



Shawnee Trails



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

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

December 2019 – February 2020 QUARTERLY

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Bezou Nicanawuck (greetings friends)

Editor's Note: Continuing from the fall edition of Shawnee Trails, we examine and pay respect to the origin of our Shawnee name, place, and people, this time from an oral history perspective, which has further genealogical corroboration.

According to the oral traditions from elders of the Vinyard Indian Settlement, our ancestors known as Sedowii's Band of Shawnees (also known as Setteedown's Shawnees) crossed and recrossed the Ohio and Wabash Rivers into southeastern Illinois during the summer of 1810 near Shawneetown, Illinois. This date was quoted by Clyde Vinyard (1890-1980), son of Ilay and Ada Lawrence Vinyard and is quoted in the Illinois and Indiana State Historical Societies upon reference. The area north of Karber's Ridge, Hardin County, Illinois, including High Knob and the hollows that encompass it, came to be known as the Vinyard Indian Settlement by local settlers and those who became intimate with the indigenous citizens and their history. "Vinyard" names are listed in the earliest titles on lands from Saline Landing to the Garden of the Gods (once a holy place) here in southeastern Illinois. Some are Native and some were German, Scottish and French.

Oral history tells us that a band of about eighty Kispokofa and Piqua, or Shawnee people, were trying to avoid a large force of colonial militia out of Ohio. The Ohio militia was attempting to prevent the various bands of Shawnees from traveling to Prophetstown and joining with Tecumseh's resistance to the taking of native homeland by European immigrants. The salt making Shawnees and fur trapping French encouraged the patriot band of Shawnee to move on into the hills. They were afraid the militia might take revenge upon them for giving rest to the retreating people. The salt making Shawnees informed the band of isolated lands and hollows up in the hills south and west of Shawneetown. This tough band of ancestors stayed two days at Shawneetown, so we are told, before going into the hills. Some of today's local residents tell stories of a heavy exchange of gunfire between the Shawnees and recent colonial immigrants who were establishing farms in the Shawnee homelands.

Citizens of the Vinyard Indian Settlement chose to remain here in the Ohio River homelands rather than remove to Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas and, eventually, Oklahoma as did the Piqua band in the early 1800s. To our ancestors, the Kispokofa, homelands were essential to life itself. We stayed in communities such as Eagle Creek, Hardin County, southern Gallatin County and southern (Continued on Page 2)

(Bezon Nicanawuck, Continued from Page 1)

Saline County. Recorded history shows interaction between colonial residents and other tribal people who survived by hunting and fishing and staying out of the way.

The frontier left a bad taste in the mouths of many families who did not want to be [removed](#) to the Indian Territory. Many were removed anyway. Many returned. Vinyard descendants still live in Pumpkin (a.k.a. Punkin) Holler north of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The last known to be brought back and buried in the homeland was Arzee Vinyard, from Salpulpa, Oklahoma, brother of Ilay and other siblings. His 1927 obituary read, "...and the white plumed spirit followed him all the way home."

The infamous [Aunt Shawnee](#), who was the medical informant for the more famous [Anna Bixby](#) (a.k.a. [Granny Bixby](#)), was a grandmother from the Vinyard Indian Settlement.

With the passing of time, many of our ancestors, inspired by a Scottish grandfather, John Tyer, attended Illinois Normal at Carbondale for a period of three months and received certificates to teach in Native and rural schools. The certificates were renewed annually. Many of the Tyer and Vinyard Natives took this opportunity to pass on cultural continuance to other tribal communities in South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. This created a family tradition of working in Native schools that began in the 1800s and continues into modern times.

Because of the loss of history and culture, citizens of the Vinyard Indian Settlement approached me in the mid-90s regarding state and federal recognition. We went to work immediately exploring the process. A bill, the Shawnee Indian Recognition Act ([HB 3217](#)), was introduced in 2015 to recognize us in the State of Illinois. Our objective was an elder living center, child daycare, and alcohol and drug rehabilitation. The bill passed the House unanimously, and the Senate passed with only one nay vote. Had the bill gone from there to the governor, the recognition would have happened. Instead, it went into committee for a discussion that never happened. We did receive complaints from mining companies (rock, coal, fracking) that saw us as in opposition to their goals. They contacted Oklahoma tribes to oppose us, tribes who saw us as competitors in the gambling industry, except we were not applying for federal recognition. Only federal tribes may operate casinos. Our state representative, Brandon Phelps, refused to bring our bill from committee, and instead, resigned his position and accepted a state lobbying position for the coal companies.

Currently, the enrolled citizens of the Vinyard Indian Settlement are involved in numerous community activities that have a motive: buying back our homelands along the Ohio River, elder living center, child daycare, and a drug and alcohol recovery center. There is no discussion of a casino nor do we want one in our homelands. The council meets four times a year in its current headquarters near Herod, Illinois. A five-year plan calls for the construction of a number of small ecologically oriented businesses that will provide jobs for both native and non-native citizens. When the council is ready, plans will be made more explicit to the public.

We invite visitors to our humble quarters, but please call first. We still maintain traditional living standards that include massive gardening, fishing, hunting, gathering of herbs and maintaining regular jobs. Ceremonial life is still a serious part of our culture and investigation of life. We maintain a sense of caution as any people concerned about emerging into the modern world of a culture that has not been kind to us nor our homelands. We ask that all people be respectful of our ways and learn to receive respect in return.

Nya'weh (thanks)

Barney Bush

The Council of the Vinyard Indian Settlement.



WINTER 2019/2020 SIERRA CLUB PROGRAMS:

Note: Access Carbondale Township Hall (217 E. Main) via REAR entrance, a green door in the alley, across from Rock Hill Baptist Church (at Monroe and Marion Streets). The front door is locked! FREE and open to the public. Refreshments and socializing before and after meeting.

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 6:30 pm

Member & Guest Year's End Gathering—Sharing conversation, events to celebrate & forward. Light refreshments. Bring a favorite appetizer or dessert to share!

Location: Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street (Details upcoming in member emails and Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club Facebook Page.)

Thursday, January 9, 2020 Program, 7 pm

Title: Building Resilient Communities, Food Forests, and Intergenerational Stewardship

Presenters: Marilyn Tipton and Jessica Lynn

Location: Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street
5 pm Dinner: Location TBA

Thursday, February 13, 2020 Program, 7 pm

Title: Campus Lake at Southern Illinois University: Status Report from Carbondale's Living Laboratory

Presenter: Marjorie Brooks, SIU Associate Professor, Zoology

Location: Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street
5 pm Dinner: Location TBA

15th Annual Southern Illinois Alternative Gift Fair!

Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club will have a table at the Alternative Gift Fair on **Saturday, December 7th, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, at the Carbondale Civic Center.** We will have calendars for sale and also some other items donated from members at our table. We also will have some items in the silent auction. The fair features "gifts that matter" from 29 local non-profit organizations. Live holiday music and refreshments make for a festive holiday event. Come on out and see us!

More information on [Facebook](#).



VOTE!

Look for the Illinois Chapter mailing. Shawnee Group Sierra Club ExCom candidate bios and ballots will be listed in this brochure, *The Prairie State Update*.

Volunteers Needed to Help Protect Shawnee National Forest

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

Concerned about fracking?

Contact Barb McKasson at babitaji@aol.com if you are interested to help. Bills to support in Springfield, include [HB282](#) (fracking transparency bill) and [HB1562](#) ([People's Property Protection Act](#), concerning subsurface trespass), so do contact your legislators. However, Barb can alert you of many action, outreach and planning opportunities that come up.

FYI, to receive more timely alerts from the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, sign up online at their state website: https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Chapter/il_newsletter_signup.html?jsessionid=84420F4C49A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131E25.app205a

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**.

WINTER 2019/2020 SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Little Grand Canyon Hike; Sunday, December 8, 2019

Meet at the Murphysboro Hardee's parking lot before 8:45 am, or at the Little Grand Canyon entrance by 9:30 am. We will do a moderate hike of about 3.6 miles. We will hike through the canyon and also see views of the Big Muddy river valley. If conditions are icy, a safer, alternative route will be taken through the canyon. Bring water, a hiking staff, and wear appropriate hiking shoes. You must call Jon Womack at 815-263-9625 before December 7 at 8 pm to go on the hike. Let Jon know if you will meet at Hardee's or at the trailhead.

Jackson Hole Hike; Sunday, January 12, 2020

This hike winds through the Greater Shawnee Hills and features cliffs, valleys, and intermittent waterfalls. Meet at 10:00 am at Marion Rural King parking lot (near the trailers/farm implements) to carpool. The trail will be moderate in difficulty over some fairly rugged terrain and will be around 3-4 miles round-trip. Be sure to bring water and something to snack on while on the trail. Contact Kevin Rohling at krohling@illinois.edu or 618-694-8150 with questions or to RSVP.

Fountain Bluff Hike; Sunday, February 16, 2020

Meet at the Murphysboro ranger station on Walnut St. before 10 am. This will be a moderate hike of approximately 3 miles. We will go to a high bluff with scenic views. Wear appropriate shoes and bring water. You will need to call Bob Mulcahy at 618-942-6342 to RSVP.

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. We have scheduled the service outings below for December 2019 and are working on scheduling more in 2020.

LaRue-Pine Hills/Snake Road Saturday, December 14th

Meet at 11:00 am at Murdale Shopping Center by the big sign to carpool from Carbondale or meet at Winters Pond at 12:00 Noon. We will be pulling and lopping/treating bush honeysuckle and possibly other invasives. Bring water and wear close toed shoes. Call Barb at 618-549-9684 or text 618-534-7440.

Fern Rocks Nature Preserve (Trillium Trail) in Giant City State Park Sunday, December 15th

Meet at 1:00 pm at the Giant City Visitors Center, then carpool to the nature preserve at Trillium Trail. We will be pulling winter creeper and possibly other invasives. Bring water and wear close-toed shoes. Call Barb at 618-549-9684 or text 618-534-7440.

Please consult our web page sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee or our Facebook Page ([Sierra Club Shawnee Group](https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubShawnee)) for further developments in 2020 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>

Big Muddy River Alert!
Pond Creek Mine Pipeline to Big Muddy River Hearing December 18, 2019

Pond Creek Mine revised plan to discharge highly polluted water into the Big Muddy River is being reviewed by Illinois EPA. By popular demand, the IEPA will be holding a [public hearing](#).

WHEN: 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 18, 2019

WHERE: The Diamond Club at Rent One Park, 1000 Miners Drive, Marion, Illinois 62959.

WHO: Everyone who is concerned about the pollution, flooding, harm to wildlife and recreational hazards that can be caused by the proposed pipeline and the polluted discharge from the mine directly into the Big Muddy River.

WHY: We need a huge showing of people at this hearing to let IEPA know our concerns about this huge new source of polluted water into the Big Muddy River. Millions of gallons a day of water polluted with high concentrations of chlorides and sulfates are planned to be discharged to the river.

WHAT: The mine is located east of Johnston City in Williamson County. Williamson Energy LLC is proposing to build a 12.5 mile long water management pipeline northeast from the mine to the Big Muddy River in Franklin County, with a mine water discharge approximately 14 miles south of the Rend Lake Dam. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) draft permit for this project is NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) Number IL0077666 and can be found on the IEPA website at: <https://external.epa.illinois.gov/WebSiteApi/api/PublicNotices/GetDocument/9025>

HOW: To carpool to the hearing, contact Barb at babitaji@aol.com or call 618-549-9684 or text 618-534-7440.

Do you use the Big Muddy for canoeing or kayaking? Fishing? Scenic overlooks? Does the Big Muddy flood onto your land? Are you concerned about increased pollutants killing the fish and wildlife in the river? Increased erosion and sediments? Concerned about effects of ground water being pumped out of the mines and lost to the aquifer? Let the IEPA know your concerns by coming to the hearing and by sending them an Email or Snail Mail – let them know how the proposed pipeline will affect you directly or indirectly. Specific, personal concerns may include:

- The effects of high concentrations of chlorides and sulfates on fish and other wildlife
- Increased flooding in your area
- The effects of sedimentation on wildlife, covering up fish eggs or insect larvae
- Areas where you have seen erosion caused by flooding
- Your concern about direct contact with the water because of chlorides and sulfates when you are fishing, canoeing or kayaking on the Big Muddy River
- Effects on sensitive wildlife areas, such as LaRue Swamp
- The effects on riparian vegetation – salts are harmful to plants

You can also send written comments following the December 18th public hearing:

- **Send your email or mail your letter so it is received no later than January 17, 2020.**
- **Be sure to include your name, full address, and facts/examples of your concerns and evidence supporting your issues. Don't just copy/paste; write your letter with your own words.**
- **Be sure you specify Pond Creek Mine or IL0077666 in the subject line of your email and/or on each page of your written comment.**
- **Email to epa.publichearingcom@illinois.gov or mail to Barb Lieberoff, Mail Code #5, RE: Pond Creek Mine NPDES, Illinois EPA, 1021 North Grand Ave. East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, IL 19276**

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR COMMENTING ON POND CREEK PIPELINE:

IEPA has not yet approved the permit. Per the [public hearing notice](#), IEPA invites comments that are regarding their draft reissued permit which incorporates the following:

1. The addition of 70.7 acres for the mine pipeline to the Big Muddy River from the mine processing plant east of Johnston City.
2. The addition of three new NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) discharges which will allow the mine to have three new locations for releasing mine water, including the new discharge point to the Big Muddy River which is outfall number 011. These water releases will have to meet specific contamination levels to comply with the proposed permit.
3. The addition of 229.78 acres for the new mine Disposal Area Number 3 at the mine processing site.
4. The addition of various mining operation and drainage control plan revisions.
5. The addition of 145.32 acres at the mine for Incidental Boundary Revisions (IBR's).
6. The addition of bi-annual metals monitoring for Outfall Numbers 006,007,008, 009, 009ES, and 011.
7. The incorporation of previously-issued State Construction and Operating Permits.

The mine wants a new NPDES discharge outfall 011, which will place a diffuser in the middle of the Big Muddy River to discharge from 2,700,000 gallons up to 3,500,000 gallons per day or more, with a maximum rate of over 7 million gallons per day of mine wastewater. This discharge includes groundwater infiltrating the mine and mine process water from mining operations. The mine intends to use water holding cells to let solids and other materials settle before the water is piped to the Big Muddy. They claim they will meet the proposed water permit levels. While the mine listed various treatment options, many types are expensive. The mine wants to pipe water to the Big Muddy because they only have a finite capacity to store water. The river will be used for a mixing zone to dilute the pollution.

The IDNR permit application states that the infiltrating groundwater is from an underground saline zone and the chloride and sulfate content of this water typically exceeds the water quality standard allowed to be discharged into receiving waters.

The average chloride concentration of the samples was listed as 2,237 mg/L and the average sulfate concentration was 1,940 mg/L, and the IEPA antidegradation assessment states that the levels to be discharged to the Big Muddy River could be as high as 12,000 mg/L chloride and 2,120 mg/L sulfate, totaling up to 1.2 million pounds per day of chloride and 476,000 pounds per day of sulfate. High chloride is proven to harm fish and other aquatic life.

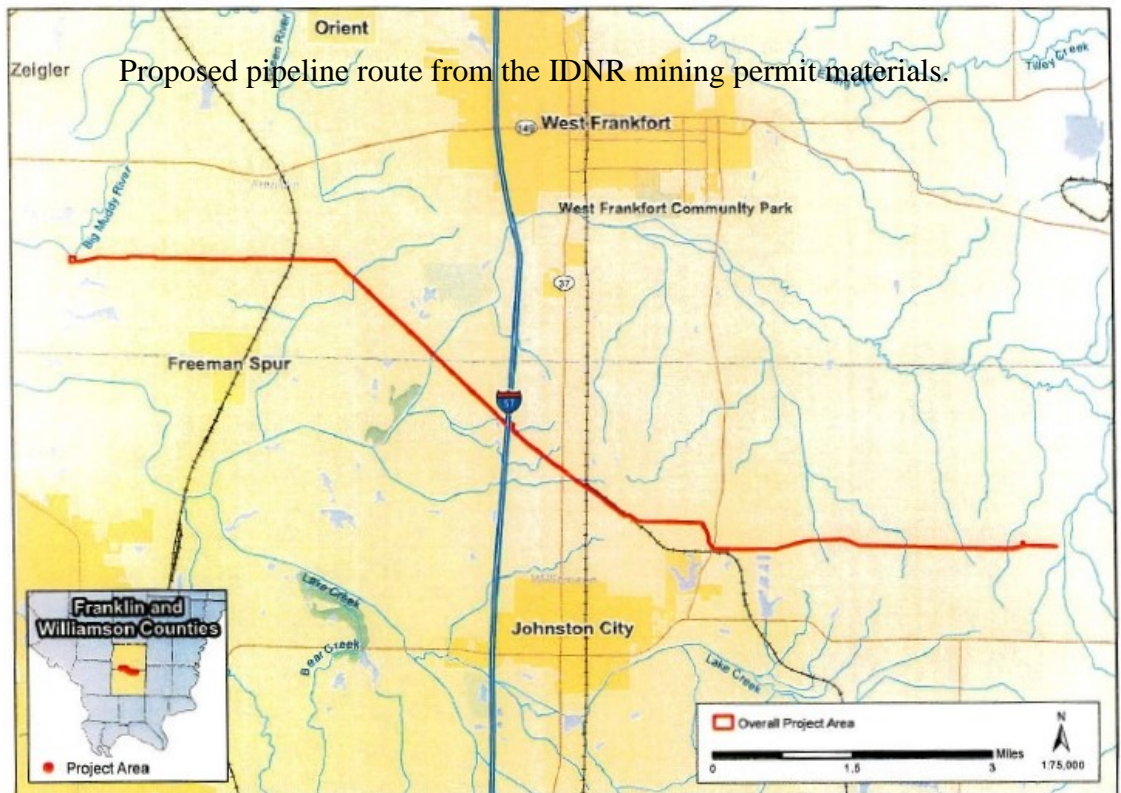
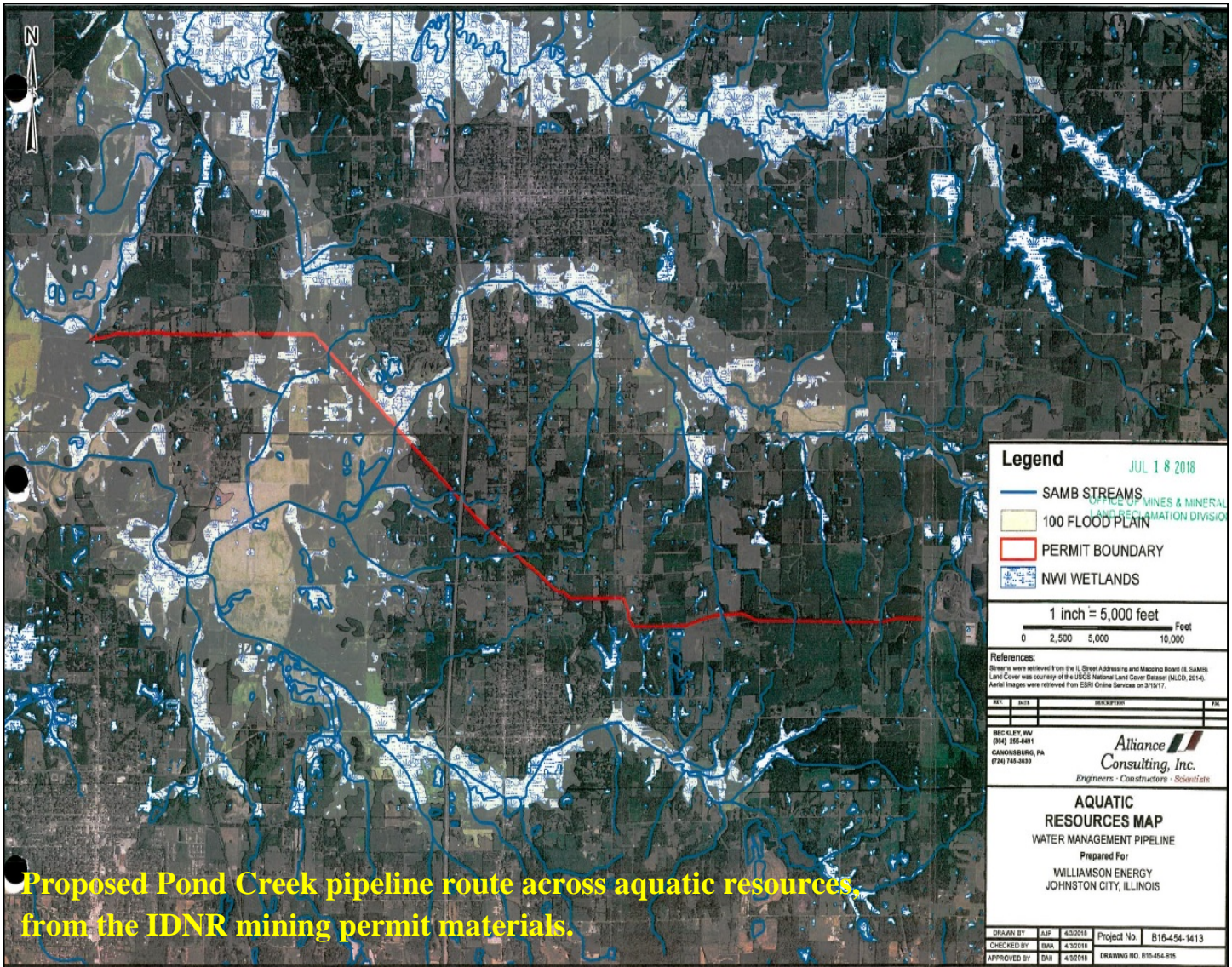


Figure A-1. General location of the project area, Williamson and Franklin counties, Illinois.



Proposed Pond Creek pipeline route across aquatic resources, from the IDNR mining permit materials.

Illinois Legislative Contacts: CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!

State Dist. 109 - Rep. Darren Bailey: 618-665-4109 or 217-782-2087; <http://www.ilhousegop.org/contactbailey>
 State Dist. 115 - Rep. Terri Bryant: 618-242-8115; 217-782-0387; staterepterribryant@gmail.com
 State Dist. 116 - Rep. Jerry Costello II: 618-282-7284; 217-782-1018 Staterepcostello@gmail.com
 State Dist. 117 - Rep. Dave Severin: 618-440-5090; 217-782-1051; www.ilhousegop.org/contactseverin
 State Rep. 118 – Rep. Patrick Windhorst: 618-294-8703; 217-782-5131; www.ilhousegop.org/windhorst_contact
 Senate Dist. 55 - Senator Dale Righter: 217-235-6033; 217-782-6674; dalerighter.com/Contact
 Senate Dist. 58 - Senator Paul Schimpf: 618-684-1100; senshimpf58@gmail.com
 Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Dale Fowler: 618-294-8951; 217-782-5509; senatorfowler59@gmail.com
 Governor JB Pritzker: 217-782-6830; <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gov/contactus/Pages/default.aspx>
 Speaker of the House Mike Madigan: 217-782-5350; 773-581-8000; mmadigan@housedem.state.il.us
 Senate President John Cullerton: 217-782-2728; 773-883-0770; jcullerton@senatedem.illinois.gov

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 John Shimkus: 618-252-8271; 202-225-5271; <https://shimkus.house.gov/>

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.

We need Hospitality team members

Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (2nd Thursday). Be the Hospitality Chair to organize refreshment providers and greeters OR Act as a greeter for a monthly meeting or welcome and assist our speaker OR Select and make reservations at a local restaurant for our monthly "Dinner Before the Meeting." Contact Jane Cogie, 618-549-4673, jane.cogie@gmail.com.



Shawnee Group Sierra Club T-Shirts for Sale!

Show your support for our local group's activities. For sale during our monthly meetings.

Color: White logo on blue T-Shirt

\$15 Medium Large or X-Large

2020 Sierra Club Calendars for Sale!

Contact Barb McKasson, 618-529-4824, babitaji@aol.com, or buy at the monthly membership meetings.

