



Shawnee Trails



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

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

December 2024 – February 2025 QUARTERLY

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Shawnee Group Contact Information:

Shawnee Group Sierra Club
PO Box 172, Carbondale, IL 62903-0172
<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>
also <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

Chair, Political Chair: Jane Cogie 618-549-4673 jane.cogie@gmail.com

Vice Chair, Membership Chair: Carla Womack, crusso1957@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Monarch Team: Patty Weyhrich pweyhrich711@hotmail.com

Secretary: Rick Steger rwsteger@gmail.com

Program Committee: Jane Cogie

Lobbying Chair, Conservation Co-Chair: Jean Sellar 618-893-1379

biojean@peoplepc.com

Conservation Co-Chair, Shawnee National Forest Committee, Cool Cities Initiative:

Barb McKasson
618-529-4824 babitaji@aol.com

Mining: John Dively, divelys@gmail.com;
Rick Steger, rwsteger@gmail.com

Water Team: Tharran Hobson
thobson@tnc.org

Outings Chair: Steve Eberhart,
eberpsy@icloud.com 618-687-2998

Fundraising Committee: Carla Womack (plant sale) Barb McKasson (calendars)

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster: Sabrina Hardenbergh sabrina@midwest.net

SAMPLING OF SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB PROJECTS/COLLABORATIONS

By Jane Cogie, Shawnee Group Chair

For folks interested in knowing more about the work of Shawnee Group, here is a sampling of projects we have forwarded in recent years, often in collaboration with other community and environmental groups. Our monthly hikes and our speaker series, and our native plant sale each spring are likely to be the most familiar of our activities in this sampling. They are indeed our mainstays, bringing together our members and supporters to enjoy and learn about the natural world and ways in which our actions may harm and serve to protect it. In the process, we advance the Sierra Club's mission: to explore, enjoy, protect our planet. With the growing impact of climate change and the inequities of its impacts across communities, we are also glad to have had opportunities to work with other groups, both local and state-wide, to forward resources and initiatives for reducing our carbon footprint, conserving and helping to restore biodiversity, and building the resilience of our communities with equity in mind.

The sampling that follows includes conservation activities that are central to our mission: we support biodiversity, wildlife habitat and forest health; we embrace collaborations that build resilience through helping to support local projects such as community gardens and tree planting; and we work together with statewide groups for clean energy and environmental justice initiatives. Not listed here, however, is the no less significant portion of our climate and conservation work that occurs as we participate in committees of Sierra Club's Illinois Chapter: the Water Sentinels Group, the Conservation Committee, the Mining Team, the Transportation Team, the Clean Power Team, the Clean and Healthy Buildings team, and the Illinois Monarch Project. We are also active in a range of state-wide groups formed to advance the objectives of the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition (ICJC): the Downstate Caucus of the Climate Table, the Tree Equity Group, and the Jobs and Economic Justice Committee. Moreover, we will soon have a representative joining a new working group, the Livestock Reform Coalition, now in the process of being organized by the Illinois Environmental Council.

(Continued on Page 2)

SAMPLING OF SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB PROJECTS/COLLABORATIONS

Conservation activities in Support of Biodiversity

- ✚ Regularly scheduling Invasive Species pulls at Trillium Trail and Snake Road in collaboration/consultation with Giant City State Park and SNF staff, respectively.
- ✚ Regularly scheduling hikes and other outdoor events led by Shawnee Group certified outings leaders.
- ✚ Regularly convening educational presentations for our monthly speaker series on a variety of topics, including issues related to wildlife habitat, biodiversity, and the transition to clean energy.
- ✚ Since 2015, fund raising each spring through a Native Plant Sale with the local native plant vendor, Southernwood Garden, in support of increasing pollinator habit.
- ✚ Providing testimony at a range of permit hearings, including the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency hearing (December 18, 2019) on the Pond Creek Mine's Permit Request to dump millions of gallons of waste into the Big Muddy River with attendance at follow-up committee meetings on statewide Sierra Club's actions to halt further infractions.
- ✚ Testifying at the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's public hearing (February 25, 2021) on the draft of the Draft General NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations.
- ✚ Engaging in ongoing advocacy for forest health and biodiversity, such as the successful advocacy to halt Forest Service plans to enlarge and pave parking/picnic area at Winters Pond (2021).
- ✚ Since 2022, advocating and participating in the activities of the statewide Illinois Monarch Project, including packaging seeds supportive of pollinators, for giveaway, as well as advocating for municipalities and individuals to commit each year to actions that sustain pollinators, such as through the NWF's Mayor's Monarch Pledge and the Illinois Monarch Project Pledge.
- ✚ Submitted written comments (September 2024) urging the Tennessee Valley Authority not to grant the Sugar Camp Mine the right to extract coal through long-wall mining on 20,000 acres in an operation almost certain to invite subsidence and irreparable harm to the land.

Collaborations to help forward community gardens, tree planting, and sustainability

- ✚ 2019 and 2020: Obtaining three Sierra Club Illinois Chapter Conservation Committee grants for Northeast-Side community Gardens—Washington Street Garden and the Birch Street Orchard and Food Forest—and the Men of Power/Women of Strength community garden in Cairo, with members participating in several workdays for Carbondale gardens.
- ✚ March 2023: Collaborating with Faith in Place and Alpha Kappa Alpha to obtain and plant 52 native trees through a matching grant from Trees Forever (<https://treesforever.org/recover-replant-restore/>) and planting all on the Jackson County Housing Authority Bridgewood Estates Family Housing in Murphysboro.
- ✚ Earth Day 2023 and 2024: Co-hosting with the First Christian Church of Carbondale and the City of Carbondale the first and second annual Electric Vehicle Car Show.
- ✚ Earth Day Event 2023 and 2024: initiating Children's Book Giveaway in conjunction with Confluence Books to distribute at the Earth Day Celebration at Attucks Park (2023) and Carbondale's Downtown Pavilion (2024).
- ✚ 2023 and 2024: Contributing Shawnee Group's Illinois Chapter Group Support Funds to a wilderness restoration project at Trillium Trail (2023) and to an urban garden restoration at the Red Hen Garden (run by Women for Change), with most of the funds used to hire neighborhood youth to clear a portion of the garden plot of invasive species, (Continued on Page 3)

(Shawnee Group Projects, Continued from Page 2)

Shawnee Group's Clean Energy and Sustainability collaborative community projects

- ✚ September 2017: initiating Carbondale Community Solar Working Group (CCSWG) with First Christian Church of Carbondale and other non-profits to take advantage of the December 2016 passage of the Illinois Future Energy Jobs Act
- ✚ September 7, 2018: convening a panel of state and local leaders in solar energy to discuss the topic "Reinventing Power: America's Clean Energy Boom" (held in the Carbondale Civic Center)
- ✚ January 17, 2019: convening a panel co-hosted with Faith in Place and CCSWG, featuring as speakers Amanda Pankau (Prairie River Network) and Scott Allan (Citizens Utility Board), "Embracing the Future: Bringing Solar to Southern Illinois" (held in the Carbondale Civic Center)
- ✚ Summer 2020 and Summer 2021: partnering as an advocate with Carbondale Spring in two summer Group Solar Buys, involving meetings with citizens in a five-county area to achieve lower cost solar installations, with the result of 337 KW of new solar installations (summer 2020) and 150 KW (summer 2021).
- ✚ October 20, 2022: convening on Zoom an event entitled "CEJA and You," as a virtual town hall with a panel focused on the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA), including Sierra Club's Jessica Beverly (Chicago), CUB's Scott Allen (Springfield), and Men of Power/Women of Strength's Steve Tarver (Cairo).
- ✚ September 27, 2023: co-hosting the first ICJC Clean Heat Community event, with a panel addressing "Our Homes of the Future: Healthy, Sustainable and Affordable" followed by a Listen/Lead/Share community discussion on strategies for transitioning to clean heat. Other co-hosts included the Carbondale NAACP, the Black Graduate Greek Council, Faith in Place, CUB, and the National Resource Defense Council (held in the Carbondale Civic Center).
- ✚ February 28, 2024: Co-organizing and co-hosting a virtual event as a follow-up to the September ICJC Clean Heat Community initiative, entitled "Homes of the Future in Southern Illinois: A Healthcare Professional's Perspective" with presentations by Dr. Susan Buchanan and Dr. Daren Siri on the impacts of indoor pollution followed by a Q & A. Other co-hosts included CUB, Carbondale NAACP, Faith In Place, Black Graduate Greek Council of Carbondale, SIU Sustainability Office, and the City of Carbondale.

Sierra Club Shawnee Group Annual New Year's Day Stone Soup Picnic

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 11am – 3pm at Giant City State Park, Shelter 2



Photos by
Candy Davis, 2015

Join us by the warm fire at Shelter 2 at 11 am on January 1st to add your pre-cooked vegetarian ingredients to the big soup pot. Please bring a side dish to share, beverage, and reusable soup bowl/eat ware to reduce disposables. We'll eat at noon and hike if you like following lunch. Open to all. Questions? Contact Patty at pweyhrich711@hotmail.com or Carla Womack at crusso1957@yahoo.com, 815 263 8173. Map of Giant City State Park, shelters are highlighted in red:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Parks/Documents/GiantCitySiteMap.pdf>



WINTER 2024/2025 – 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, December 12, 2024, 7 pm

Presentation: "Restoration Projects at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge"

Presenter: Neil Vincent, Visitor Services Manager at Crab Orchard NWR

In this presentation, Neil Vincent will provide a general overview of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and then discuss restoration projects at the Refuge, completed, current, and planned. Neil has worked for 40 years within the Federal government, 6 years with the National Park Service, and 34 with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. It was in 2005 that he was appointed Visitor Services Manager at the Crab Orchard Refuge, a position that entails overseeing all activities that deal with visitors (hunting, camping, fishing, fees, volunteers, and etc.).

January 9, 2025: No Shawnee Group January program is scheduled for the second Thursday of January. The Stone Soup Picnic, on New Years Day, will serve as the Shawnee Group's January program (see Pg 3).

Thursday, February 13, 2025, 7 pm

Presenters: Tyler Carpenter, *Environmental Planning Director*

Kelsey Bowe, *Environmental Planning Coordinator*

Presentation: Southern Illinois – Environmental Planning Management

Kelsey Bowe and Tyler Carpenter of Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission (Greater Egypt) will present the planning process for three environmental planning programs in Carbondale and around the region, listed below:

Urban Heat Island (UHI) Pilot Study – The presenters will review the Heat Island pilot program conducted for the City of Carbondale. Urban environments generate more heat given their relative lack of canopy cover and natural areas and their impervious surfaces, such as concrete and pavement that reflect less sunlight. This study also directs people to strategies to improve effects of increased heat and the urban heat island.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fc1d574f0f4a47b48f25c4e998a0789a>

Carbondale Stormwater Management Plan – With an increase in large rainfall events, the plan to be developed will aim to address mitigating flooding through various management strategies including public outreach. The presenters will review the planning process, which includes organizing resources, assessment, modeling, and public engagement. Members of the Carbondale community are urged to take the [survey](#), which is part of the public outreach strategy.

<https://greateregypt.org/carbondale-stormwater-master-plan/>

Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plans (NARP) – The presenters will also update us on Nutrient Assessment Reduction Plans, which the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) requires municipal wastewater treatment NPDES permittees to develop. Greater Egypt is assisting advisory groups for two watersheds in southern Illinois to complete a NARP. This NARP requirement is in response to the Agency determining that the operator's treatment plant is upstream of a waterbody or stream segment that is at risk of eutrophication due to phosphorus levels in the waterbody.

<https://greateregypt.org/narp/>

WINTER 2024/2025 – SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Cache River Hike, Sunday, December 8, 2024

Meet at the Cache River Wetlands Visitors Center before 10 am. This will be an easy hike along this beautiful and unique ecological area. You must call Jon Womack at 815-263-9625 in order to attend this hike.

Bulge Hole Ecological Area Hike, Sunday, January 12, 2025

We will learn about plants, wildlife and nature as we explore the Bulge Hole ecological area of the Shawnee National Forest. Bulge Hole is owned and managed by the Shawnee National Forest and protects rare species and habitats. The hike is moderately difficult and covers about 3 miles. There is a steep section that may be difficult for some. We will see a unique shelter bluff as well as wildlife and rare plants. Meet by 10 am at the roadside parking along Bowman Bottoms Road (no parking area). Bring water and a snack if desired and wear appropriate shoes. This is a joint event of the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club and Illinois Extension. The event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required. Sorry, no pets allowed. You must contact Kevin Rohling at 618-695-3383 or krohling@illinois.edu in order to register or if you have questions.



Bell Smith Springs Hike, Sunday, February 2, 2025

Meet at the parking lot at Bell Smith Springs by 10:00 am. We will do the Sentry Bluff trail and natural bridge trail, which is a moderate to difficult hike of 3 miles. If interested, we can also do the Old Grist Mill Hill trail of about 1.5 miles. Wear appropriate hiking shoes and bring water. You must call Jon Womack at 815-263-8173 prior to the hike in order to attend.

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>

What's Happening at Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge?

Presentation by Dan Wood interpreted by Barbara McKasson

There are some exciting restoration plans for [Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge](#) (CONWR), plus some choices to be made. There are conservation plans to provide habitat for species of concern plus restoration work ongoing in an area that was contaminated by unexploded ordnance (UXO) that was exploded shortly after World War II. There is also a vision for future restoration. Dan Wood, the wildlife biologist on the refuge, outlined these plans in a presentation in October for the Friends of Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service discovered an area on CONWR that was contaminated by the exploded ordnance that had been in the farming program since the inception of the Refuge. The U.S. EPA designated several areas of the refuge as "[superfund sites](#)" under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program due to contaminants from industrial uses of the Refuge through the years. A Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Settlement resulted in an award of \$2.5 million for PCB site contamination, which grew to over \$3.5 million with interest. In addition to this, there is ongoing litigation for additional contamination sites. As information was acquired from 2015-2022, the refuge phased out areas of UXO concern from the farming program that had been going on in the area for years. The refuge has been undertaking restorations with these funds since 1997 and has already been using some of the funds to restore the UXO area to a grassland for wildlife. Dan Wood is aiming to make CONWR the "quail capital of Southern Illinois."

For the restoration, biologists consulted historic land use records. The Government Land Office Survey of 1807 showed that the refuge was comprised of prairie, savanna and open oak woodlands, with some areas of closed forests. The Illinois population of Native Americans were estimated at roughly 12,000 in the 1680's; however, by the 1760's, a little over 2,000 Native Americans remained. Native populations were extirpated by the 1800s as more Europeans moved in. As a result, the forest closed in more, and what was prairie, savanna and open oak woodland became dense forest. By 1985, 0.02% of pre-settlement savanna remained. This was accompanied by a decline in the population of grassland species, which are now designated as "species of concern" including eastern meadowlark, northern bobwhite, Henslow's sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel and monarch butterfly. Dan and the restoration team at CONWR are aiming to revive the populations of these species on the refuge. The restoration team is hoping that they can also bring red headed woodpeckers back to the refuge. Chris Benda, an Illinois botanist, has done a survey of rare and endangered plants on the refuge.

The restoration team includes Dave Jones, a fire specialist on the refuge. In 2023, the fire crew burned 8100 acres of mostly fire-dependent habitat. They contracted a company to remove 173 acres of mostly invasive autumn olive shrubs – thousands of stems. Dan Wood then cut and treated many more himself and is now treating the resprouts so they don't come back.
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CRAB ORCHARD NWR UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO) SAFETY

What is UXO?
UXO includes military munitions that were used but failed to function as they were intended.
Previous munitions-related activities at Crab Orchard included the manufacture of M1A1 land mines and M48 series projectile fuses. Disposal operations were conducted which could cause UXO to be found outside of expected areas. Many people still refer to UXO as "duds," but UXO is never safe.
All suspect munitions and UXO encountered must be treated as live, must be never handled, and considered **extremely dangerous**.
If you think it's UXO, use the 3 R's!

WARNING - Parts of the Refuge contain unexploded ordnance. See map above for location of unexploded ordnance. Most landmines, were blown up and the metal munitions, mostly landmines, were blown up and the metal pieces buried after World War II in these areas. Do not dig in the ground or pick up metal objects on the ground in this section of the Refuge. Do not touch if you find an object like those items illustrated on this poster.

Follow the 3 R's of UXO Safety

- 1. Recognize** UXO can come in many shapes and sizes. It can be rusty or look like new. It can be out in the open, hidden in bushes or partially buried. The important thing to remember is that if you see what you think is UXO, then you should note the location, retreat from the area, and report it to authorities.
- 2. Retreat** If you encounter or suspect you may have encountered a UXO, do not touch it or otherwise disturb it. Do not run - leave the area following the same path on which you entered. You can landmark the general area (NOT the UXO) with a hat, piece of cloth or with a piece of plastic tied to vegetation.
- 3. Report** If you found something that could be UXO, report what you saw and where you saw it. Reporting it can save another person from injury or death. Report anything you think could be UXO.

There are many kinds of UXO that may resemble:

- Pipe (small to large diameter or length)
- Soda can
- Ball (from golf ball to baseball size)
- Bullet-shaped object (small to large)

UXO may:

- Lie exposed on the surface, be partially buried or completely buried
- Be exposed after water/soil erosion, fires, or vegetation removal
- Look new or old, but is usually rusty
- Be intact or broken apart
- Be munitions components (like fuses) that still contain sensitive explosives, propellants or pyrotechnics
- Always be considered dangerous regardless of size or apparent age
- Be found as an isolated munition or as one of many in an area
- Be found both on land and in water

IF YOU DID NOT DROP IT, DO NOT PICK IT UP!

It is important to understand how to react responsibly in the presence of UXO

- **STOP!** Do not move closer to UXO.
- **DO NOT** touch, move or disturb UXO.
- Do not attempt to disassemble, clean or handle UXO.
- Do not attempt to remove anything near UXO.
- Do not transmit radio frequencies near UXO (walkie-talkies, cell phones, etc.)
- Never keep found UXO as souvenirs or "trinkets."
- Note the UXO location and clearly mark the area, if possible.

Immediately report suspected UXO and if possible, include the following information: ordnance appearance and estimated size, distinctive features of ordnance (shape and color), and nearby structures or landmarks.

Report UXO to Refuge personnel:
Leanne Moore: 618-889-6258 (primary)
or
Rick Speer: 618-889-6281 (secondary)

(Crab Orchard, Continued from Page 6)

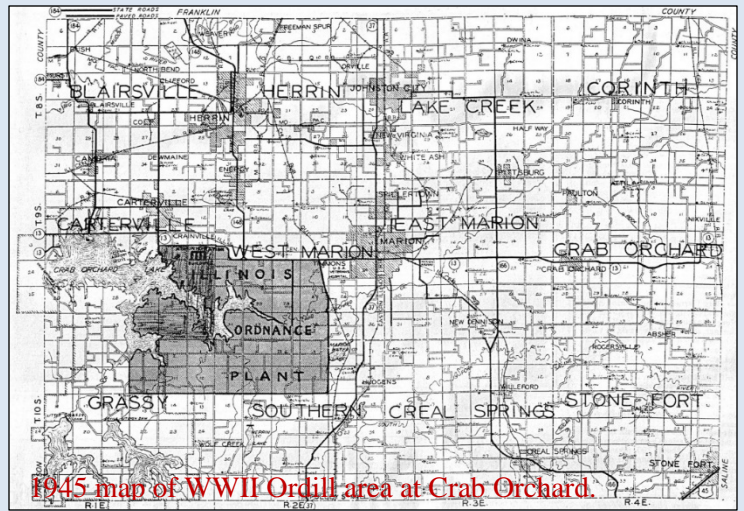
There are now about 76 acres of reconstructed prairie, 391 acres of former crop fields and fescue grazing units, and 257 acres of former tall warm season grass hay and grazing units in the Hampton Grassland area. Prairie grasses and forbs will be planted in 2025, with short native grasses such as little blue stem as the dominant species with a minimum of 30 forbs – flowering plants – that will be added. There are also 400 acres of natural limestone and sandstone glades on the refuge.

The goals for 2025 include completing the planting and interseeding of roughly 720 acres of prairie. Over the next 15 years, approximately 550 acres of savanna and open oak woodlands in surrounding forested edges and interior woodlots potentially will be created for a total of 1,533 acres of prairie and savanna/open oak woodland transitional habitat zones. The refuge restoration team hopes to maintain the grassland by prescribed fire with one-to-three-year fire return intervals (the amount of time between burns). They are planning to keep about 4,900 acres in the cooperative farming program with local farmers who must allow a certain percentage of their crop to feed wildlife.

Future goals also include analyzing alternatives for Crab Orchard Lake management including an alternative to create a sub-impoundment within the lake to allow for a portion of the lake to be pumped dry to produce moist soil plants as food resources for waterbirds, improve fisheries habitats, and increase water quality, among other potential wildlife and habitat benefits.



Hampton prairie restoration, 2016, Crab Orchard.



1945 map of WWII Ordill area at Crab Orchard.

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/asp>

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 February. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to sabrina@midwest.net by **Monday, February 3rd**.



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

Alternative Gift Fair!

Come One! Come All! For the 19th Annual Southern Illinois Alternative Gift Fair, **Sunday, December 8th, 2:00 to 5:00 pm** at the **Carbondale Civic Center** on South Illinois Avenue. You will find gifts that matter and that show you care. It will also support the good work of so many groups in our community. Just to mention a few: Carbondale Warming Center, Friends of Giant City, Habitat for Humanity of Jackson/Union County, Jackson County Girl Scouts, Free Again, Peace Coalition, SI Collaborative Kitchen, Friends of the Shawnee – and of course – Shawnee Group Sierra Club – and many more! We will be selling Sierra Club wall and engagement calendars. Be sure to check out our gift baskets in the silent auction. A broad array of great gifts can be found in the silent auction! Refreshments and music - and you are sure to see some friends – or at least friendly faces. We hope to see you there!

