



Shawnee Trails



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

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

Dec. 2013 – Feb. 2014 QUARTERLY

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

or

<http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

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IDNR Proposes Further Administrative Rules for Illinois Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), proposed further administrative rules to regulate fracking on Friday, November 15th, to follow up on Governor Quinn passing the Illinois Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act, or Public Act 098-022, last June.

Per Public Act 098-022, registration already opened on Sept. 15, 2013 to those wanting to apply for a permit to drill, although no one registered before IDNR's proposed rules announcement. Applications will not be accepted, and IDNR will not issue permits for hydraulic fracturing, until after public hearings on the new administrative rules, and their approval by the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR).

Public hearings are already scheduled in Chicago on November 26th and Rend Lake on December 3rd (see addresses on Page 2). Various environmental groups are already circulating petitions to ask for more hearings in southern Illinois at a time that is not during the winter holidays. These must be turned in within 14 days of the proposed administrative rule announcement, or November 29th, the day after Thanksgiving, when many offices may be closed.

Per the JCAR rule making process, a 45 day comment period occurs before JCAR approves administrative rules; however IDNR director Marc Miller has publicly stated that this 45 day period will be extended to 50 days, after the New Year's Day holiday. Note, the IDNR website says that public comments will only be accepted through Friday, January 3, 2014. Sometimes the state agency proposing the rules must announce a Second Notice for modified administrative rules after accommodating public hearing and other comments, which then opens another comment period. However, if this happens, we will let you know in another action alert.

Presently, you are encouraged to attend and comment at the hearings and make comments online, although you must follow protocol for commenting, (see websites on Page 2 for further directions). After the Sierra Club has reviewed the proposed
(Continued on Page 2)

IDNR Proposes Further Administrative Rules (Continued from Page 1)

administrative rules, we will send out an email action alert with suggestions for how to word your comments as they must pertain to specific deficient sections of the administrative rules. If the petitions prompt scheduling of any more hearings, an email action alert will inform you of the location and time. Therefore, read the Public Act 098-022 and the IDNR's proposed administrative rules at the websites indicated below, and prepare to submit your written public comments soon to the Joint Committee during their comment period. **Email Barb McKassan, babitaji@aol.com, to be placed on her Action Alert email list, or to ask about signing a petition for more hearings.** Your action here is important since southern Illinois' input to the making of the regulations appears to be outweighed by people and groups from outside our region, or who are aligned with industry interests.

Public Act 098-022:

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=1715&GAID=12&GA=98&DocTypeID=SB&LegID=72606&SessionID=85>

IDNR Proposed Administrative Rules and related links:

Rules: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Documents/ProposedHydraulicFracturing62-245.pdf>

More links: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/oilandgas/pages/hydraulicfracturing.aspx>

Hearing location, preparation: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/PublicHearings.aspx>

Online Public Comment Form: <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/PublicHearings.aspx>

JCAR and the Rule process:

<http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/>, <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/ILRulemakingProcess.pdf>

Currently scheduled hearings:

Tuesday, November 26, 2013

6:30pm-8:30pm

University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)

726 S. Halsted Street, Student Center East, Room 302

Chicago, IL 60607

Tuesday, December 3, 2013

6:30pm-8:30pm

Rend Lake College Theater

468 North Ken Gray Parkway

Ina, IL 62846

The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club's Frack Fight Team consists of Terry Treacy (terry.treacy@sierraclub.org) and Jennifer Hensley (jennifer.hensley@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_ACTI_ON_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=138181

Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails! The next issue will be published in March. Please send your e-files to sabrina@midwest.net.

2013 - 2014 WINTER PROGRAMS NOTE new start time at 7 PM!

Location: Rear of 217 East Main, across from Rock Hill Baptist Church.
Enter in rear, through green door. The front door is locked!

Thursday, December 12, 2013: Water Quality

Speaker: Margaret Fertaly, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Dinner: Hunan Village, 710 East Main St, Carbondale 529-1108

Thursday, January 9, 2014: Adaptation and Tuning Knobs

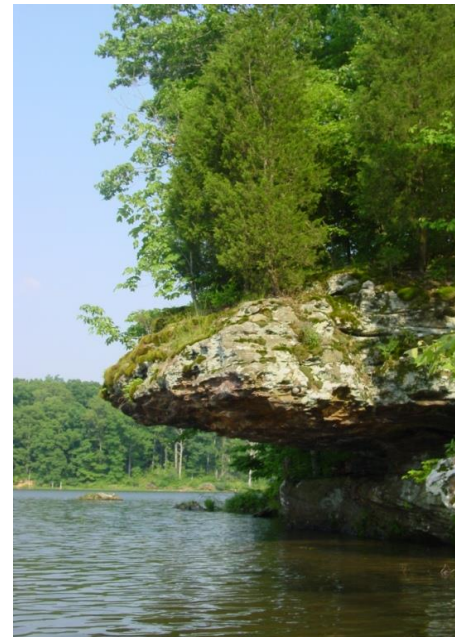
Speaker: Dr. David King, SIU Dept. of Medicine, College of Science
Dinner: Pita Alley, Murdale Shopping Center, Carbondale 351-6111

Thursday, February 13, 2014: TBA

Speaker: Dr. Nicholas Pinter, SIU Dept. of Geology
Dinner: Thai Taste, 100 South Illinois Ave, Carbondale 457-6900

Thursday, March 13, 2014: Spring Wildflowers of Southern Illinois

Speaker: John Schwegman
Dinner: Longbranch Café, 100 East Jackson, Carbondale 529-4488



Devil's Kitchen. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2010

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:

- Thurs, Dec.12, 2013, 5pm: Hunan Village, 710 East Main St, Carbondale 529-1108
- Thurs, Jan. 9, 2014, 5pm: Pita Alley, Murdale Shopping Center, Carbondale 351-6111
- Thurs, Feb.13, 2014, 5 pm: Thai Taste, 100 South Illinois Ave, Carbondale 457-6900
- Thurs, Mar.13, 2014, 5 pm: Longbranch Café, 100 East Jackson, Carbondale 529-4488
- Thurs, Apr.10, 2014, 5 pm: Git Sum India, 709 South Illinois Ave, Carbondale 457-6666
- Thurs, May 8, 2014, 5 pm: Garfields, University Mall, Carbondale 549-2191

Vote for the Shawnee Group Executive Committee up to the January 1st Ballot count at the Annual Stone Soup Picnic!

Ballots and instructions are mailed separately around the end of November to all dues paying Shawnee Group Sierra Club members, no matter whether you otherwise receive a paper or electronic newsletter. We have five new candidates to fill four empty Executive Committee slots. Your vote makes a difference!

2013 - 2014 WINTER OUTINGS

Shawnee Group Sierra Club Annual New Year's Day Stone Soup Picnic at Giant City Park January 1st, 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.

SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!!!

The previously announced hikes for the Shawnee Group have all been cancelled due to the unexpected death of outings leader Bob Tyson, who died suddenly on July 5th. Let us remind you that Bob compiled a brochure of easy to hike trails for seniors that can be located on the Shawnee Group Sierra Club website: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee/Bunny%20Trails%202.pdf>

We are still seeking more outings leaders should you want to volunteer to be one. It may take several people stepping forward to replace him. Outings leaders must take the training and lead at least two outings per year. Outings can include hikes, kayaking, bird watching, wildflower walks, geocaching, caving, etc. The required training includes:

1. Reading about 40 pages online and taking a short test online;
2. Taking a first aide class and CPR (hands only), which Shawnee Group will pay for if needed; and
3. Planning and leading an outing under the supervision of a Sierra Club qualified outings leader.

Shawnee Group pays mileage for trips to scout trails. Even if you are not confident about finding your way back on a trail, we already have some volunteers who are familiar with some trails, but who are not certified outings leaders. The presence of a certified leader is required on each hike due to liability issues. So, please let us know if you are even considering this. Call Barb at 618-529-4824 or babitaji@aol.com

Scenic Trails for Senior Citizens in Southern Illinois



Photo by Jan Sundberg



Presented by the Sierra Club, Shawnee Group

Eastern Missouri Group Outings Contacts:

- Chairman: Bob Gestel, (636) 296-8975, rgestel@sbcglobal.net
- Coordinator: Mark Schuermann. (636) 394-6265. mark_schuermann@sbcglobal.net
www.sierraclub.org/emg/outings
missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings

ALERTS

Keep the Mississippi River Healthy and Safe

An ill-advised Army Corps of Engineers project, New Madrid Floodway Levee, is threatening the health of the Mississippi River and the nearby communities. The Army Corp wants to build a barrier which would sever the River and its floodplain putting 50,000 acres of quality wetlands and habitat at risk.

This rare, dynamic-river and floodplain connection creates wetlands essential for river fisheries and waterfowl. Even the U.S Fish and Wildlife rates the importance of the existing river and floodplain connection as irreplaceable and opposes the project. Furthermore the levee will increase flood risk in a tri-state area of southern Missouri, Illinois and western Kentucky.

We need your help in stopping this harmful project. Tell the Army Corps that in order to protect rare quality wetlands and protect nearby communities the New Madrid Floodway Levee must not go forward. Read further information at the websites below. Then use the suggested message header and content below in your letter or email to Joshua Koontz at the US Army Corps of Engineers, personalizing it further.

Comment period: Now through Nov. 25th

Contact Method via email to: <mailto:joshua.m.koontz@usace.army.mil>

Draft Environmental Impact Statement at:

<http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/StJohnsBayouandNewMadridFloodwayProject.aspx>

A few websites with further observations:

<http://sierraactivist.org/2013/02/06/stop-the-new-madrid-levee-to-protect-mississippi-river-wildlife/>

http://1mississippi.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Stop-the-New-Madrid-Levee-Webinar_-6-17-13.pdf

http://article.wn.com/view/2013/09/19/Misguided_plan_for_New_Madrid_Levee_is_back_again/

In your email or letter put the following Message Header: Reject the New Madrid Floodway Project

Message, copy the following unchangeable paragraphs (then add additional personal points):

As a concerned citizen, I ask that you do not go forward with the New Madrid Floodway Project because of its negative effects on vital wetlands and surrounding communities.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project “will result in significant losses of regionally and nationally important fish and wildlife resources which cannot be adequately mitigated.” The environmental damage is so extensive that the Corps of Engineers cannot possibly replace the fish and wildlife habitat, the wetlands and floodplain areas which would be destroyed or altered by this project.

The project also increases flood risk by closing off a designated floodway. This puts lower lying areas, especially those across the river in Illinois and Kentucky, at risk.

Despite periodic high water in the floodway, agriculture thrives in the area. The Corps admits the levee will only provide additional benefits to existing farmers by enabling more intensive agriculture. This does not begin to outweigh the significant environmental damage and increased flood risk of the project.

The national Sierra Club petition website below contains an identical letter; however, mailing or emailing your own letter might make a greater impression on Mr. Koontz and the Corps.

<https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=12375>

Coast Guard Proposes Ohio River Barges to Carry Frack Waste Water – Comment by Nov. 29th

On Wednesday, October 30th, the US Coast Guard issued a proposed policy, “Carriage of Conditionally Permitted Shale Gas Extraction Waste Water in Bulk,” wherein the public has 30 days to comment (c.f., <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=USCG-2013-0915>). If approved, fracking waste water will be shipped by barge down the Ohio River to be stored, reprocessed or disposed of in Ohio, Texas and Louisiana. The risk of an accident and spill of hazardous materials into the water system that would flow past Paducah, Metropolis, Olmsted, Cairo, and the Cache River Watershed, is at question. The policy indicates that waste water is to first be tested in a state-certified laboratory for radioactivity, pH, bromides and other hazardous materials before shipping, and the barges are to be tested for accumulated radioactivity. Each barge would transport about 10,000 barrels of waste water. The entire proposed policy, can be downloaded as a PDF file on the federal website: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USCG-2013-0915-0002>.

Submit comments on or before Nov. 29th, identified by docket number USCG-2013-0915. Use only one of the following four methods:

(1) *Federal eRulemaking Portal*: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

(2) *Fax*: 202-493-2251.

(3) *Mail*: Docket Management Facility (M-30), U.S. Department of Transportation, West Building Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(4) *Hand delivery*: Same as mail address above, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

See the “Public Participation and Request for Comments” portion of the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section in the website below for instructions on submitting comments:

<http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=USCG-2013-0915-0001>.

Nix 66!

IDOT Corridor 66 development planning continues for a link between Interstate 24 in Paducah, Kentucky and Interstate 55 in Missouri, potentially across southernmost Illinois’ Cache River watershed, historical Trail of Tears, and Shawnee National Forest region. As we know, the Cache River watershed is of international importance for its great ecological diversity, while the Trail of Tears has historical cultural symbolism and sites, and the Shawnee wildlife and geology comprise our home. The project boundary includes Paducah (Kentucky), Cairo (Illinois), Cape Girardeau (Missouri), Jonesboro (Illinois), and Vienna (Illinois). All of this could be spliced in two by a large interstate highway, as Citizens for Southernmost Illinois note and petition against.

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for stakeholders recently occurred Thursday, November 7, 2013 at Shawnee Community College, while the first public meeting occurred on July 24, 2013.

Documents for the first summer meeting are available [Here](#). Per plan, data collection was to occur during 2013. From this input, plus engineering and environmental studies, the Project Study Group will develop a formal purpose for the project in 2014, develop and evaluate alternatives in 2015, and then determine the preferred alternative.

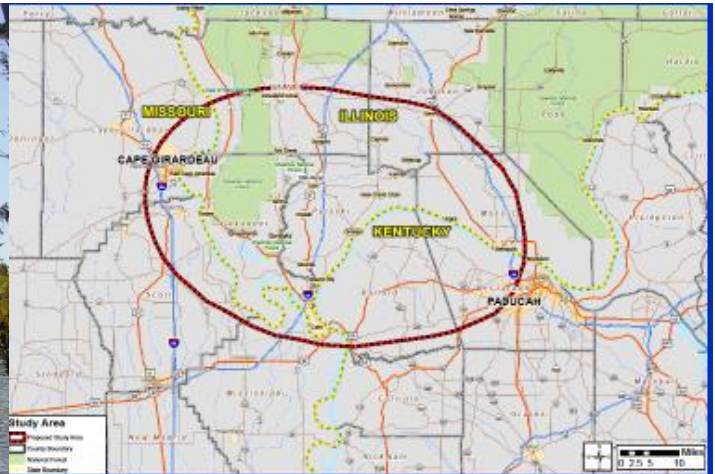
The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration are the lead agencies for preparation of the environmental studies. The Little Egypt Joint Venture team consisting of partners Horner & Shifrin, Inc. and Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. leads the 66 Corridor **(Continued on Page 7)**

(Nix 66!, Continued from Page 6)

Study for IDOT. The Little Egypt Joint Venture consultant team is further supported by the following sub-consulting firms: 2IM Group, LLC, ABNA Engineering, Inc., EFK Moen, LLC, Homer L Chastain & Associates, LLC, Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC, Parsons Transportation Group, Inc., and Shawnee Survey & Consulting, Inc. Better representation of environmental concerns is at issue, as well as that of further economic diversion or by-pass to Paducah or Cape Girardeau.



The Cache. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2010



66 Corridor map, <http://www.66corridor.org/>

The CAG stakeholders will be limited to approximately 30 people. Community members that show interest in the project that are not included in the CAG roster might be added, ensuring they will receive public meeting invitations, newsletters, and project updates. To maintain stakeholder representation, the CAG membership may evolve as the study progresses. The CAG is to provide input on the problem statement, purpose and need, and on the corridors to be studied further. Watch local newspapers, radio and television stations for further announcements. The 66 Corridor Project might hold additional meetings with local organizations and stakeholders if they submit a request using the comment form on their project website.

Citizens for Southernmost Illinois (Nix 66 advocates): http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org/?page_id=81

Official website of 66 Corridor Project: <http://www.66corridor.org/>

66 Corridor Newsletter: http://www.66corridor.org/Newsletter/2013_OCTNewsletter.pdf

Submit a comment online: <http://www.66corridor.org/comment.aspx>

Email: 66corridor@hornershifrin.com

Submit by mail to:

66 Corridor Project Study Group
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways / Region 5 / District 9
P.O. Box 100
Carbondale, Illinois 62903-0100

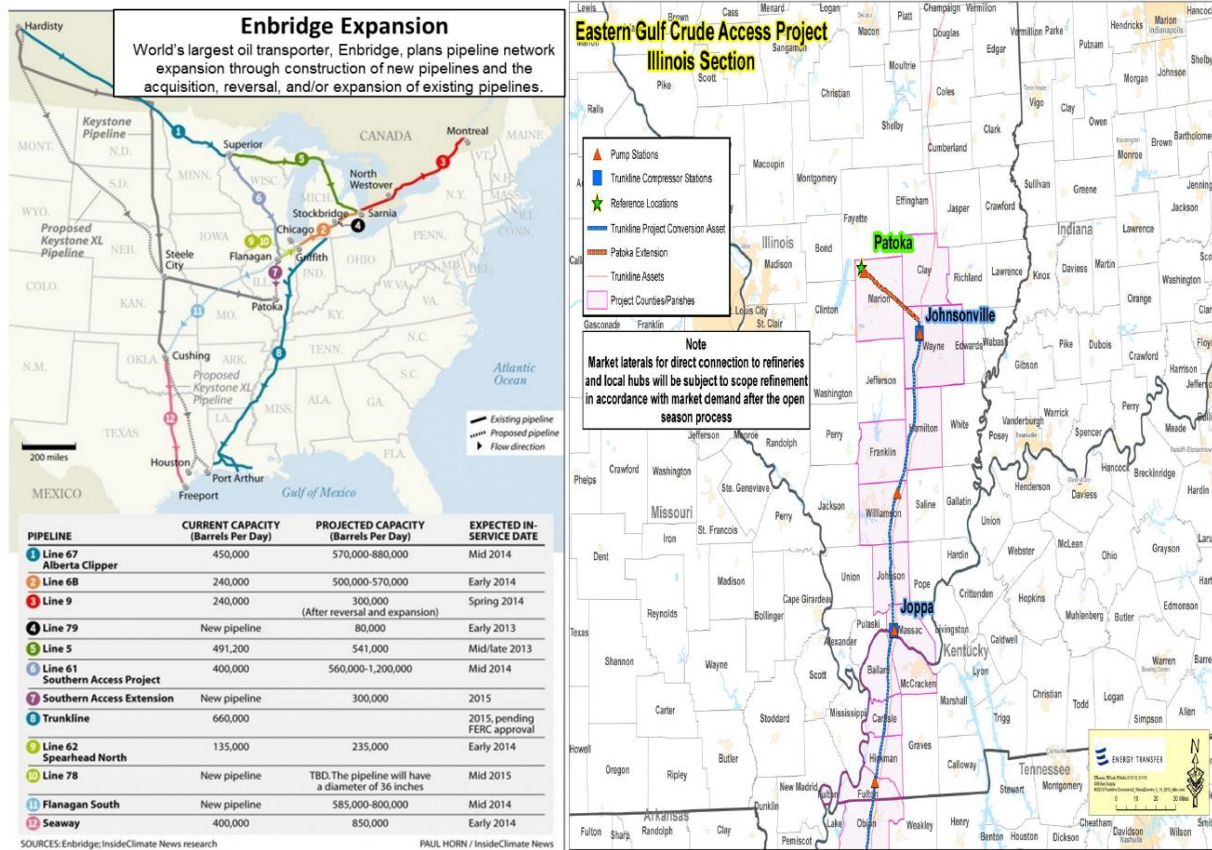
FYI, to receive more timely imminent alerts from the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, sign up online at their state website:

https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Chapter/il_newsletter_signup.html;jsessionid=84420F4C49A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131E25.app205a

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 habitaji@aol.com if you are interested in helping in any way.

Pipelines: Flanagan, Eastern Gulf Crude Access Project,...the Likes of Keystone in Illinois.



The Flanagan South Pipeline and repurposing of the Trunkline pipeline are projects about which you may not have heard much, compared to the Keystone Pipeline that is to carry tar-sand oil across the Plains from Canada to Texas. However, Eastern Gulf Crude Access Pipeline Project runs right through the Shawnee, and residents were already contacted by Eastern Gulf Crude Access, LLC to attend a Q&A open house last June 20th in Salem, Illinois. Open Season to solicit shipper commitments began June 5th and closed September 30, 2013. The old Trunkline Gas Company pipeline that runs between Illinois and the Louisiana Gulf is to be repurposed, with a new addition through Wayne, Clay and Marion Counties to Patoka, Illinois, just to the east of Lake Carlyle. The Patoka hub links to the Keystone Pipeline, for transport of crude oil, as will the Flanagan line starting near Chicago and running to Oklahoma, as depicted in the maps above. Enbridge Energy Company, Inc., through its affiliate Enbridge Pipelines (FSP) L.L.C., is constructing the Flanagan pipeline to carry crude from Canada or the Bakken oil fields in the Dakotas. Therefore, residents with easement and eminent domain issues, and other southern Illinoisans concerned with the preservation of the Shawnee National Forest or Cache River wetlands in Massac, Johnson, and Williamson Counties, will want to track the Eastern Gulf project. The Flanagan poses risks to the Mississippi and other land in its region either from its construction or potential spills.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulates practices of oil pipeline companies, service and access conditions of shippers, and petroleum transportation rates. FERC does not have jurisdiction over construction or maintenance of production wells, oil pipelines, refineries, or storage facilities. (Continued on Page 9)

(Pipelines, Continued from Page 8)

Construction activities are under the authority of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), to which Eastern Gulf must file an application for certificate authority to construct and operate a crude oil pipeline, and to take private property by eminent domain. The Environmental Protection Agency has jurisdiction over oil spills. Safety of oil project operations is regulated, monitored and enforced by the Department of Transportation, Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration.

Websites for more information or contacts:

Eastern GulfCrude Access, LLC : http://www.energytransfer.com/ops_egca.aspx

Enbridge Energy Company, Inc., Enbridge Pipelines (FSP) L.L.C.:

<http://www.enbridge.com/~media/www/Site%20Documents/Delivering%20Energy/Projects/Flanagan/ENB2013-FlanaganSouth-L05.pdf>

<http://www.enbridge.com/FlanaganSouthPipeline.aspx>

Enbridge project hotline at 877-797-2650, or email flanagansouth@enbridge.com

National Pipeline Mapping System: <https://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>

Midwestern Pipeline System:

http://www.eia.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/analysis_publications/ngpipeline/midwest.html

News Articles:

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/new-pipeline-across-missouri-illinois-lot-keystone-have-you-heard-it>

Illinois Commerce Commission: www.icc.illinois.gov

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.state.il.us

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission: www.ferc.gov/default.asp

U.S. Department of Transportation - Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety

Administration: www.phmsa.dot.gov

Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Fix

Illinois' Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has been a huge success, and will result in 25% of our power coming from renewable sources by 2025. Implemented in 2007, the RPS has generated more than 20,000 jobs, saved \$177 million in wholesale electricity costs and reduced carbon emissions by 5,481,327 tons.

To keep Illinois' momentum toward clean energy going strong, we need to update the RPS to reflect changing market conditions. We can fix the RPS with a very simple change that makes clean energy targets apply equally to all power suppliers - ComEd, Ameren, and the many competitive suppliers now serving most of our homes and businesses. SB0103 is pending, and Illinois legislators can still be contacted to support the bill via letter, email or online petition.

SB0103: *“Amends the Illinois Power Agency Act. Provides that, for periods beginning on and after June 1, 2014, the Agency's procurement plans shall include procurement of renewable energy credits in amounts projected to be sufficient to meet certain renewable energy resources portfolio standards. Requires the Agency to use the Illinois Power Agency Renewable Energy Resources Fund, until depleted, to procure renewable energy credits for specified purposes, and terminates the Fund upon depletion of all its funds. Provides that the Planning and Procurement Bureau shall develop procurement plans and conduct competitive procurement processes for the procurement of renewable energy credits with respect to the kilowatthour usage of delivery services non-eligible retail customers in such electric utilities' service areas. Makes changes with regard to the renewable portfolio standard. Amends the Public*

(Continued on Page 10)

(RPS, Continued from Page 9)

Utilities Act. Provides that charges for delivery services shall also include the recovery of the electric utility's costs of renewable energy credits and excluded renewable energy resources contract costs. Requires certain electric utilities to procure renewable energy credits with respect to the kilowatthour usage of delivery services non-eligible retail customers in the electric utility's service area. Provides that the obligations of alternative retail electric suppliers and electric utilities operating outside their service territories to procure renewable energy resources, make alternative compliance payments, and file annual reports, and the obligations of the Commission to determine and post alternative compliance payment rates, shall terminate effective May 31, 2014."

Sample letter, following the wording of the alternative online Illinois Chapter Sierra Club petition:

Subject: Update the Renewable Portfolio Standard

Dear [State Senator or State Representative],

I urge you to take action this fall to update Illinois Renewable Portfolio Standard, to keep Illinois on track to a clean energy future.

In 2007, Illinois established a goal to procure 25% of our power from renewable sources by 2025. Since the RPS was implemented, we have generated more than 20,000 jobs, saved \$177 million in wholesale electricity costs and made the air we breathe cleaner.

Two important changes are needed to keep moving forward with clean energy in Illinois. Please support legislation that would:

- Update the RPS to reflect today's competitive power market, to incentivize all power suppliers to invest in Illinois.
- Allow the Illinois Power Agency to finally invest Renewable Energy Resource Fund dollars in Illinois projects. Suppliers have been paying into the fund for years, and it's time to spend those dollars on projects that will benefit our communities.

I urge you to support any proposal that would make these important updates. Let's continue to create jobs, save consumers money and make the air we breathe cleaner.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]
[Your Address]
[City, State ZIP]

RPS Petition: <https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=10805>
Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club flyer: http://illinois.sierraclub.org/legislation/2013/rps_fix.pdf
SB0103, Illinois General Assembly: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?GA=98&DocTypeID=SB&DocNum=103&GAID=12&SessionID=85&LegID=69266>

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We can provide a number of opportunities for you to get active in the Shawnee Group. Write to PO Box 117, Carbondale 62903-0117 or contact membership chair Dorcy Prosser at (618) 457-6535 or dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com. We are looking for:

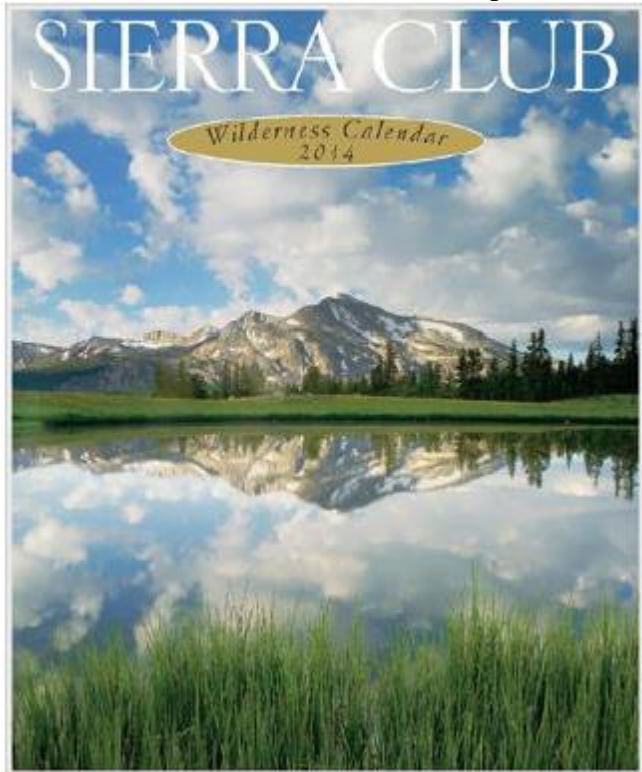
- **Political/legislative/lobbying team members**
Attend Illinois Chapter Lobbying training, lobby locally or in Springfield. Respond to legislative alerts. Participate in grassroots political action. Send questionnaires to political candidates.
- **Conservation Team**
We need volunteers to fill skills and issues needs. We need researchers, public communicators, and liaisons to agencies (e.g. Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources), plus liaisons to student groups. We also need people to spearhead action on specific issues, such as Climate Change, preserving wetlands, and coal mining. Contact Barb at babitaji@aol.com or 618-529-4824 if any of these skills or issues spark your interest. Training is available.
- **Outreach Task Force**
Represent the group at public events and educate the public about important issues. Our goals are to educate and inform; to recruit new members; and to meet current members. We are looking for task force members who will be willing to attend at least one public event during the calendar year to connect with current and former Sierra Club members as well as the public.
- **Hospitality team members**
Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (second Thursday). Contact Hospitality Chair JoAnn Nelson at (618) 529-1884 or joannnelson1928@gmail.com.
Act as a greeter for a monthly meeting or welcome and assist our speaker.
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
- **Fundraising team members**
Local Sierra Club groups such as the Shawnee Group do not receive any portion of members' dues and very limited financial support from the national Sierra Club. Our operating funds are almost entirely raised by our own efforts. We are looking for task force members who can not only brainstorm effective and original fund-raising ideas but also organize and implement them successfully. Our goals are to develop fund-raising strategies, goals and targets. Our current fundraising activity is the sale of Sierra Club calendars; this is strictly a seasonal event (currently pursued from September to January) and is in need of additional promotional efforts.

Alternative Gift Fair Silent Auction

Shawnee Group Sierra Club will again have a booth and silent auction items at the 9th Annual Southern Illinois Alternative Gift Fair, sponsored and organized by the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship, on Sunday, December 8th from 2-5 p.m. at the Carbondale Civic Center. Over 20 non-profits will be represented at the Fair, offering "gifts that matter". Musicians will perform throughout the fair time. Holiday shoppers are encouraged to attend and show the spirit of the holiday season through support of various organizations. If anyone has donation items for the silent auction, let Barb McKasson know, at (618) 529-4824, or via email: babitaji@aol.com.

The 2014 Sierra Engagement and Wall Calendars are Available

The wall calendars feature beautiful monthly photos of North American wilderness, plus large boxes for recording your special events and appointments each day. The engagement calendars have 57 stunning photos - a photo for each week and extra space for each day's events. Again, we are discounting them to you at below store prices - you save \$1 each - \$12 for the wall and \$13 for the engagement calendar and we pay the sales tax! Order enough for everyone on your gift list! Each is individually boxed, easy to gift wrap or suitable for mailing. We will have them at each of the Shawnee Group meetings this winter. Or we can mail them to you - the postage is around \$2.40 each. Contact Barb McKasson at 618-529-4824 or babitaji@aol.com to place your order or mail your check plus postage to Shawnee Sierra Club, PO Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117. Clara McClure can also provide calendars if you call her at 618-457-2025.



Happy Winter Hiking!

Rocky Bluff, Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2007

