



**In This Issue:**

- Fast Track TPP and TTIP Pg 1-2
- Winter Programs & Socials Pg 3
- Winter Outings Pg 4
- ExCom Elections Pg 4
- Corridor 66 Pg 5
- Fracking Rules Pg 6
- Burning Star Mine Reclamation Pg 7
- Union County Oil Drilling Pg 7
- Flea Market , Alternative Gift Fair Pg 8
- Calendars Pg 8

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babitaji@aol.com

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dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com

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**Fast Track TPP and TTIP: A Bad Deal for the Environment**

September 2014 will be remembered for a ground swell of environmental justice and human rights statements during the Climate March, Flood Wall Street and [United Nations Climate Summit 2014](#). In the months prior to this, the EPA released its proposed [Clean Power Plan Rule](#) for public comment (now extended to December 1<sup>st</sup>), synchronizing in part with President Obama’s 2013 [Climate Action Plan](#), and the International Panel on Climate Change’s nearly finished drafts of the 5<sup>th</sup> [Assessment Report](#). However, a dark backdrop to this environmentally supportive policy includes continuing behind doors negotiation of “Fast Track”, or Trade Promotion Authority legislation to allow the president to send signed trade pacts, including the [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (TPP) and the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership](#) (TTIP), to Congress for a straight “yea” or “nay” vote with no amendments and no more than 20 hours debate. Michigan Republican Representative [Dave Camp](#) and Montana Democratic Senator [Max Baucus](#) simultaneously introduced this “Fast Track” or Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities Act of 2014 as [HR3830](#) and [S1900](#) on January 9, 2014.

Fast Track in international trade negotiation goes back to the Nixon Presidency in 1974, to cut tariffs and raise quotas. Such legislation was last approved in 2002, expiring in 2007 near the end of the Bush administration, and renewed by the Camp-Baucus bill. If enacted, [Fast Track](#) sidelines democracy and removes the ability of our elected officials to ensure that trade pacts protect communities, workers, [intellectual property](#), the internet, and the [environment](#).

The [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (TPP) is a regional free trade agreement [being negotiated](#) among the United States, Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam to eliminate tariff and non-tariff trade and investment barriers and serve as a template for future trade pacts with other countries. The [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership](#) (TTIP) is a free trade agreement being negotiated between the United States and the European Union (EU).

Little means of environmental regulation enforcement measures are indicated in the TPP [Environmental Chapter](#), no penalties, no sanctions, for such areas as climate change, fisheries, endangered species, or wildlife trade. Environmental groups including [Sierra Club](#) [are concerned that TTIP](#) and TPP will revise lawmaking in favor of corporations, give corporations more power to challenge

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environmental and public interest policy, expand fossil fuel export and [fracking](#), and allow more toxic chemicals. While the negotiations are guarded the [Congressional Research Service](#) posts periodic updated briefs on [TPP](#) and [TTIP](#), although they are perhaps too brief to discern the exact nature of the environmental issues.

In a parallel manner, Congress has also “fast-tracked” other domestic deliberations on energy and labor, with problematic implications for the environment such as with [HR727](#) which enabled [HR2: American Energy Solutions for Lower Costs and More American Jobs Act](#), the latter of which passed the House the week before the UN Climate Summit. These appear to further enable TPP and TTIP. [HR727](#) is a Resolution “to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2) to remove Federal Government obstacles to the production of more domestic energy; to ensure transport of that energy reliably to businesses, consumers, and other end users; to lower the cost of energy to consumers; to enable manufacturers and other businesses to access domestically produced energy affordably and reliably in order to create and sustain more secure and well-paying American jobs; and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.” [HR2](#) is a lengthy read, but covers “streamlining” of oil and gas production, transportation, and export, including such topics as the Arctic, off-shore drilling, Keystone XL Pipeline, tar sands, oil shale, across the US, on indigenous reservations, and across Mexican and Canadian borders. [HR2](#) reverses the EPA’s recent regulation of emissions by coal and gas fired power plants that might otherwise be newly found under their proposed Clean Power Plan Rule, etc. stating, “The following rules and guidelines shall be of no force or effect, and shall be treated as though such rules and guidelines had never been issued”. In HR2, state regulation of fracking supersedes federal regulations, EPA research on water pollution may get bogged down by HR2 specifications, and environmental impact statement (EIS) scoping will be hand-tied as to information on environmental impacts that they can consider. Given recent Keystone XL pipeline’s failure to pass in the Senate and Obama’s recent Climate talks with China, it will be interesting to [track where the Senate version of HR2 goes](#).

The Sierra Club opposes the [Camp-Baucus Fast Track](#) bill, or any legislation that minimizes public and Congressional oversight of trade agreements. In September, Sierra Club joined nearly 600 other civil society organizations in signing a [letter to the U.S. Senate](#), opposing Fast Track and requesting an alternate model of trade negotiation to include congressional and public accountability to protect labor, communication, the environment, and public health.



Woolsey Fairfield blowout site waste water pit.  
Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2014

**Sign the Sierra Club Fast Track TPP/TTIP petition:**

<https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=12351>

## STILL TIME FOR PROMPT ACTION!

The public comment period for the proposed EPA Clean Power Plan Rule has been extended through December 1, 2014. Information about the Rule was presented in the [previous Shawnee Trails newsletter](#).

Read the Clean Power Plan: <http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule>

Comment by DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> with your own letter or email to the EPA (directions):

<http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/how-comment-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule>

**2014/2015 WINTER PROGRAMS NOTE: Start time at 7 PM!**

**Location:** REAR entrance, through green door in alley, of the Carbondale Township Meeting Room at 217 East Main, across from Rock Hill Baptist Church (at Monroe and Marion Streets). The front door is locked! FREE and open to the public. Refreshments and socializing before and after meeting.

**Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Jay Needham: Acoustic Ecology

**Dinner, 5pm:** Fujiyama, 715 N Giant City Road, Carbondale, 549-2000

**Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Jane Adams, SIUC Professor emeritus of Anthropology: History of Union County and the Shawnee National Forest

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Flame Bar and Grill, 501 East Walnut Street, Carbondale, 351-8242

**Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Bob Gillespie: Woodland Restoration

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Pita Alley, Murdale Shopping Center, Carbondale, 351-6111

**Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Shawn Priddy, Deputy Co-ordinator, Jackson County Emergency Management Agency: Emergency Preparedness

**Dinner at 5 pm:** El Paisano, 100 North Glenview, Carbondale, 529-2352

**Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Karen Midden: Green roofs

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Thai Taste, 100 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, 457-6900

**Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Laurel Toussaint: Native Landscaping

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Longbranch Café, 100 East Jackson, Carbondale, 529-4488



**Save the Dates!** The Second Annual Shawnee Group Native Plant Sale is being planned for Saturday, May 16, 2015. A native plant, Showy Goldenrod, *Solidago speciosa*, was photographed by Ruth Kelley. Ruth will also present a program on native milkweeds of southern Illinois on Sunday, November 30, 2014 at 1 pm at the Visitor's Center at Giant City State Park.

**Meet Fellow Shawnee Group Members for Dinner before the Monthly Meeting!**

The Shawnee Group meets at a local restaurant before each monthly meeting for an hour of sociability and relaxation. New faces are most welcome and we would love to have you join us at any time! Our upcoming dinners will be at:

**Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 at 5 pm:** Fujiyama, 715 N Giant City Road, Carbondale, 549-2000

**Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 5 pm:** Flame Bar and Grill, 501 East Walnut Street, Carbondale, 351-8242

**Thursday, February 12, 2015 at 5 pm:** Pita Alley, Murdale Shopping Center, Carbondale, 351-6111

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## 2014 - 2015 WINTER OUTINGS

**Shawnee Group Sierra Club Annual New Year's Day Stone Soup Picnic at Giant City Park  
January 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Shelter #2  
Free and open to the public**

Our annual decades old winter tradition! Shawnee Chapter Sierra Club invites you to partake in the making and consuming of "stone soup" (vegetarian), made in a pot over a camp stove. Dress for the weather, and come around 11 a.m. to contribute precooked ingredients to the vegetarian soup pot. Also bring a side-dish to share, plus your own drinks and place setting. The potluck lunch starts around noon. Take a hike in the park, or congregate around the two campfires and talk with like-minded outdoor lovers. Children with parents are welcome. **The last chance to vote for ExecCom candidates is by NOON at the picnic.** Ballots are available at the picnic; they will be counted before the picnic is over. Also, contact Barb McKasson (618-529-4824, [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)) if you're interested to **volunteer** for this and the future **Stone Soup Organizing Committee.**

### **Piasa Palisades Group Outings Chair:**

Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506,

[ciklinger@yahoo.com](mailto:ciklinger@yahoo.com)

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/PiasaPalisades>

### **Eastern Missouri Group Outings Chair:**

Bob Gestel 636-296-8975, [rgestel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgestel@sbcglobal.net)

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings.aspx>

### **Future Outings TBA:**

Updates listed on our "Outings" and "Events" websites:

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee/Outings.html>

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee/Events.html>

Other short notice outings and events may be announced on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubShawnee>

## **ExCom Elections**

The election for the Executive Committee of our local Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club is in process. This year the ballot was included in a mailing by the Illinois Chapter. The "magazine" format of the mailing was green with a large "V" on the front and was titled, "Election Issue". Members have reported that the mailing arrived at various times between late October and early November. Although the words, "Group and Chapter Elections Inside" in small letters appeared on the front, it could have been easily overlooked during the season of multiple election related mailings.

Due to the new method of ballot delivery and that the mailing arrived later than originally expected, the deadline for **voting has been extended** from the November 30th date noted in the mailing. **Votes can be cast via mail until December 22<sup>nd</sup> and at a Sierra Club event until January 1.** In addition to voting on the Chapter mailed ballot, members may vote at these upcoming Shawnee Group events: **November 13th meeting, December 11th meeting, and the Stone Soup picnic on January 1.**

The essence of the election is the members who are willing to serve. They are committed to issues, organizing programs and outings and fundraising to cover the costs of local events. The candidates for Executive Committee (ExCom) are: Ruth Kelley, John Cox, Patty Weyhrich, and Steve Eberhart. Information about each candidate is in the Chapter mailing and will be available at Group events. Vote for four candidates at the upcoming events or mail your printed ballot from the Chapter mailing to: Sierra Club, Shawnee Group, PO Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903.



**Your vote is important to us!**

## **Corridor 66 Boosters Ramping Up Efforts to Slice Through Natural Areas in Southern Illinois**

Sierra Club has been at the forefront of the effort to prevent a new East-West Interstate from being built through southernmost Illinois. At stake are many high quality natural areas in the area, including:

- Cache River Wetlands, an internationally recognized wetland area, including Heron Pond
- Shawnee National Forest areas that are part of a largely unfragmented forested area that is home to a high number of species of migratory birds, as well as important habitat for other animals
- The largest colony of the federally endangered Indiana bat in Illinois
- Horseshoe Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, an important refuge for waterfowl, eagles, etc.
- Mermet Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area, an old cypress swamp important for fish and waterfowl
- Other threatened natural areas include: Trail of Tears State Park, Union County State Conservation Area, and several high quality Illinois Nature Preserves

A new website, Build66.com, promoting a new Interstate Highway (I-66) in the “66 Corridor” has now been set up by the Transamerica Corridor Corporation. This interstate is primarily promoted by trucking companies and by Proctor and Gamble Corporation to make it easier for trucks to go between Cape Girardeau, MO and Paducah, KY. In response, we really need your help to spread the word that this “66 Corridor” Project is a real threat to our natural areas, tourism and viability of small towns and rural areas in southernmost Illinois.

We need to build support for the “No Build” alternative for the “Corridor 66” Project. The I-66 boosters claim that a new East-West Interstate connecting I-24 near Paducah to I-55 near Cape Girardeau would benefit southernmost Illinois. This claim is a myth. Instead of increasing tourism in our area, natural areas would be impacted by the noise, air pollution, intrusions on scenic views and fragmentation. Instead of speedier transport to hospitals, jobs and education, many people would have to find an often inconvenient route to local facilities cut off by the interstate, or a circuitous route to an inconvenient access to the proposed interstate. Also, there is no evidence that construction of a new interstate would actually employ people from southernmost Illinois.

### **What You Can Do**

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- To educate yourself further, visit [citizensforsouthernillinois.org](http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org)
- To let the project managers know how you feel about the proposed “66 Corridor” and to urge them to seriously consider the “No Build” alternative, go to their website and submit a comment at [www.66corridor.org/comment](http://www.66corridor.org/comment)
- To educate more people about the real detrimental effects of a new I-66, talk to friends and neighbors, or write a Letter to the Editor to your local paper or to [TheSouthern.com](http://TheSouthern.com)
- Sign up to receive project announcements and newsletters at [www.66corridor.org](http://www.66corridor.org), then hover over “Contact Us” and then click on “Join Mailing List.”
- Cape Chamber of Commerce bankrolls TransAmerica: <http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org/?p=210>

#### **Volunteers Needed to Help Protect Shawnee National Forest**

Protecting Shawnee National Forest involves frequent communication with the Forest Service, research on issues, and educating others about those issues. We especially need help in keeping oil and gas wells out of the forest - including fracking wells. Please contact Barb at [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) if you are interested in helping in any way.

## **Legislators Exclude Citizens in Revision of Fracking Rules: Your Help Needed!**

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) approved rules to implement the [Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act](#). Although JCAR's action was final, the public could not see the final version of the rules JCAR considered. This lack of transparency is particularly disconcerting in light of the fracking industry's announced efforts to weaken the rules, and media reports indicating that industry was lobbying JCAR members behind closed doors. Thousands of members of the public expressed their opposition to fracking to JCAR, including Sierra Club members, who urged the Committee to reject the industry attacks, and further strengthen the rules.

The JCAR process is ostensibly to ensure that agency rules are consistent with the law. However, much of its work is invisible to the public, and can result in major changes in public policy. In the case of a practice as controversial as fracking, this creates a real risk of lobbyists undermining proposed agency rules behind closed doors.

When the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) came out with the initial draft rules a year ago, Sierra Club members and thousands of other citizens and groups made clear that the proposed rules were sorely lacking and must be revised. After a long and arduous six-month process, IDNR responded to the public comment with revised rules that included some major changes requested by the public. Now it appears that JCAR has caved in to industry demands to weaken those revised rules.

No rules or regulations can make fracking safe. Considering the dangers, the safest and best approach would clearly be a statewide moratorium, to allow time to consider important research underway and to learn from the experiences of other states. However, it has been legal under Illinois' decades-old oil and gas laws, and the General Assembly has failed to pass legislation backed by Sierra Club and dozens of organizations to impose a moratorium. With Governor-elect Bruce Rauner making his strong support for fracking in Illinois crystal clear, the public deserved the strongest possible protections against these dangers, and a transparent rulemaking process that values public comment and input.

Environmentalists, including Sierra Club, will be deciding how we can make sure people and our environment are protected to the maximum possible extent. This will be a challenge with the Rauner administration. In addition, Illinois Chapter and especially Shawnee Group will be working to protect Shawnee National Forest and other natural areas from fracking. We will need all concerned citizens to be active and vigilant to this threat.

**ACTION:** If you want to help, please contact Barb at [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) or 618-529-4824.

The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club's Frack Fight Team is steered by Terri Treacy ([terri.treacy@sierraclub.org](mailto:terri.treacy@sierraclub.org)).

To receive periodic updates and communications from local and national Sierra Club, become a member of the Illinois Chapter's Frack Fight Team:

[http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Survey?ACTION\\_REQUIRED=URI\\_ACTION\\_USER\\_REQUESTS&SURVEY\\_ID=138181](http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=138181)

**FYI**, to receive more timely alerts from the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, sign up online at their state website:

[https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Chapter/il\\_newsletter\\_signup.html;jsessionid=84420F4C49A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131E25.app205a](https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Chapter/il_newsletter_signup.html;jsessionid=84420F4C49A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131E25.app205a)

### **Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails!**

The next issue will be published in February. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to [sabrina@midwest.net](mailto:sabrina@midwest.net) by **February 9th**.

## **Burning Star Mine Reclamation**

Governor Quinn announced that IDNR and CONSOL Mining Company LLC, a subsidiary of CONSOL Energy, Inc., have announced a [contract](#) to purchase 4,400 acres of contiguous wildlife habitat. The property, known as Burning Star Mine #5, is located seven miles north of Carbondale. The parcel is bordered by U.S. 51 on the west and Illinois 149 on the south. Completion of this transaction is subject to a number of customary conditions, and accordingly, a closing date for the sale has not yet been set.

“Large blocks of wildlife habitat are increasingly rare in Illinois, and that is why it is so important for the Department of Natural Resources to pursue the purchase of this property,” Director Miller said. “The Burning Star #5 property also is a premiere example of mine reclamation, and now has the potential to provide recreational opportunities for years to come.”

The property contains floodplain forest along the Little Muddy River, deep-water lakes and ponds, and leased farm ground that could eventually be restored to grassland habitat. The site should produce outstanding hunting opportunities for waterfowl, deer, turkey and upland game, plus trapping, fishing, hiking, limited camping and wildlife observation. Trumpeter swans have been wintering at this site.

During its peak years of production, the Burning Star #5 Mine employed 337 people and produced 2.8 million tons of coal annually. The mine closed in 1992 and reclamation began. CONSOL Energy met all state and federal standards for mine reclamation and was released from final reclamation obligations in 2004.

"Governor Quinn's commitment to acquiring land for public recreation and environmental conservation will have a positive impact on Illinois and its citizens for generations to come," Jennifer Walling, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council said.

**NEWS FLASH:** Union County Illinois residents are concerned about new oil drilling to about 3,999 feet into the Warsaw Shale, recently [permitted by IDNR on October 8, 2014](#). Such a depth is implicated for further horizontal fracking in other drill sites in southern Illinois (c.f., [Strata X near Xenia, IL](#)), now that the IDNR hydraulic fracturing [Rules](#) have been passed by JCAR. A drill rig was erected by mid-November just a few miles east of Anna, IL, a few miles from vineyards and organic farms, beside the headwaters of Cypress Creek which drains into the [Cache River Wetland](#), an area of international biological importance. Residents are concerned whether their wells will become polluted, along with the wetlands, since groundwater seeps through the karst formations in this region. Heavy trucks hauling in equipment pass over Campground Road near Route 146, part of the National Park Service's designated historical route for the [Trail of Tears](#) where the Cherokee once traveled, and where some may be buried.

### **Illinois Legislative Contacts: Call Your Legislators Today!**

State Dist. 115 - Rep. Mike Bost - 618-457-5787; 217-782-0387; [rep.bost@hotmail.com](mailto:rep.bost@hotmail.com)  
State Dist. 116 - Rep. Jerry Costello II - 618-282-7284; 217-782-1018 [Staterepcostello@gmail.com](mailto:Staterepcostello@gmail.com)  
State Dist. 117 - Rep. John Bradley - 618-997-9697; 217-782-1051; [repjohnbradley@mychoice.net](mailto:repjohnbradley@mychoice.net)  
State Rep. 118 - Rep. Brandon Phelps - 618-253-4189; 217-782-5131; [bpphelps118@gmail.com](mailto:bpphelps118@gmail.com)  
Senate Dist. 58 - Senator Dave Luechtefeld 618-243-9014; 217-782-8137; [sendavel@midwest.net](mailto:sendavel@midwest.net)  
Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Gary Forby - 618-439-2504; 217-782-5509; [Senatorforby@yahoo.com](mailto:Senatorforby@yahoo.com)

## Has Your Email Address Changed?

To continue to receive notification when the latest Shawnee Group newsletter is posted online, be sure to inform the Group when you change your email address. Send email address updates to:

[dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com)

At any time you can read current and past newsletters on the Shawnee Group website:

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee/> Visit the website also for information on upcoming local programs and outings as well as state and national Sierra Club issues.

## Leadership Opportunities

Get active in the Shawnee Group. We are looking for:

### \* **Hospitality team members**

Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (second Thursday). Contact Hospitality Chair JoAnn Nelson at [joannnelson1928@gmail.com](mailto:joannnelson1928@gmail.com) OR

Act as a greeter for a monthly meeting or welcome and assist our speaker OR

Select and make reservations at a local restaurant for our monthly "Dinner Before the Meeting."

Contact Program Chair Ruth Kelley at (618) 684-2196 or [rth\\_kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com).

### **Arena Flea Market, April 25, 2015 Save the date!**

Seeking donations (no clothing) and volunteers to organize our booth at the event. Contact Barb McKasson ([babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)).

### **Alternative Gift Fair on December 7th**

Shawnee Group Sierra Club members and all of Southern Illinois will have the opportunity to support non-profit groups, shop for gifts, and raise funds for our Shawnee Group on Sunday, December 7th. The 10th Annual Alternative Gift Fair will be held at the Carbondale Civic Center from 2-5 pm.

Sierra Club wall and engagement calendars will be for sale at the event. Additional items are needed for sale or the silent auction. Please contact Dorcy Prosser (457-6535, [dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com)) if you can donate new or very gently used items. All proceeds will support our local Shawnee Group Sierra Club. Suggested items for the sale are books (travel, outdoor, nature topics), photo prints, pottery, candles, etc.

### **2015 Sierra Club Calendars Available!**

Buy at our monthly meetings this fall, or contact Barb McKasson ([babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)). We seek volunteers to sell calendars too.

