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# Shawnee Trails

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

Sept – Dec 2013 QUARTERLY

Save This Issue! The next issue of Shawnee Trails will be published in December!



## This is the LAST paper copy of Shawnee Trails.

See Page 12 for more information. The Winter 2013 issue and subsequent issues will be posted online at <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee>. To receive notification when a new issue is available online, be sure that we have your current email address!

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Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails! The next issue will be published in December. Please send your e-files to [rth\\_kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com)

## ExCom Member Bob Tyson Dies

Bob Tyson died unexpectedly on July 5th while clearing brush from a trail in Cove Hollow. He was found on the trail by two mountain bikers.

Bob had hikes planned for the fall for Shawnee Group's outings. These have been cancelled, and we are now looking for volunteers to become official outings leaders for Shawnee Group Sierra Club

Kay Tyson, Bob's wife, has set up a memorial fund that would go to promote outings for Shawnee Group. Barb McKasson, Chair, Shawnee Group Sierra Club



## Memorial to Bob Tyson

Bob was the Shawnee Group Sierra Club Outings Chair and a member of the Shawnee Group ExCom for around nine years. He had such an enthusiasm for being in the outdoors, and went above and beyond the call of duty by constantly exploring new places and new trails for leading hikes. You may have visited our blogsite where he posted descriptions of recommended hikes at <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

Bob was instrumental in protecting access to Panthers Den Wilderness. A landowner adjacent to the trailhead at Panther's Den tried to claim the land that is the access to the area, blocking public access and even threatening hikers. Bob was persistent in reporting all of this to the police and the Forest Service. After a number of reports, the landowner finally got the message. In addition, Bob was our best diplomat to the Shawnee National Forest staff. He often was the lone Sierra Club member helping

with trail building and maintenance. He even persuaded about a dozen people to adopt a trail in Shawnee National Forest or a state park to keep the trails free of litter and to clear weeds off the paths. Once or twice a year, Bob would lead a "Trash Bash" when we cleaned up litter in popular areas in Shawnee Forest or state parks.

Bob was a steward of some of his favorite areas - especially the area that he named "Tyson Canyon." He built a trail there - even making a bridge across a small stream. He was very proud of that area. I suppose that was kind of his "man cave," and a special place that he could care for.

Bob is already sorely missed by Shawnee Group - as a dynamic leader and as a friend. He has left a huge hole. He was a great outdoorsman and a great volunteer. We really do miss him.

## 2013 Fall and Winter Outings

The previously announced hikes for the Shawnee Group have all been cancelled due to the unexpected death of outings leader Bob Tyson.

### Camp Ondessonk Weekend

Carol Klinger, a leader with Piasa Palisades Group of Sierra Club, is leading a weekend outing at Camp Ondessonk in Shawnee National Forest, November 1-3, 2013. Participants will stay in the "dorms", which have heat and electricity, and are located directly off of the parking lot. You will have access to showers and a fire pit. Cost is \$11.50 per person per night. Meals are on your own. There will be optional exploratory hikes in Shawnee Forest, which is adjacent to Camp Ondessonk. For more information, contact Carol Klinger at ciklinger@yahoo.com or call 618-288-5630.

### Fall Weekend Get Away Hikes in Shawnee

Date: Friday, October 11, 2013 to Sunday, October 13, 2013

Presented by: River Prairie Group

Leader: Jan Bradford - 847-455-2947  
jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net

Level: Moderate (advanced beginner)

Location: Murphysboro, IL 62966, USA

Come join us for a hike in the LaRue Pine Hills bluffs and the snake migration road that is closed every spring and fall on Saturday and Little Grand Canyon hike on Sunday. Elevation on this hike is around 400' so hikers must be in good physical condition. On both days naturalist Ed Max will be with us to identify plants and trees that are unique to this area. This is a lodge based weekend you won't want to miss. Leader Jan Bradford and Naturalist Ed Max. Limit 10-20 cost will be around \$160 for two nights lodging and fees. We will go out Saturday night for a group supper together. Contact Jan Bradford at jbradford60131@sbcglobal.net 847-455-2947 NOTE: IF YOU WANT TO HIKE WITHOUT LODGING COST IS \$3 PER DAY - All are welcome for the group supper Saturday night. Please contact leader.

### Eastern Missouri Group Outings Contacts:

- Chairman: Bob Gestel (636) 296-8975 rgestel@sbcglobal.net
- Coordinator: Mark Schuermann (636) 394-6265 mark\_schuermann@sbcglobal.net

See [www.sierraclub.org/emg/outings](http://www.sierraclub.org/emg/outings) and [missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings](http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings) for more outings.

## Meet Fellow Shawnee Group Members for Dinner!

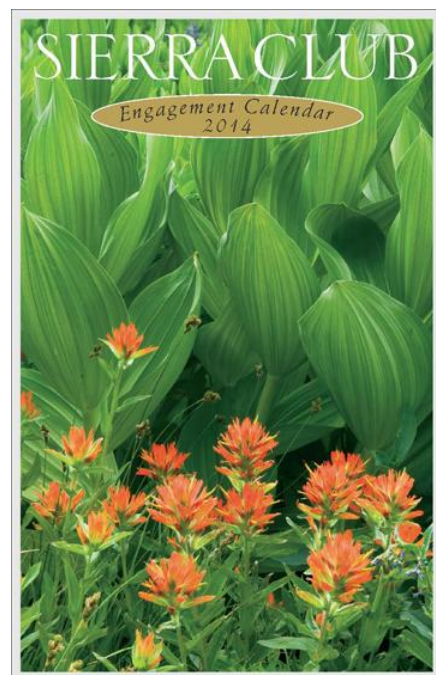
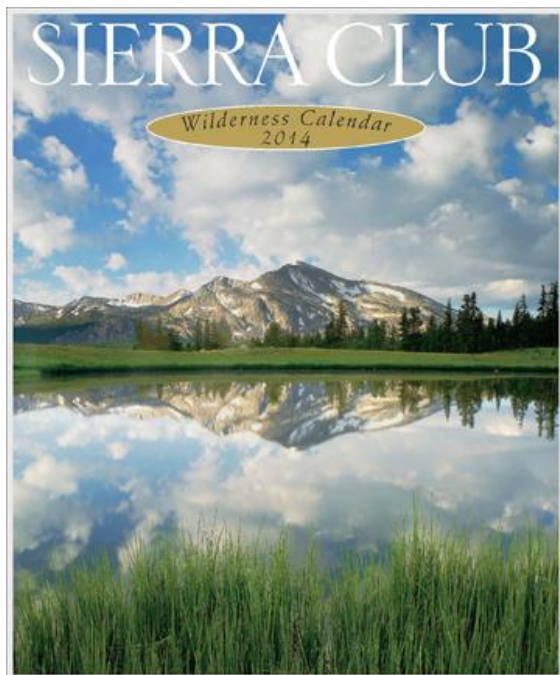


The Shawnee Group meets at a local restaurant before each monthly meeting for an hour of sociability and relaxation. New faces are most welcome and we would love to have you join us at any time! Our upcoming dinners will be at:

Thurs, Sep.12, 2013, 5 pm: Tres Hombres, 119 N. Washington, Carbondale 457-3308  
Thurs, Oct.10, 2013, 5 pm: Family Barbeque, 600 East Grand, Carbondale 529-2858  
Thurs, Nov.14, 2013, 5 pm: Italian Village, 405 South Washington, Carbondale 457-6559  
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

## The 2013 Sierra Club engagement and wall calendars are now 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. Stop by our table at Hunting and Fishing Days at John A. Logan College on Saturday, September 28 and Sunday, September 29. We'll also have them at each of the Shawnee Group meetings this fall/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](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) to place your order or mail your check plus postage to Shawnee Sierra Club, PO Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117.



### Call for Nominations for the Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Shawnee Group Sierra Club is guided by an executive committee, which has been expanded to eight members. Each ExCom member serves a two year term. Each ExCom member is expected to attend monthly ExCom meetings, plus take on some task to help support the group. Meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month.

NOW is the time for nominations. Any paid-up member is eligible to run in the election. The member's name and a biographical summary (maximum 200 words) from that candidate must be submitted to the current Shawnee ExCom **by October 6th**. The names and bios of all the nominees will be included in the winter newsletter. Please send nominations and bios to Ruth Kelley at [rth\\_kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com) or PO Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117.



## 2013 Fall and 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, September 12 at 7:00 pm: **Flatboats and the Settlement of the Midwest**

Speaker: John Schwegman

Dinner at 5 pm: Tres Hombres, 119 N. Washington, Carbondale 457-3308

Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 pm: **Giant City State Park Present and Future**

Speaker: Calvin Beckmann, new Site Superintendent, Giant City

Dinner at 5 pm: Family BarBQue, 600 East Grand, Carbondale 529-2858

Thursday, November 14 at 7:00 pm: **Super Derecho!**

Speaker: WSIL TV Meteorologist

Dinner at 5 pm: Italian Village, 405 South Washington, Carbondale 457-6559

Thursday, December 12, 2013: **Water Quality**

Speaker: Margaret Fertalay, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Dinner: Pita Alley, Murdale Shopping Center, Carbondale

### **Zombie Highway Rises Again**

Terri Treacy, Conservation Field Representative,  
Sierra Club



Just when we think the proposal to connect Paducah, Kentucky to Cape Girardeau, Missouri with an inter-state-type highway through southernmost Illinois has been securely put to rest it comes back to life cloaked as the economic savior of the region. The concept has risen yet again and we find ourselves fighting the economic interests of Cape Girardeau, Missouri for our right to protect the environment, recreational opportunities and rural lifestyle of our beloved southernmost Illinois.

Cape Girardeau's desire for a transportation shortcut to Interstate 24 in Kentucky for its economic benefit does not constitute sufficient purpose or need for the proposed 2000-foot-wide super highway through the heart of southernmost Illinois. Please lend your voice for the environment. Tell IDOT that the environmental devastation to the biologically rich and diverse environment of Southernmost Illinois resulting from yet another Interstate highway in this area will have dire consequences for the natural resource-based recreation and economy of the region. Tell IDOT there is no valid purpose or need for sacrificing environmentally fragile places like the Cache wetlands, Cypress Creek Refuge, Horseshoe Lake, the Grapevine Trail through the Shawnee National Forest, the historic Trail of Tears, Union County Refuge, or the Mississippi bottomlands to satisfy the political or economic goals of out-of-state interests.

Please visit the Citizen for Southernmost Illinois website (<http://citizensforsouthernillinois.org/>) for additional background information.

## Proposed New Madrid Levee Threatens Wetlands, Wildlife, and Cities

by Barb McKasson *Send a comment by mail or Email by September 9<sup>th</sup> deadline*

# STOP the NEW MADRID LEVEE!

The Army Corps of Engineers has resurrected the New Madrid Levee Project. This controversial project would build a 60 foot high, ¼ mile long levee, severing the last remaining connection between the Mississippi River and its floodplain in Missouri. The EPA has found almost 50,000 acres of wetlands in the New Madrid Floodway, which is now in jeopardy if we don't act!

This area is a crucial lifeline. Half of the fish in the Mississippi River spawn in the Floodway. Millions of animals depend on this floodway connection for clean water and habitat, including the endangered least tern and migrating waterfowl. Without these wetlands, more pollution will reach the Gulf of Mexico and increase the "Dead Zone."

This area is also a designated relief area for floodwaters. Without this floodway, the cities of Cairo, Olive Branch, Metropolis, Paducah and others will be in even more danger. The waters from the Mississippi will back up even more into the Ohio River and tributaries, and the damage is likely to be even worse than in the 2011 flood.

A few Missouri farmers, who have been farming successfully for many years with conditions as they are, have lobbied for closure of this open-

ing. Missouri has already lost 88% of its pre-settlement wetlands, which are critical habitat for fish and wildlife, and we cannot afford to lose more. In 2007, a US District Court ruling found significant error in the Army Corps of Engineers' estimation of wetland loss and an inadequate plan for mitigation. Citizens who value wetlands and wildlife and a sensible balance of uses were relieved and hoped that this project was dead. But last year it was resurrected by Missouri's Senator Blunt.

**How You Can Help:** Let the Corps of Engineers know your concerns during the comment period.

Send comments by September 9<sup>th</sup> to:  
Mr. Danny Ward, Project Management Branch,  
167 N. Main, Room B-202, Memphis TN 38103-1894,  
Or email comments to [dan-iel.d.ward@usace.army.mil](mailto:dan-iel.d.ward@usace.army.mil)

### **For Example:**

The Corps should cancel the New Madrid Floodway Levee Project and scale back the St. Johns Basin Project. To close the last remaining link between the Mississippi River and its floodplain in Missouri is a bad idea. In addition to the loss of wetlands, the project increases flood risk in the surrounding area, especially in Illinois. It's a costly and unnecessary project. The current project is little changed from the prior version. It still breaks the connection between river and floodplain. Such connectivity is vital to maintaining healthy and sustained river fisheries as well as waterfowl. The Corps' proposed mitigation to wetlands loss is inadequate, and would not restore the lost connection between river and floodplain.

To see the full project:

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

For further information, go to [www.nwf.org/newmadrid](http://www.nwf.org/newmadrid) For fact sheet and map, scroll down to "End New Madrid Levee Factsheet"



## SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS PROGRAM NEEDS YOU!!!

Sadly, Bob Tyson, the only outings leader for Shawnee Group, died suddenly on July 5th. It may take several people stepping forward to replace him. We really need people to step up and volunteer to take the training and lead at least two outings per year. Outings can include hikes, kayaking, bird watching, wildflower walks, geocaching, etc.

The required training includes:

1. Reading about 40 pages online and taking a short test online;
2. taking a first aid class and CPR (hands only), which Shawnee Group will pay for if there is a charge; 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](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)

## Let's Refuse to Waste

Nancy Schietzelt, McHenry County Audubon Society

Many of you remember the advent of plastics in our lives and how they made life easier for us. While we may never choose to give up some of these plastic items, such as containers for storing leftovers, I hope that we can all decide to give up one-use items such as plastic water bottles.



From a health standpoint, tap water in most cases is better for us than bottled water as it is subject to rigorous testing by state and Federal laws, which is not true for bottled water. In addition, many water bottles are made of polyethylene terephthalate, a chemical which can be harmful to humans when exposed to heat and sunlight. Other bottles are made of bisphenol A, which can affect the brain, behavior, and prostate glands of fetuses, infants, and children.

The bottles are manufactured with crude oil. . . plus, it takes about three liters of water to produce one liter of bottled water. That we continue to bottle water in plastic defies logic, especially in our world where both oil and water are limited resources.

Just as important is the fact that only one in six plastic water bottles are recycled, and . . . a bottle may take 450 years to decompose. As a result, many of them make their way to our oceans where they contribute to the ever-growing garbage patches which pose such a threat to ocean-living animals and birds.

We can do without bottled water and the environmental and health problems that it creates by simply bringing reusable bottles on our field trips that can be refilled as often as we wish. We won't have to worry about where to dispose of the plastic waste nor have the hassle of packing bottled water in our cars. Let's work together in saying "No" to plastic water bottles and opt for reusable bottles instead! --from Illinois Audubon Cardinal News, Summer/Fall 2013

## What is An Invasive Species?

Confusion about the term “invasive species” is widespread, even among plant biology majors and botanists. As one graduate student remarked to me, there are “good” invasives and “bad” invasives. He felt that tomatoes are an example of a “good” invasive, confusing a beneficial “non-native” plant with a damaging “invasive” one.

The term “invasive species” was defined by the President in Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999

“**Alien species**” means, with respect to a particular ecosystem, any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem.

“**Invasive species**” means an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

To sum it up:

Native species are

- Endemic (evolved where they occur)
- Integral part of ecosystem
- Perform ecosystem functions
- 

Non-Native species are

- Alien
- Exotic
- Domesticated/Cultivars
- Introduced
- A small number are invasive

Not all non-natives are invasive. To be invasive, a species must not only be very aggressive, but cause actual HARM, financially and/or ecologically. After all, marigolds, onions, and ring-necked pheasants are all non-native, but are widely considered beneficial, not harmful.

All “invasives” are native somewhere. They become damaging when planted outside their natural range.

Asian carp



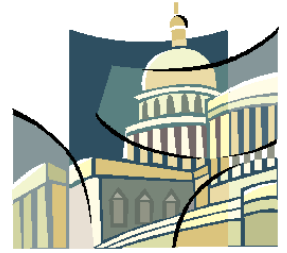
Kudzu





## 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](mailto: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 liasons to agencies (e.g. Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources), plus liasons 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](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) or 618-529-4824 if any of these skills or issues spark your interest. Training is available.

- **Newsletter Team members**

Talented people needed to write, edit, proofread, layout and design our quarterly newsletter. Artwork and photographs are also desired!

- **Outreach Task Force**

Represent the group at public events and to 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 fundraising ideas but also organize and implement them successfully. Our goals are to develop fundraising 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

## Shawnee National Forest Committee Report to Illinois Chapter Ex-Com - July, 2013

1. A. Endangered bats win!! Gallatin County land will not be swapped for a coal strip mine! American Land Holdings has withdrawn their proposal to exchange three non-Federal land tracts located in Pope and Jackson Counties for 384 acres of National Forest System land in Gallatin County for a coal strip mine. Preserving this beautiful parcel of land, with its mature bottomland forest that provides habitat for rare and endangered species, is a win for everyone. Many thanks go out to those who submitted comments, signed petitions or otherwise let their voice be heard about this important issue.

1. B. We are following up to find out who now owns the large private parcel of land within Lusk Creek Wilderness that Peabody Coal had purchased as part of their proposed land swap.

2. On March 3, 2013, Judge Gilbert issued a decision to dissolve the injunction (against the new Forest Plan). Gilbert found that the Forest Service had satisfied the terms of the injunction by curing the deficiencies found in the Court's 1995 order. The Court stated, "[the] new plan – the 2006 Forest Plan – is subject to a new administrative appeal process and, if necessary, a new judicial review under the APA. That appeal and judicial review provides a far better avenue for a comprehensive determination of compliance with NEPA, NFMA, and any other relevant statute or regulation."

4. The 2006 Forest Plan identifies all areas of the Forest except wilderness areas as available for oil or gas leasing. It further specifies terms and stipulations that must be included in leases, including a prohibition on surface occupancy in certain sen-

sitive areas. It does not consent to, approve or authorize any specific oil and gas leasing project.

5.

Between the oil and gas injunction recently being lifted on the Shawnee and the possibility of increased oil and gas activity in Illinois we have submitted questions to the FS and BLM about what this all might mean for our Shawnee National Forest.

4. The Forest Service expects to republish a Revised Environmental Assessment Invasive Species Management Plan for public comment within two weeks (early to mid-July). The Plan proposes to treat (with herbicide) four highly invasive species forest-wide as well as all invasive species within 23 Natural Areas including pathways of entry.

5. The committee received a hard copy of the (draft) map of the SNF showing the parcels where the Forest Service owns 100% of the mineral rights (incl. oil & gas), partial ownership, and 100% Private ownership. Preventing oil & gas drilling on the SNF will be a major focus of future efforts.

6.. The committee is monitoring IDOT actions concerning the proposed I-66 project, which could cut a swath through Shawnee National Forest, wetlands and other public lands. On March 25, 2013, The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) issued a notice to proceed to the Little Egypt Joint Venture. The Little Egypt Joint Venture consultant team, consisting of the joint venture partners of Horner & Shifrin, Inc. and Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. is tasked with preparing a Tiered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 66 Corridor. The joint venture partners will be supported by additional sub-consultants while conducting the 66 Corridor Tiered EIS Study.

### Need Volunteers 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 [bab-itaji@aol.com](mailto:bab-itaji@aol.com) or Terri at [terri.treacy@sierraclub.org](mailto:terri.treacy@sierraclub.org) if you are interested in helping in any way.

## Save Water and Save Your Landscaping Also!

In the Midwest, 30% of domestic potable water is used outdoors. Most of this water is used for landscape irrigation and overwatering is the single greatest cause of plant death. It has been estimated that 60% of outdoor water use is wasted. Proper plant selection and design can create a water conserving landscape that is beautiful and functional. Native plants and plants adapted to the local climate can save 20% to 50% of outdoor water use. Combining proper plant selection with good soil management practices and education can significantly reduce outdoor water use.

Illinois Section American Waterworks Association

545 S. Randall Road  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
Phone: 866-521-3595



