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Illinois Chapter Sierra Club Shawnee National Forest Committee Response to the “Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve” Proposal

The Shawnee National Forest Committee has not taken an official position on the proposal by the [Shawnee Forest Defense](#) to transfer Shawnee National Forest (SNF) from the Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service to the Department of Interior’s National Park System. The proposal lacks details, and we know that the real outcome is in the details, particularly on the degree of management the proposal would support for addressing such climate related issues as invasive species.

We agree with the Shawnee Forest Defense that the Forest Service management needs to produce better results with their restoration efforts. However, we note that their prescribed burn program has been helping maintain native plant communities and several high-quality Natural Areas have been restored to a great extent. Also, it takes time for the results of restoration efforts such as selective logging, thinning, burning and reseedling to become clear. The main barriers for better results are lack of funding targeted to restoration and to more staff focused on monitoring, restoration and enforcement.

The main controversy is the logging and thinning being done to maintain and sustain an oak/ hickory community in the forest. Because of lack of funding, the Forest Service has not been able to do enough to prevent invasive plants from overrunning native plant communities and to encourage regrowth of oaks and hickories. This is important because oak dominated communities provide the most stable and diverse forest communities, which is key for resilience and sustainability in the face of climate change.

However, would the National Park Service do any better? The main focus of the National Park Service (NPS) is recreation and not forest management. And, judging from the management plans listed on the NPS website, recreation seems to be the main focus of their recorded management plans. In addition, the NPS is also underfunded by Congress.

The Shawnee National Forest (SNF) is now finally getting more help with managing the high quality designated Natural Areas in the forest from groups such as The Nature Conservancy and the Turkey Federation. It seems to us that switching the forest to new management would only delay efforts that are now making real progress in saving the biodiversity of Shawnee National Forest. Can anyone assure us that such projects would not be delayed? The high-quality area restoration can only wait so long before the seed bank is greatly diminished, i.e., when seeds lose viability. Some species in the natural communities are probably already lost.

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The Forest Service (FS) has had some notable success with restoration of high-quality Natural Areas, such as Simpson Barrens, Dean Cemetery East and Pleasant Valley Natural Areas. As stated, the biggest barrier to success is lack of funds for the FS to conduct restoration. Government Rock in the SNF, for example, desperately needed augmented seeding with stock collected from nearby sites after selective logging, but there was no money and staff to do it. Would the National Park Service have adequate funding and staff to follow up on monitoring and remediation after any restoration efforts? How much restoration would the NPS even do?

The creation of “Climate Preserves” is an appealing idea, but the Shawnee is not well equipped to be the first poster child of the effort, since it only stores a modicum of carbon compared to peatlands, ancient wet forests such as the Tongas National Forest, mangrove swamps, black soil grasslands, etc. In addition, scientists have now determined that a forest with eighty percent canopy cover is more efficient at storing carbon than one-hundred percent cover, which would support thinning in a “Climate Preserve” forest. Is the National Park Service geared up to do the analysis and restoration required to maximize the carbon storage of a “Climate Preserve”?

Sierra Club has recognized that indigenous Americans must be included in decisions that affect their lands, culture and spirituality. The Forest Service has consulted the federally recognized Shawnee tribe living in Oklahoma, but has not consulted with the Shawnee settlement adjacent to the forest that is separate from the tribe living in Oklahoma. This neglect resulted in some sacred trees being cut to “improve the view.” Is there really any good reason not to consult the indigenous people living adjacent to Shawnee National Forest? We must ask: would the National Park Service do a better job of respecting the original people living within or adjacent to the Shawnee? Would the anticipated increased tourism that may be caused by a transfer to the National Park Service cause even more damage to a sacred space, such as the already popular Garden of the Gods? Be careful what you ask for.

Crucially, the shift of responsibility from one federal cabinet level department to another (Agriculture to Interior) appears to us to be such a bureaucratic nightmare that the proposal seems frivolous. A statement of support for the transfer from both the Agriculture Department and the Department of Interior would alleviate that concern.

We have been told that a transition or study period by the NPS after a transition would most likely delay maintenance projects even further, such as removing invasive plants from sensitive areas, such as the 80 high quality designated Natural Areas, and maintaining the trails.

Finally, the years it would take for a transition and study would be a distraction from what we should be advocating for, which is more funds for both the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service to be targeted specifically to maintain biodiversity and climate resilience.

Natural Areas Management Needed in Shawnee National Forest

The common tools of conservation professionals include invasive species removal, timber stand improvement, and prescribed burns. These are recognized both locally as effective means to manage and maintain local communities but are also common practice in neighboring states with similar habitats.

Invasive species outcompete our native species and lower diversity when allowed to spread unchecked. Some invasive species can disrupt natural, otherwise minimally disturbed ecosystems and destroy them through shade and/or chemical changes to soil. There are numerous recognized invasive species that can become problematic in our region.

As these communities are bombarded with considerable stress, the resultant loss of animal species includes pollinators, other insects, and thousands of other species that feed upon them. Many natural areas are reduced to monocultures and/or low diversity sites after invasion. These are not stable communities and commonly go through “boom and bust” cycles with inconsistent forage.

Fire and shade reduction through thinning is composed of well-studied efforts to redress the loss of natural processes, correct physical damages to soil and hydrology, and return native species to the landscape. Because our ecosystems ultimately draw their energy from the sun, increased shade sets off a cascade of impacts to the physical and biological components of these systems that ultimately results in their destruction.

After years of increased shade from encroaching trees and lack of fire, forbs, grasses and sedges fail to reproduce and ultimately die. This loss of ground cover decreases soil infiltration and ultimately fertility as organic matter is no longer replenished annually. This is further perpetuated as soil erosion rapidly increases because *(Continued on Page 3)*

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roots and soil microbiota such as fungi are no longer there to act as a sponge. Trees alone do not supply a high enough roughness factor to encourage infiltration of water into the soil, resulting in increased erosion and loss of soil. Hardwood species, such as our dominant oaks, support many other species, but ultimately oaks succumb to these changes, especially the loss of enough sunlight for young saplings to grow but also through the loss of nutrients both directly in the soil and through mycorrhizal relationships.

Anyone who would like the Shawnee National Forest Committee's bibliography that supports scientific claims in this article can contact Barb McKasson at ba4ba5lu@aol.com or Jean Sellar at biojean@peoplepc.com.

What about a Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve?

by John Magney

I hadn't given much focused thought to the notion of turning the Shawnee National Forest into a national park until I heard Les Winkler's show-and-tell talk about the idea at our August program last summer. It was one of those unpredictable Zoom sessions, but everything went well, and the combination of Winkler's narrative, his thoughtful answers to questions and his gorgeous selection of Shawnee photos got my mental wheels rolling. And I soon found myself telling friends that a Shawnee National Park sounded like a pretty good idea.

Since Winkler's talk, I've read a number of pro and con letters about the park idea in the local press, participated in some spirited discussions about it at our ex-com meetings, given some thought to my own experiences in national forests and national parks and, more recently, done a slug of reading about the history and development of the park service and some individual parks. All of this has turned me into a...more reflective park supporter. I still think it's worth pursuing, but I also now realize there are a number of issues that need to be addressed in creating a working Shawnee National Park.

Let's start with the physical configuration of the Shawnee Forest. When you pull up a [map of the Forest](#), you'll see what is identified as a "Forest Boundary" ...but the land within this dark line includes several state parks, a large array of privately owned property and a crazy-quilt collection of light-green parcels that make up the actual Forest. The two main parts of the Forest are an eastern section in several counties near the Ohio River and a western section in Jackson, Union and Alexander counties along the Mississippi. Neither of these sections is really a coherent whole, however; if you look at them closely, you'll find numerous gaps in the light-green identified Forest land. So, as a physical entity, the current Shawnee is much more fragmented than your typical national park. What that means is that the development of a Shawnee National Park that meets Park Service standards would likely involve a considerable amount of planning work involving the acquisition, exchange and sale of land parcels. How long such a park-building land shuffle might take is anyone's guess.

Now, on to a really big question: why would anyone want to visit a national park in southern Illinois? Those who are promoting the park idea cite all sorts of "natural wonders" -- Inspiration Point, Snake Road, Little Grand Canyon, Panther's Den, Garden of the Gods, amazing displays of spring wild flowers...blah, blah, blah. And they're absolutely right. We do live in an area with some very cool outdoor attractions. But there are also a few things that are not so attractive. We have far too much rural poverty and you see all sorts of depressing dwellings surrounded by junked cars and other debris as you cruise along our back roads. And then we have those god-awful summertime challenges -- endless steamy days of temperatures in the 90s and zillions of ticks and chiggers out in our woodlands. I think most locals would agree that the best out-of-doors times in Southern Illinois are the spring and fall months; our springtime flower displays and our fall colors are quite delightful. And we might see lots of visitors at a new Shawnee National Park during those months -- probably not so many the rest of the year, however.

But any talk about the draw of a new park is still really speculative. It's certainly possible, as some boosters claim, that a Shawnee National Park would be a big economic asset for the area, pulling in lots of tourists. However, this would be a more convincing argument if they could cite some specific research on the likely impact of a new park. But at this point, there isn't any. However, some earlier studies have shown that national park facilities can have a significant impact on local economies. In one [interesting study](#) done at the Sequoia-Kings Canyon Parks, it was found that "total visitor spending in 2012 in the parks and within 80 miles of the parks was \$122.1 million." Total number of visitors at the two parks that year was 1,697,617. So far, we have no predictions about the likely number of annual visitations at a Shawnee National Park. One possible guide as to what might happen here would be the number of people visiting two national parks in our general area: in 2021, according to NPS data, about 1.3 million (*Continued on Page 4*)

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Ozark National Scenic Rivers facility over in Missouri and about 500,000 were counted at Kentucky's Mammoth Cave National Park. I would guess that these numbers (especially those for the Ozark facility) are much higher than what we would see at a new Shawnee National Park. But who knows? We really need some good university-based research here.

Now what about the environmental impact of a Shawnee National Park? Some of its boosters dwell on the cessation of commercial logging. That's important. But it's certainly not the only factor affecting the ecological health of the Shawnee bio-system. What about the huge problem with autumn olive, kudzu, bush honeysuckle and other invasives? Would their removal be an integral part of the management plan for a Shawnee National Park? And what would park policies be on managing the wilderness areas that are now an integral part of the Shawnee Forest? These are some of the issues that greatly concern some of my science-minded colleagues on the ex-com. Another key issue for the managers of a Shawnee National Park would be the current [Let-The-Sun-Shine-In effort](#) to restore stands of oak trees in the Shawnee Forest and adjoining public lands. These marvelous trees -- and hickories -- used to be the dominant species in local forests before they were logged over many years ago. Because of their size and longevity, oaks store amazing amounts of carbon dioxide...and a project devoted to restoring these great trees could be the ecological centerpiece of a national park that calls itself a "Climate Preserve." A west coast model for this is the [current effort to restore redwoods](#) in the cutover sections of California's Redwood National Park. In any event, I'm quite confident that my smart colleagues will ask a lot of tough questions during any Park Service feasibility study for a Shawnee National Park.

Finally, there is the knotty issue of politics. New national parks are created by a simple act of Congress, but the politics surrounding these bills can be rather complex. After a [federal study recommending the creation of several park sites](#) on Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, bills were introduced in 1961 for both a Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan's sparsely populated upper peninsula and a Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore near Traverse City. The [Pictured Rocks bill](#) garnered a lot of support from local UP groups, but Cleveland Cliffs (a powerful mining and timber producer in northern Michigan) objected to the configuration of the proposed park facility. Eventually a complicated land exchange deal was worked out with the company, and a revised Picture Rocks bill was passed in 1966. The [legislation for the Sleeping Bears facility](#) also encountered opposition, but in this case it involved a large group of disgruntled cottage owners, some who believed they might lose their lake properties, and others who complained about a Sleeping Bear park attracting hordes of weekend "fudgies" (a localism referring to downstate visitors). Some boundary adjustments written into the enabling legislation cooled off the No Bear group somewhat, and with the support of a coalition that included local business owners, some prominent environmental activists and the United Auto Workers union, the Sleeping Bears bill was finally passed in 1970.

The politics behind the Redwoods National Park in California was also [very involved](#). For years, the Save-the-Redwoods League had pushed for state and federal protection of the groves of ancient redwoods along the state's northern coastline. Finally, in 1966, after an analysis by the Park Service and widespread public discussion of competing park ideas from the logging industry, the Sierra Club and other stakeholders, a bill for a Redwoods National Park from President Johnson's administration was introduced in Congress. After a lot of behind-the-scenes politicking, the Redwoods Park bill was finally passed in 1968. The size of the new park was somewhat smaller than what the Administration had originally wanted, but its managers were given the authority for cooperative management with three adjoining state parks. Today, the facility is formally known as the Redwood National and State Parks.

So far, the politicking for a Shawnee National Park has been a pretty limited grass rootsy effort. About a year has passed since the park idea was first broached by some of the folks in the [Shawnee Forest Defense](#) group. We've seen bit of publicity in the local media. Les Winkeler has been an articulate advocate. Glenn Poshard says he'd like to see a park. The Carbondale city council recently passed a supportive [resolution](#). And a state Audubon group says it too supports the park idea. Our Shawnee group, however, has not been part of this promotional effort; instead, our chapter's Conservation Committee says that it is "advocating for a study" of the park idea. I agree with that, but I also think the Committee should be more specific and ask for a study by the National Park Service. So far as I can tell, after reading through a relevant piece of law ([PL 105-391, SEC 303](#)), this is now the standard legal procedure for proposed new parks: first a study by the NPS and then a formal recommendation to Congress. And then, depending on the nature of the recommendation, legislative action by Congress. *(Continued on Page 8)*

SPRING 2023: SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB MEMBER PROGRAMS

Note our **in-person** Shawnee Group member programs, following national Sierra Club directions, because of COVID precautions. Do also consider other Illinois Sierra groups' virtual presentations, as well as our own, listed on www.sctrips.org.

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 7 - 8 pm

Presentation: Increasing and Diversifying Carbondale's Trees: Past Present, Future

Presenter: Mark McDaniel Carbondale's Tree Arborist

Location: In-person at The Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street, Carbondale Illinois. Access the meeting room through the backdoor. Plenty of parking is available near this entrance. **(Masks required)**

Thursday, April 13, 2023, 7 – 8 pm

Presentation: Why Ecological Restoration Is Important to Save Our Biodiversity and Remnant Natural Communities: Lessons Learned From 50 Years of Ecological Restoration in the Chicago Area

Presenter: Alice Brandon, Resources Program Manager, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Location: In person, The Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street, Carbondale Illinois. Access the meeting room through the backdoor. Parking, available nearby. **(Masks required)**

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7 – 8 pm

Presentation: Raising Public Awareness Regarding the Need for Prescribed Burning in Forests of Southern Illinois

Presenter: Charles Ruffner, Professor of Forestry-SIU

Location: In person, The Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street, Carbondale Illinois. Access the meeting room through the backdoor. Parking, available nearby. **(Masks required)**

In Memoriam – Ruth Kelley

Shawnee Group leader [Ruth Kelley](#) died this last October 4, 2022 at Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

Ruth was active for several years as a member of our group Executive Committee, ably filling the positions of Program Chair, Secretary, Publicity Chair and Environmental Education Co-chair.

Ruth was passionate about educating people on nature. She jumped right into botany and other classes at SIU-C, then recruited many people from SIU to give programs for our group. She also conducted beginning bird watching classes, was instrumental in getting the Master Naturalist classes started in Southern Illinois and was a major participant in planting the pollinator garden next to Giant City State Park Visitor Center. You could say she was a “force of nature” for Nature.

Since Ruth was a frequent visitor to the [Sallie Logan Library](#) in Murphysboro, it would be fitting to give donations to the library in her memory.

Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, April 8 will be the 9th annual Native Plant Sale for the Shawnee Group Sierra Club. Our location is the Townsquare Pavilion, 121 N. Illinois Ave, Carbondale, from **9:00 AM-1:00 PM**. Eric and Ann Stahlheber, owners of Southernwood Gardens, will be our vendors. Please visit [Southernwood Gardens Facebook page](#) to see plant selection prior to the sale. **Plants will be \$7.00 each. We will accept cash or checks only (made out to the Sierra Club) the day of the sale.**



In this announcement, we acknowledge Ruth Kelley, a former member of our Executive Committee. She created this wonderful event in 2015. She wanted to bring the world of native plants to southern Illinois and spread the benefits of planting them. During the time she was active in the Shawnee Group and also in the Illinois Native Plant Society, she was a force in our area, helping us all be more able to explore, enjoy, and protect the planet. Sadly, Ruth passed away in October of this year, but she would be glad to know the sale she started is still happening today...we want to continue what Ruth envisioned.

SPRING 2023 – SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Ferne Clyffe Hike. Sunday, March 5, 2023

We will hike a moderate 4 miles at scenic Ferne Clyffe State Park. Meet at the Ferne Clyffe Lake parking lot before 10 am. Wear appropriate hiking shoes and bring water. You must call Bob Mulcahy at 618-942-6342 to participate.

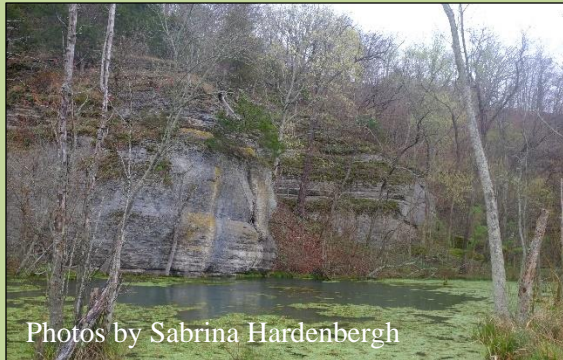
Shawnee Bluffs Canopy Zipline Tour Outing, Sunday, April 16, 2023

We will be going to Illinois' first entirely tree-based, eco-friendly zip line canopy tour. Shawnee Bluffs features eight zip lines, the longest stretching more than 1,100 feet over a beautiful natural setting. The tour includes 11 platforms located high in trees, three aerial suspension bridges, and two short ground hikes. Meet in Carbondale's Murdale Shopping Center parking lot by the Murdale sign before 9 am, OR meet at Shawnee Bluffs at 9:30. The price is **\$98/person**. However, **the first 10** people who contact Steve **by April 2** will receive a \$30 discount paid by the Shawnee group of the Sierra Club. You must contact Steve by April 2 in order to reserve a place. After that date, should any non-Sierra Club spaces for ziplining remain available, you may still be able to participate (but will not receive a \$30 discount). To sign up and obtain a reservation to participate in this outing, you **must** call Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 **before April 2**.

Snake Road Hike, Sunday, May 21, 2023

Jon Womack will be leading a hike on Snake Road. If you would like to join him, meet at Winter's pond before 10:30 am. The hike will be a mild level of difficulty. We may see a wide variety of wildlife, including snakes, in this interesting natural area. You must call Jon at 815-263-9625 if you want to go on this hike.

Visit our older Shawnee Group Sierra Club blog page, lower right side (Index), for a list of weblinks to local hiking trail descriptions, and directions for how to get there: <https://shawneegroup.blogspot.com/>



Photos by Sabrina Hardenbergh



Snake Road Scenes

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.

Shawnee Group) for further developments in 2023 or 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>

Update on Navigator's CO2 Pipeline: The Fight Continues

Thanks to organizing by the [Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines](#) and other grassroots organizations, many central Illinois communities mobilized to oppose Navigator's Heartland Greenway CO2 pipeline proposed to run through their villages, cities, counties and farm land. These communities, marshalled by the [dangers to human health and the health of the environment posed by CO2 pipelines](#), signed petitions and pushed their county boards and 13 townships' leaders to adopt [resolutions and moratoriums](#) to slow down or stop the pipeline construction.

On January 20, 2023, Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC officially [withdrew](#) its CO2 pipeline permit application at the Illinois Commerce Commission. Temporarily. Navigator intends to [reapply](#). In a [draft agreement, Navigator recently offered McDonough County to drop its moratorium](#) for [\\$20,000 per mile of constructed pipeline for 30 years, but not to exceed a total of \\$630,000 per year!](#) On the County's [State's Attorney's advice](#), no action was taken on the offer at the February 6, 2023 meeting of the McDonough County Board Law and Legal Committee. Residents continue their determined fight to stop Navigator.

Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines lists a [summary of dangers](#):

1. CO2 Pipelines Aren't Safe
2. Eminent Domain Supersedes Landowner Rights
3. Pipeline Construction Damages Topsoil and Reduces Crop Yield
4. Few Regulations Exist for CO2 Pipelines
5. Pipelines Extend the Life of Fossil Fuel Use
6. CO2 Pipelines Are Funded by the Taxpayer
7. For Landowners, It's All Risk and No Reward
8. CCS Hasn't Worked

These are more than sufficient reasons to [join the fight to stop Navigator](#)—and indeed other CO2 pipelines, including [ADM/Wolf's CO2 Pipeline](#), proposed to travel 300 miles from Iowa and Illinois ethanol and fertilizer plants to a sequestration reservoir near Decatur.

It will take considerable community outrage and long-term grassroots organizing to keep the focus off of the billions in funding for CO2 pipelines that pipeline companies are all too ready to wield to get their way. The focus by counties and townships must remain instead on the safety and rights of their constituents, since as Central Illinois resident Pam Richart, lead organizer with the Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines, has observed: "[Navigator will clearly stop at nothing to move forward with its project. I believe that Navigator is hoping they can make deals with local governments like McDonough County in order to buy them off.](#)"



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 May. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to sabrina@midwest.net by **Monday, May 1st**.



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

(What about a Shawnee National Park, Continued from Page 3)

Looking at the bigger picture, we may -- or may not -- be at the beginning of something very interesting. If the local park promoters expand their ranks, and begin doing some serious political lobbying -- along with the Sierra Club state chapter, I would hope -- then perhaps there will be an NPS feasibility study for a Shawnee National Park. And if there is a positive recommendation and if there is no local opposition and...if, if, if. The upshot, of course, is that many moons will pass before we might see a working Shawnee National Park. If it does come into existence, and I'm still watching late night movies in our house in the woods outside Marquette, I'll surely want to hit the road for southern Illinois to check out this new park. But not during the months of June, July or August.

For those interested in the general history of the National Park service, a great source is Alfred Runte's, **National Parks: An American Experience**, 2022. And if you're looking for information on any of the 423 individual units managed by the NPS, the go-to source is the **National Park Service History Electronic Library & Archive** (npshistory.com).

Read more about related local to global forest issues:

- [Shawnee Forest Defense](#) and their proposal for a Shawnee National Park and Climate Preserve,
- [US Forest Service interaction with Native American people](#) regarding the Shawnee National Forest region,
- [Indiana Forest Alliance](#) and adjacent Hoosier National Forest with contested Buffalo Springs Restoration Project,
- [WRI](#), [Global Forest Watch](#), [CRS](#), and the [UN](#) on forests and carbon capture.