



Shawnee Trails



<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

September – November 2024 QUARTERLY

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Illinois Environmental Legislation- 2024

Edited by Barbara McKasson, adapted from reports by Illinois Chapter Sierra Club, Illinois Environmental Council and Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition

The Illinois legislature has concluded their spring session and will be on recess until the fall veto session, when some bills that were tabled can be voted on again. The veto session will be November 12-14 and 19-21, 2024.

As usual, Sierra Club volunteers and staff worked with people in other groups to lobby on a variety of environmental issues and traveled to Springfield for environmental lobby days. That work will continue during the upcoming veto sessions in November.

Below are updates on the Illinois Sierra Club priority bills for this year.

Victory! Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) Regulation

The Illinois Legislature passed and Governor Pritzker signed SB1249, the “Safety and Aid for the Environment Carbon Capture and Sequestration Bill” establishing some of the nation’s strongest environmental and safety regulations on carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects. We are grateful to bill sponsors Rep. Ann Williams and Sen Laura Fine, who were instrumental in securing this big win.

This legislation includes essential victories such as:

- A ban on the use of carbon dioxide (CO2) for enhanced oil recovery, an extraordinarily energy-intensive process,
- An up to two-year moratorium on CO2 pipelines until the federal government has set standards for CO2 pipeline safety, and
- “Do no harm” provisions that prohibit these projects from increasing air or climate pollution.
- Modeling, training and funding for emergency planning in case of a CO2 pipeline rupture

We still have more work to do to ensure that CCS projects do not harm people and the environment in Illinois, but the protections secured in SB1289 are a monumental victory. *(Continued on Page 2)*

(Illinois Environmental Legislation, Continued from Page 1)

See “Action Needed: Help Protect the Mahomet Aquifer” in this newsletter for further action on CCS pipelines.

Protect Illinois Wetlands Bill – SBO771

Unfortunately, recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions have greatly reduced federal protections for streams and wetlands formerly provided to states under the Clean Water Act. Illinois wetlands and streams that are vital for flood control, fish and wildlife habitat, and water quality are now left unprotected due to the elimination of federal protections for “isolated wetlands” and certain ephemeral streams.

SB0771 simply seeks to restore the regulatory status quo that existed before the U.S. Supreme Court created a massive gap in federal protection of wetlands and small streams. However, developers and the Farm Bureau are still trying to squeeze out more concessions. The bill is still being negotiated and will probably come up for a vote and pass in the November veto session.

Clean and Equitable Transportation Act (CETA) (SB3937 & HB5823)

CETA is a package of comprehensive transportation and jobs bills developed through the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC). Illinois Chapter Sierra Club is a member of the coalition. The bill (SB3937/HB5823) directs state transport investments to reduce emissions and increase affordable options to implement long overdue transit governance and funding reforms for NE Illinois, with statewide benefits. It also increases availability of zero emissions vehicles and their accompanying charging infrastructure (HB5824). Work on this bill is continuing.

Clean and Reliable Grid Act- SB3637

Provides comprehensive solutions to a cleaner, more reliable and affordable power grid in Illinois, which is necessary to support new renewable energy sources. The main sponsor is Senator Cunningham. Work on this bill is continuing.

Clean Heat Bill – HB 3141

To meet our state’s climate goals and make Illinoisans healthier, we need to reduce hazardous emissions in our homes and businesses. This bill includes a clean heat standard for gas utilities, convenes a working group to map out the most affordable strategies to reach the clean heat standard, updates gas efficiency standards, provides consumer protections and other provisions. Work on this bill is continuing.

Jackson County Hazardous Waste Collection – November 2, 2024

Start collecting your burned-out fluorescent lightbulbs, old mercury-filled thermostats and thermometers, oil-based paints and other hazardous materials so you have them ready for the next hazardous waste collection. It will be held at the SIU-C arena parking lot (now called the Banterra Center). For more information, you can contact the health department at 618-684-3143. As we get closer to that date, there will be more information on what will and will not be accepted at the collection on the health department website, which is: <jchdonline.org/recycle-jackson-county>.



FALL 2024 – SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB MEMBER PROGRAMS

Note our **in-person** Shawnee Group member programs, at the Carbondale Township Hall Meeting Room, 217 E. Main, Carbondale, IL, unless otherwise noted. Enter through the Township's blue backdoor. Parking is available in lots along the alley near the backdoor, behind Township Hall and Buckwater Brew Works, on the block bounded by South Washington Street, East Monroe, and South Marion (by Rock Hill Baptist Church). Do also consider other Illinois Sierra groups' virtual presentations, as well as our own, listed on www.sctrips.org.

Thursday, September 12, 2024, 7 pm

Presenter: Brent Pease, Assistant Professor, Forestry Program at Southern Illinois University

Presentation Title: "Using Soundscapes to Study Wildlife: From Daily Activities to Solar Eclipses"

Summary: At this presentation, Brent Pease will discuss several research projects that he's pursuing that use sound to study wildlife ecology, including the recent *Eclipse Soundscapes* project and his ongoing research project, *Sounds of Nature*.

The research interests of Brent Pease, Assistant Professor in the SIU Forestry Program, include wildlife ecology, participatory science, and university education in natural resources. Brent, a native of southern Illinois, returned to the region with his wife and two kids once he had accepted his position here. Outside of the university, he enjoys family camping trips, mountain biking, and working on his firewood pile.

Thursday, October 10, 2024, 7 pm

Presenter: Sonja Lallemand, Horticulturist & Educator

Presentation Title: "Seed Dispersal and Propagation: How do Plants Do It?"

Summary: What ecological advantages exist in seed dispersal? What happens when the site is not ideal? This presentation will look at the various means of plant reproduction via seed dispersal mechanisms and the various methods of propagation. What do they mean for the survival of the plant species and their predators?

Sonja Lallemand retired in 2015 from her position as Horticulture Educator with University of Illinois Extension, for six Southern Illinois counties. A graduate from Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, Sonja holds a B.S. in Horticulture and a Master's Degree in Plant Science – Fruit science. Her Master's research investigated the allelopathic effects of daffodils in the landscape, and its application in sustainable agriculture. Most of her working experience has been with public parks and gardens. For the last 25 years, she has delivered numerous horticultural programs as well as organized conferences (INPS Indigenous Plant Symposium), workshops, and seminars for various organizations and businesses. Still growing things, Sonja enjoys selling at the Humpday Farmers' Market from April to October and the indoor winter Market from December to March providing customers with bread, jam, jellies, vinegar and spice blends and the occasional unusual vegetable and off course PLANTS.

Thursday, November 14, 2024, 7 pm

Presenter: Kay Rippelmeyer Tippy, Regional Historian & Author

Presentation Title: The Illini in Southern Illinois

Summary: During this presentation, Kay Rippelmeyer Tippy will focus most on the 100-year period, 1700-1800, which saw the final decline of all native American tribes still in the Illinois country, through disease and war and intermarriage. The history of the Illini's extensive marital relationships with the French in Illinois Country has been written about extensively. Kay will draw on accounts of this history by noted historians such as Margaret Brown, J. H. Schlarman, R. G. Thwaites, Wayne Temple, and Carl Ekberg. Another source drawn on for this presentation will be an environmental history of the region by M.J. Morgan, *Land of Big Rivers: French & Indian Illinois, 1699 - 1778*, published 2010 by SIU Press.

I grew up in "The Bottom" in Monroe County, migrated south to the bluffs overlooking "The Bottom" in Jackson County. I have been driving back and forth for the last 50 years to visit my folks, time-tripping along the way, researching and writing when I get to my desk. My French-Canadian fur-trader grandfather, Charles Danis (8 generations back) married an Illini baptized native woman. They were both born in the 1680s. (Much thanks to the Jesuits for keeping the records, now known as the Kaskaskia Manuscripts.) Their son, my ancestor, Michel Danis, was an interpreter between the Illini and the French when the English made a deal at Ft. Gage with the Illini chiefs to trade for most of central and all of southern Illinois land in 1773. But then the American Revolution happened. And the Northwest Ordinance.

FALL 2024 – SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Little Grand Canyon Bluffs Bootleg Trail Hike, Sunday, September 15, 2024

Jon Womack will be hiking the little-known Bootleg Trail at Little Grand Canyon. The trail of approximately 5 miles will feature spectacular views. Meet at the Little Grand Canyon parking lot before 9:30 am. Bring water and wear appropriate hiking shoes. You must call Jon Womack at 815-263-9625 in order to go on the hike.

Indian Kitchen – Lusk Creek Canyon Ecology Hike, Sunday, October 20, 2024

Meet at 10 am at the Indian Kitchen trailhead parking lot (37.50628, -88.56097). This is a moderate hike of about 3.5 miles long. The trail may be muddy. Bring water and a snack, if desired. You can learn about plants, wildlife and nature as we hike through this ecologically important and scenic area. This is a joint event of Illinois Extension and the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club. It is led by Kevin Rohling and Kim Rohling. Learn more about the hike

at: <https://illinoisplants.org/images/pub/summerwildflowershikes/5indiankitchen.pdf>

To attend this hike, ask questions, or request accommodations, contact Kevin Rohling at 618-695-3383 or krohling@illinois.edu.

Lake Kinkaid Trail Hike at Crisenberry Dam, Sunday, November 10, 2024

We will hike on Kinkaid Lake Trail at Crisenberry Dam. This will be a moderate hike of up to 5 miles. The trail offers views of the lake, rock ledges, canyon and cave. From Murphysboro, go west on 149 about 6 miles, turn right on Spillway Road, go 1.5 miles to the small parking area.

Bring water and wear appropriate hiking shoes. The leader is Bob Mulcahy. Call Bob at 618-942-6342 to go on the hike or for more information.

Browse the lower right Index on our old blog page for numerous southern Illinois **hiking trail** descriptions, and explore some of these during your own time: <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com/>. Check the Illinois Chapter listings for other outings across the region: <https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/events-calendar>.

Service Outings – Help Save High Quality Natural Areas

Shawnee Group is committed to helping rid high-quality natural areas of non-native invasive plants (NNIS) that are threatening to crowd out our native plant communities at La-Rue Pine Hills Research Natural Area (Snake Road) and at Fern Rocks Nature Preserve (Trillium Trail) in Giant City State Park.

To volunteer, contact Barb at 618-549-9684, babitaji@aol.com or text 618-534-7440.

Piasa Palisades Group Outings Chair:

Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506, ciklinger@yahoo.com
<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/piasa-palisades>

Eastern Missouri Group Outings Chair:

Doug Melville, 636-288-1055
douglas.k.melville@gmail.com
<http://sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri>

Future Outings TBA:

Updates listed on our or Illinois Chapter websites:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>
<https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/events-calendar>

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

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

Governor Pritzker Signs New Climate Change Education Act

By Sabrina Hardenbergh

On [Friday, August 9, 2024](#), Governor Pritzker signed [Public Act 103-0837, SCH CD-CLIMATE CHANGE EDUC](#), into law, which becomes effective July 1, 2025. [HB4895](#) was introduced on February 6, 2024, by Naperville area 41st District Representative Janet Yang Rohr (D), while Waukegan area 30th District Senator Adriane Johnson (D) co-sponsored it in the other chamber. [Climate Education for Illinois](#), consisting of student, parent, teacher and legislative stakeholders, was an influential community organization promoting the bill the past year, to get more consistent climate change instruction across all Illinois public schools. Apparently, they [engaged](#) with some southern Illinois educators as well at a Science in the South conference. Other advocates have included [Seven Generations Ahead, It's Our Future](#), and [One Earth Collective](#)., which have involved student voices bringing attention to climate change issues. They hope every public high school shall require a unit of climate change instruction in either a science class or a social studies class, wherein the State Superintendent of Education, consulting with the Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency or the Director's designee, shall prepare and make instructional materials available to school boards. The final Act is more general in its directive. Illinois becomes the fifth state in the United States, after [New Jersey](#), California, Connecticut, and New York, to move to include climate change in its public school curriculum. These other states are sources for examples for climate change curriculum, but the students see efforts with CEJA or Native American lifeways as relevant knowledge and action organizing to include.

The new Illinois statute, [105 ILCS 5/27-13.1](#), on environmental education, reads as follows:

“(a) In every public school there shall be instruction, study and discussion of current problems and needs in the conservation of natural resources, including but not limited to air pollution, water pollution, waste reduction and recycling, the effects of excessive use of pesticides, preservation of wilderness areas, forest management, protection of wildlife and human care of domestic animals.

(b) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, every public school shall provide instruction on climate change, which shall include but not be limited to, identifying the environmental and ecological impacts of climate change on individuals and communities and evaluating solutions for addressing and mitigating the impact of climate change and shall be in alignment with State learning standards, as appropriate.

The State Board of Education shall, subject to appropriation, prepare and make available multidisciplinary instructional resources and professional learning opportunities for educators that may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection (b).”

One will hope that future Illinois citizens will be better informed and more conscientious in their actions concerning environmental and ecological science and the many interactive parameters that involve pollution, environmental health and climate change. Although, there could be push-back, as there has been with curriculum on evolution, critical race theory and other subjects that are influenced by various religious, political and corporate self-interest philosophies. Still, this would seem a good step to counter the misinformation there is about the environment, ecology, environmental health and climate change.



VOTE! Hello Shawnee Group members! It is time again to vote for our Executive Committee representatives. This year Sierra Club is changing the voting format to electronic ballots. Members will receive a postcard in October with more information. Your member ID is needed for online voting and can be found on your membership card or obtained at member.care@sierraclub.org.

Questions? Contact Carla Womack at 815 263-8173 or crusso1957@yahoo.com.

Carla Womack

I have been on the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club ExCom for 6-7 years. I am vice chair of our group, membership chair, also I chair the Native Plant Sale. I have participated in lobbying our state senators and representatives in Springfield and back home in their districts. We talk with them about legislation and discuss the pending bills and how it would be helpful if they signed on to be co-sponsor. I believe in ways to save the environment, do what we can to help others and to be good stewards for the earth and towards others. I have been involved in several additional projects like pulling invasives at Giant City, helping to put on the Stone Soup event on New Years Day, and planning socials and parties at times during the year. I would appreciate your vote to give me more time to volunteer with this great organization. Thank you.

Steve Eberhart

I am a retired psychologist and live in rural Murphysboro. I have been a Sierra Club member for 25 years and have served on the executive committee for the last 10 years. I have had the privilege of being the outings chair for the Shawnee chapter since 2013 and would like to continue to be able to help organize and lead hikes throughout southern Illinois.

Tharran Hobson

Pleased to introduce myself to fellow Sierra Club members. I have been a conservation professional for 28 years. Four years ago, I had the privilege of being named the Southern Illinois Program Director for The Nature Conservancy. My family absolutely fell in love with southern Illinois, and we enjoy hiking, biking, and paddling around our natural wonders. I've worked in conservation in southern Illinois over eleven years, guiding our Invasive Species Strike Team and later our Interagency Habitat and Fuels Crew. Prior, my career transitioned from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to The Nature Conservancy where I've been for 24 years. I'm currently a board member of the Prairie State Conservation Coalition and was past president of Friends of the Illinois River, Versailles Fire Protection District, and LaMoine River Ecosystem Partnership. I am interested in stewarding some of the best remaining habitats in Illinois, right here in the Shawnee.

Patty Weyhrich

The Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club supports community involvement with our natural environment through education, hiking, hands-on work, and legal advocacy. I am grateful for the natural beauty and biodiversity in southern Illinois. Respecting our land, plants, and all animals is something I value and aspire to protect by working with the Sierra Club. In July work was completed at the beautiful Trillium Trail in Giant City State Park to support the diversity of plants by removing nonnative plants. Funding was provided through a grant I wrote to IL Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Shawnee Group. This project complimented ongoing work already being done at Trillium Trail by our Conservation team. It was a success through the cooperation among the Shawnee Group, Illinois State Park and Giant City staff, and a local environmental restoration business. We also supported our local economy. I believe with sustainable food and energy choices, and legislation to protect the environment, we can stabilize our path for future generations.

Action Needed! Help Protect the Mahomet Aquifer!

The Mahomet Aquifer in Central Illinois has been designated as the sole source of drinking water for almost one million people in over 100 communities in 15 counties in Illinois. Now the aquifer is being threatened by proposed CO2 pipelines and storage areas that would go under the aquifer. Below is the wording of the petition urging legislators to ban pipelines from running under the aquifer. Please read and then follow the instructions to sign the web-based petition.

PETITION: We, the undersigned, demand a ban on CO2 injection through and storage under the Mahomet Aquifer and its recharge areas to protect the Mahomet Aquifer from the dangers of carbon sequestration.

The Mahomet Aquifer provides drinking water to nearly 1 million people in Central Illinois. More than 100 communities and rural homeowners in 15 counties rely on this water every day. Large carbon sequestration projects like those being proposed in Central Illinois risk permanently changing the water. CO2 that leaks into the Mahomet Aquifer would form carbonic acid, changing the water chemistry. This could mobilize unknown contaminants that are present but currently non-reactive in the aquifer, including heavy metals like arsenic. These heavy metals risk acute and chronic toxicity, liver, kidney and intestinal damage, anemia and cancer.

The Mahomet Aquifer was designated a sole source aquifer by the EPA in 2015, which means that “contamination of the aquifer would create a significant hazard to public health and there are no physically available or economically feasible alternative sources of drinking water to serve the population that relies on the aquifer.”

The SAFE CCS Act allows sequestration of CO2 with the requirement that the sequester provides an alternate source of drinking water if the sequestration activity contaminates a drinking water source. The bill assumes that an alternate source exists and requires the companies to provide access to the alternate source. However, the sole-source designation means that there is no reasonable available alternative drinking water source for users of the Mahomet Aquifer. Therefore, **no company would be able to provide an alternate source.**

ACTION: To sign the petition, go to: noillinoisco2pipelines.org. On the website, scroll down to “sign on to support Mahomet Aquifer CCS Ban” then click [read more](#). On that page, scroll down to “[click to add your name](#).” Then just click to sign the petition.

Illinois Legislative Contacts: [CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!](#)

State Dist. 109 – Charles Meier: 618-651-0405; 217-782-6401; repcmeier@gmail.com

State Dist. 115 – David Riess: 618-282-7284; 217-782-1018; friess@ilhousegop.org

State Dist. 116 – David Severin: 618-440-5090; 217-782-1051; severin@ilhousegop.org

State Dist. 117 – Patrick Windhorst: 618-294-8703; 217-782-5131; windhorst@ilhousegop.org

State Dist. 118 – Paul Jacobs: 618-559-7018; 217-782-0387; Jacobs@ilhousegop.org

Senate Dist. 55 – Senator Jason Plummer: 618-283-3000; 217-782-5755

Senate Dist. 58 – Senator Terri Bryant: 618-684-1100; 217-782-8137; Sec’y.: cbrown@sgop.ilga.gov

Senate Dist. 59 – Senator Dale Fowler: 618-294-8951; 217-782-5509; senatorfowler59@gmail.com

Governor J.B. Pritzker: 217-782-6830; <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/default.aspx>

Speaker of the House Emanuel Chris Welch: 217-782-5350; 708-450-1000; repwelch@emanuelchriswelch.com

Senate President Don Harmon: 217-782-8176; 708-848-2002; <http://www.donharmon.org/contact-senator-harmon>

Congressional Contacts: [CALL YOUR CONGRESSMEN TODAY!](#)

Senator Dick Durbin: 618-351-1122; 202-224-2152; <http://www.durbin.senate.gov>

Senator L. Tammy Duckworth: 202-224-2854; <https://www.duckworth.senate.gov>

Representative Mike Bost: 618-457-5787; 202-225-5661; <https://bost.house.gov>

Representative Mary Miller: 618-240-3155; 202-225-5271; <https://marymiller.house.gov>

President Joseph R. Biden, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.
202-456-1111; <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

Has Your Email Address Changed?

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: crusso1957@yahoo.com.

Read current and past newsletters on our website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>. The website also lists information on upcoming local programs and outings, plus state and national Sierra Club issues.

Leadership Opportunities

Run for the Board! We need a few good women and men. Join the board of directors (the executive committee, also known as the ExCom) in overseeing the Shawnee Group's strategic direction and economic health. Board members meet monthly for about 2 hours. Board terms are for two years. We are always interested in potential candidates. Contact Jane Cogie, 618-549-4673, jane.cogie@gmail.com.

Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails! The next issue will be published in November. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to sabrina@midwest.net by **Monday, November 4th**.



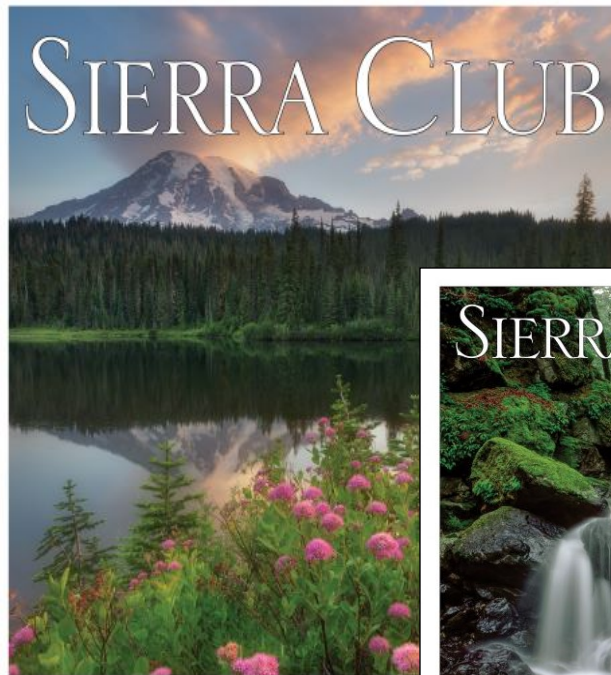
Shawnee Group Sierra Club T-Shirts for Sale!

Show your support for our local group's activities. Contact Mike Covell at 618-201-4928 or emike@siu.edu.

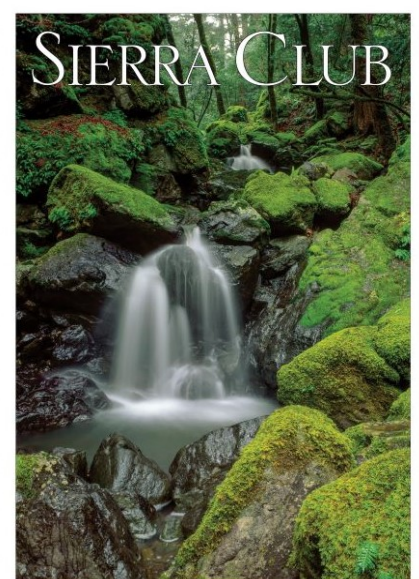
White logo on blue T-Shirt **\$15**
Medium Large or X-Large

2025 Sierra Club Calendars for Sale!

Wall calendars \$18. Engagement calendars \$19. Less than retail price! Contact Barb McKasson, 618-529-4824, babitaji@aol.com to buy some, or do so at the monthly meetings this fall.



WILDERNESS
CALENDAR | 2025



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