:	Tom Prost (tomprost@aol.com).....	618-281-5042
Membership:	George Gore (geo_gore@yahoo.com).....	217-483-7432
New Group Formation:	George Etu	847-432-3787
Office:	Rand Sparling (rand.sierra1@aol.com).....	312-988-3696
Outings:	Fran Caffee (francaffee@sierraclub.org).....	630-859-1687
Political:	Hans Detweiler (hdetweiler@elcp.org).....	312-795-3720
Publications:	Christine Williamson (birdchris@aol.com).....	773-935-8439
Sierra Club Council Delegate:	George Etu	847-432-3787

Illinois Sierra Club Action Network (I-SCAN)

Did you know that legislators rarely hear from conservation-minded citizens? The Illinois Sierra Club Action Network (ISCAN) will help you, personally, to let your legislators know how important environmental issues are to you and your family.

Subscribe and you choose how to receive action alerts about important local, state and national issues.

E-mail to fax option — The Illinois Chapter has teamed up with other environmental groups to form the Illinois Action Project. We are using new technology, which allows you to send a faxed letter, customized with your name and address, directly to your legislator just by clicking on a web link.

If you don't have e-mail:

By phone — we can call you and give you information you need to call and verbally leave a message for your legislator.

By fax — we can send an alert to your home or office fax machine

By regular mail — we can send you a paper copy of the action alert

ISCAN is free, and you can quit at any time with a single e-mail or phone call.

Please contact:

Douglas Chien, Conservation Field Representative
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter
200 North Michigan Ave., Suite 505, Chicago, IL 60601
tel: 312-251-1680 fax: 312-251-1780
web: www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il
net: doug.chien@sierraclub.org

Illinois Sierra Club Action Network

Yes! Please send me an e-mail when my legislator faces an important environmental vote.

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip +4 _____
E-mail _____
Telephone # _____
I want to help, but would rather get action alerts by: _____
Phone at number above _____ Regular mail _____ By fax to this number: _____



LOCAL GROUPS OF THE ILLINOIS CHAPTER

All Illinois Sierra Club members are assigned to one of 15 local groups. Each group has an elected Executive Committee which usually holds a monthly business meeting as well as a general public program meeting. Each group sends a delegate as a representative to the Chapter Executive Committee as a voting member. Date, location, and time of general meetings are noted below for each group, along with names and phone numbers of Group Chairs and Chapter Delegates. Illinois Chapter Web Site: <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il>

☆ Groups with Web pages accessible through Chapter Web site are noted by shaded star.

- **BLACKHAWK** (Rockford area) Meets 3rd Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., Rockford Park District Office, Mississippi Park, 1401 N. Second St., Rockford (except June, July, August, Dec.). Meetings are open to the public. A guest speaker is featured with an open forum for issues and friendly conversation.
Chair: Sue Breidigam 815-399-4745
e-mail: 74727.2032@compuserve.com
Delegate: Vacant
- **CHICAGO** (incl. Oak Park, Evanston, other near suburbs within Cook County). Meets 2nd Wed. except July/August at 7:30 p.m., Notebaert Nature Museum/Chicago Academy of Sciences, 2430 Cannon Drive at Fullerton Pkwy., Chicago.
Chair: Patrick Murphy 773-338-9722
e-mail: antaeus@northwestern.edu
Delegate: Christine Williamson 773-935-8439
e-mail: birdchris@aol.com
Outings Website: <http://gkollar.com/sierransoutdoors>
Chicago Group Website: <http://people.cc.mediaone.net/sierraclub/index.html>
- **EAGLE VIEW** (Quad Cities area) Meets 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m., Bettendorf Public Library, 2950 18th St., Bettendorf, IA.
Chair: Gerald Neff 319-332-5373
Delegate: Bill Davies 309-797-6101
- **HEART OF ILLINOIS** (Peoria area) Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Forest Park Nature Center, Peoria.
Chair: Joseph Laszlo 309-637-4692
e-mail: LASZLOJA@excite.com
Delegate: John Wosik 309-243-2230
e-mail: JohnWosik@home.com
- **KASKASKIA** (Belleville area) Meets 4th Monday, at 7:30 p.m., (except June, July, August, Dec.) Garden Room, Belleville Area College, Belleville.
Chair: Carolyn Kehoe kehoe@apci.net
Delegate: Angela Prost (cassprost@aol.com) 618-281-5042
- **KISHWAUKEE SOLDUC** (DeKalb area) Meets 3rd Thursday every month, 7:00 p.m. Call or write for location.
Chair/Del.: Craig Gilbertson 815-748-5037
Address: P.O. Box 432, DeKalb, IL 60115
- **NORTHWEST COOK COUNTY GROUP** (formerly Des Plaines/NW Suburban Group; NW suburbs within Cook County) Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Spring Valley Nature Center, Schaumburg.
Chair: Eric Patterson 847-490-0360
e-mail: ecpatt@home.com
Delegate: Dick Johns 847-397-9374
e-mail: dickjohns@hotmail.com

- **PIASA PALISADES** (Alton area) Meets 2nd Monday (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m., First Unitarian Church, 3rd and Alby Streets, Alton.
Chair: Joel Copley (copleyjoel@aol.com) 618-466-4967
Delegate: Jim Bensman 618-259-3642
e-mail: jbensman1@home.com
Website: www.ezl.com/ppg **E-mail:** ppgsc@juno.com
- **PRAIRIE** (Champaign-Urbana area) Meets 2nd Wed., 7:30 p.m. (time/place may vary in summer), Illinois Disciples Foundation, Wisegarver Lounge, Springfield & Wright Sts., Champaign.
Chair: Ted Touillentes (ted@net66.com) 217-344-0867
Delegate: VACANT
- **RIVER PRAIRIE** (DuPage County) Call the 24-hour Hotline at 630-985-1185 for information on meeting dates, group contact persons, legislative action alerts, group activities and outings or visit our website: www.ntsource.com/~rpsierra
- **SANGAMON VALLEY** (Springfield area) Meets 4th Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Lincoln Library, Capitol & 7th Sts., Springfield.
Chair: William Crook 217-522-3372
Delegate: Cindy Warrington 217-793-2986
- **SAUK-CALUMET** (South suburbs of Chicago) Meets 1st Tuesday (except July and August) at 7:30 p.m., Park Forest Public Library, Park Forest.
Chair: Anne Kawaters (eanek@aol.com) 708-755-3432
Delegate: VACANT
- **SHAWNEE** (Carbondale area) Meets 2nd Thursday each month, 7:30 p.m., Unitarian Fellowship Bldg., corner of University Ave. and Elm St., Carbondale.
Chair: Laurel Touissant 618-964-1339
e-mail: laurel_tous@altavista.com
Delegate: Barb McKasson (habitaji@aol.com) 618-529-4824
- **VALLEY OF THE FOX** (Kane & Kendall Counties). Meets 2nd Monday (except July and August), 7:15 p.m., Chronicle Building, 1000 Randall Road, Geneva.
Co-Chairs: Dudley Case (CDC@imil.com) 630-584-4444
Henry Rossbach 630-892-1972
e-mail: lonewolf60506@earthlink.net
Delegate: Fran Caffee (francaffee@sierraclub.org) 630-859-1687
Website: www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/vo
- **WOODS AND WETLANDS** (Lake and northern Cook Counties) Meets 2nd Tuesday (except August, Dec.) 7:15 p.m., Vernon Hills Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills.
Chair: Evan Craig (aek@interaccess.com) 847-680-6437x4
Delegate: George Etu 847-432-3787
Website: www.sierraclub.org/chapters/il/w&w

Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ ZIP _____
Phone (optional) () _____
 Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Mastercard Visa
Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____
Expiration Date ____/____/____
Contributions, gifts or dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES		
	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q **W-0701** -1
W99901

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

Sierra Club office recycling courtesy of Recycling Plus: 773-761-5937.