



Shawnee Trails



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

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

June – August 2016 QUARTERLY

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Environmental Justice and Just Transitions

By Sabrina Hardenbergh

By themselves, the promotion of economic development or environmental preservation may seem laudable goals. However, the path toward implementing such goals reveals many issues with regard to favoring some sectors and discriminating against others in ways that may inflict pollution, health and economic problems. An opposite result than what was promoted.

Low-income communities and communities of color are more often exposed to environmental contamination and pollution from industry sources, often because of their job and/or the proximity of their home, lack environmental benefits like parks and other green spaces, and lack of sufficient participation in the decision-making that creates these structural imbalances. Examples include coal and uranium mining on the [Navajo](#) reservation, demarcating national parks upon [Third World rainforest peoples' homes and subsistence](#), power plants and refineries adjacent to [low-income and minority urban neighborhoods](#), and coal mining in [Appalachia](#). For decades in international development this disjuncture has been mediated by various social science, public health, forestry, agriculture and other community organizers, or change agents, while many people now are taking back their sovereignty to speak, plan and act for themselves. Such leverage is unfolding across our own country, where we are a nation of many ethnicities, earlier native peoples, economic classes, and other qualities which stand to gain or lose in material and other standing in face of [resource and land grabs](#). Environmental justice (EJ) is the recent term that encompasses this concept, and around which many groups are trying to organize for a more just transition involving development and environmental preservation.

The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, on October 24-27, 1991, in Washington DC, drafted and adopted 17 [Principles of Environmental Justice](#). The Principles still serve as a defining document for the growing grassroots movement for environmental justice, along with more recent statements like the [Jemez Principles](#) derived from the Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice meeting, Jemez, New Mexico, in December 1996.

In 1964, [Title VI](#), Non-discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs, was an attempt to rectify exclusion from federal programs because of race, color or national origin. In 1994, President Clinton gave

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[Executive Order 12898](#), Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, wherein government agencies, such as the EPA and the Departments of Interior, Energy, and Health and Human Services, are to follow EJ practices. Unfortunately, how this process occurs has been criticized as being [“environmental equity” not “environmental justice”](#), as being patronizing and not giving sovereignty back to native people, low-income people, and people of color. Illinois EPA [policy](#) uses “EJ” and “environmental equity” interchangeably. “Big NGO’s” operating both in the United States and internationally face similar critique, although some Sierra Club chapters, such as [Michigan, do have EJ policy](#). Nevertheless, in 2014, after a lull towards such goals, President Obama made a [Presidential Proclamation – 20th Anniversary of Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice](#), reviving work on disproportionate pollution, power plant emissions, and climate change impacts, and to pursue clean air, water and land for all people. Thus, [EJ is a component](#) of the [EPA’s Clean Power Plan implementation process](#), but it’s critiqued from many sectors.

[Jemez Principles for Democratic Organizing:](#)

1. Be Inclusive
2. Emphasis on Bottom-Up Organizing
3. Let People Speak for Themselves
4. Work Together in Solidarity and Mutuality
5. Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves
6. Commitment to Self-Transformation

One critique that goes back a couple decades in international conservation-development concerns carbon trading. While energy companies, industry, government agencies and Big NGO’s see carbon trading as a solution, EJ communities do not, whether a domestic polluted community, or [displaced Third World forest people](#) who have long critiqued [Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries \(REDD\)](#).

“While the [EPA believes that a carbon trading approach can get you to compliance](#), we the people in the most impacted communities believe that it will not get us the health benefits we need to breathe easier and live longer. During the comment period and beyond, we will continue to raise our concerns and demand that achieving environmental justice remains a priority by: reducing emissions at the source; creating meaningful economic opportunities for those most impacted by the old dirty energy economy; and, encouraging a stronger reliance on real renewables like wind and solar and not allow nuclear, biomass, incineration or natural gas to be defined as clean energy.” -- [Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change](#)



[Hydrogen sulfide](#) in oil and gas fields across from rural southern Illinois house with children. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2014

Illinois is beginning the process of planning its [Clean Power Plan implementation](#), including planning its rendition of EJ involvement, despite the EPA’s new Rule being stalled by a Supreme Court decision, or deterrence by industry and their supporters. Many industry deliberations have occurred in the IEPA and Illinois Industrial Commission, as well as with other states. We have an [Environmental Justice Act](#), and a Commission on Environmental Justice whose members and scope may be modified by additional legislation such as [SB2920](#) (see Page 7 below). This EJ planning is considering a variety of [EJ examples](#) from [across the nation](#). Community groups and statewide coalitions are also interested to facilitate just transitions in the state’s energy sector within their organizations’ more specific scopes and goals, such as the [Community Futures Initiative](#) (coal severance tax, outlined in the last newsletter), the [Racial Justice Coalition](#), and [Little Village Environmental Justice Organization](#). In the coming months, further alerts concerning how you may participate on these evolving issues will be posted in our later newsletters and website or Facebook updates. Meanwhile, become as informed as you can, and become involved in local community organizing. (Continued on Page 3)

The Principles of Environmental Justice (EJ)

- 1) Environmental Justice affirms the sacredness of Mother Earth, ecological unity and the interdependence of all species, and the right to be free from ecological destruction.
- 2) Environmental Justice demands that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination or bias.
- 3) Environmental Justice mandates the right to ethical, balanced and responsible uses of land and renewable resources in the interest of a sustainable planet for humans and other living things.
- 4) Environmental Justice calls for universal protection from nuclear testing, extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons and nuclear testing that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food.
- 5) Environmental Justice affirms the fundamental right to political, economic, cultural and environmental self-determination of all peoples.
- 6) Environmental Justice demands the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production.
- 7) Environmental Justice demands the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation.
- 8) Environmental Justice affirms the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment. It also affirms the right of those who work at home to be free from environmental hazards.
- 9) Environmental Justice protects the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care.
- 10) Environmental Justice considers governmental acts of environmental injustice a violation of international law, the Universal Declaration On Human Rights, and the United Nations Convention on Genocide.
- 11) Environmental Justice must recognize a special legal and natural relationship of Native Peoples to the U.S. government through treaties, agreements, compacts, and covenants affirming sovereignty and self-determination.
- 12) Environmental Justice affirms the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities, and provided fair access for all to the full range of resources.
- 13) Environmental Justice calls for the strict enforcement of principles of informed consent, and a halt to the testing of experimental reproductive and medical procedures and vaccinations on people of color.
- 14) Environmental Justice opposes the destructive operations of multi-national corporations.
- 15) Environmental Justice opposes military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms.
- 16) Environmental Justice calls for the education of present and future generations which emphasizes social and environmental issues, based on our experience and an appreciation of our diverse cultural perspectives.
- 17) Environmental Justice requires that we, as individuals, make personal and consumer choices to consume as little of Mother Earth's resources and to produce as little waste as possible; and make the conscious decision to challenge and reprioritize our lifestyles to ensure the health of the natural world for present and future generations.

[Environmental Equity: Poison people equally](#)
[Environmental Justice: Stop poisoning people, period](#)

The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club's Frack Fight Team is steered by Terri Treacy (terri.treacy@sierraclub.org). To receive periodic updates and communications from local and national Sierra Club, become a member of Illinois Chapter's Frack Fight Team:
http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED=URI_ACTION_USER_REQUESTS&SURVEY_ID=138181

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



Bell Smith Springs.
Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2015



Cedar Lake. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2013

SUMMER 2016 SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Bell Smith Springs Hike, Sunday May, 22, 2016

Meet by the Murdale sign in the Murdale shopping center parking lot in Carbondale before **11 am**, or at the [Bell Smith Springs](#) Mill Branch trail at **noon**. [Mill Branch, aka Hill Branch, is accessed from the Hunting Branch parking area](#). We will hike the Mill Branch trail, and possibly also the Natural Bridge trail, which are moderate hikes of 2 miles and 1.5 miles respectively. We will see beautiful views of canyons and waterfalls as well as many wildflowers. Wear appropriate hiking shoes, and bring water and a hiking staff. The leader is Steve Eberhart. Call Steve at 618-967-8690 to go on the outing.

Kayak/Canoe at Cedar Lake, Saturday, June 11, 2016

Meet at the boat ramp on the west side of Cedar Lake off of Rt. 127 (south of Murphysboro) at **10 am**. Please provide your own kayak or canoe, and you must wear a life vest. Kayaks and canoes may be rented from the SIU Rec Center base camp by calling 618-453-1276. Be sure to bring a life vest, paddle, water, sun screen, etc. We will have the option of stopping at Abbey Ridge brewery for lunch following the outing. The leader is Steve Eberhart. Call Steve at 618-967-8690 to go on the outing.

Check back on the Shawnee Group Sierra Club [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page later this summer for further outings being planned. More kayak/canoe trips are quite possible. We're thinking about the Cache River Wetlands!

Sometimes other Sierra Club Chapters organize outings in and near southern Illinois, so also check the national and state Sierra Outings website periodically for opportunities.

National: <http://content.sierraclub.org/outings/>

Illinois Chapter: <http://illinois.sierraclub.org/calendar>

Plus, remember that the late Bob Tyson documented many wonderful southern Illinois hikes remaining in the Index on our [Blog](#).

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 website:

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

Other short notice outings and events may be announced on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubShawnee>

Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails! The next Fall issue will be published in late August. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to sabrina@midwest.net by **August 8th**.

SUMMER 2016 PROGRAMS NOTE: Start time at 7 PM!

Location: REAR entrance, through green door in alley, of the Carbondale Township Meeting Room at 217 East Main, 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, June 9, 2016 at 7 pm

Speaker: Brooks M. Burr, Fishes of Illinois

Dinner at 5 pm: Reema's Indian Cuisine,
709 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale 618-457-6666

Thursday, July 14, 2016 at 7 pm

Speaker: Wayne Weisman, [The Permaculture Project](#)

Dinner at 5 pm: TBA

Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 7 pm

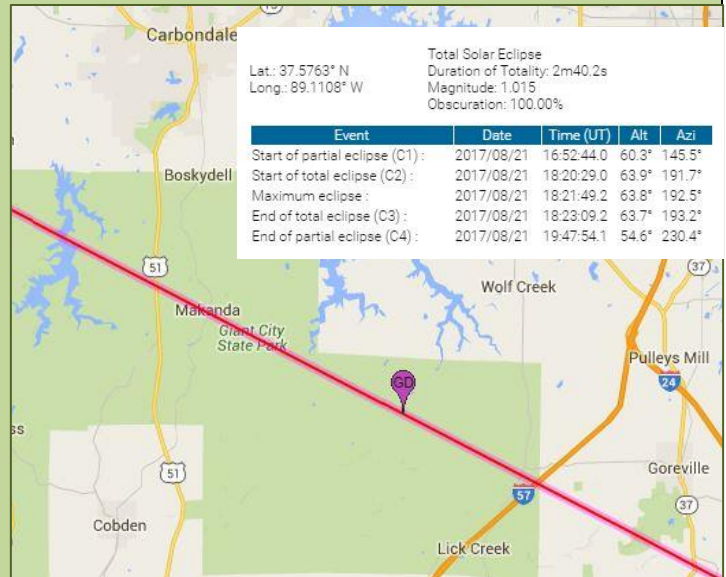
Speaker: Harry Treece, 2017 Total Solar Eclipse

Dinner at 5 pm: TBA

Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 7 pm

Speaker: Bev Shofstal, Bobcats, Coyotes, and Foxes
Oh my! (Bev may bring a fox!)

Dinner at 5 pm: TBA



2017 total solar eclipse path, southern Illinois. From [NASA map](#).

Clean Jobs Bill Update

The [Clean Jobs Bill](#), which would create 32,000 new clean energy jobs per year, is now co-sponsored by a majority of Illinois Legislators. The hang-up is that some of these sponsors also support bills that were written by CommEd and Exelon, which would undermine the Clean Jobs Bill.

WENEED YOU TO continue to CALL AND EMAIL your legislators about the Clean Jobs Bill. Make sure to use the bill number so that they don't get our bill confused with any of the green washed bills: [HB2607](#) (representatives) or [SB1485](#) (senators). A coalition of groups is trying to work out differences so the Clean Jobs Bill can be passed. The coalition statement is:

"The Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition is committed to strong clean energy legislation. Our legislation, the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill, would implement strong energy efficiency programs that reduce customer bills, fix and expand Illinois' Renewable Portfolio Standard to bring investment in wind and solar energy to our communities, provide assistance and economic opportunity to low- and moderate-income communities, and reduce carbon pollution from the electric sector. The Illinois Clean Jobs Bill would achieve those goals, create 32,000 jobs, and has won the support of majority of Illinois legislators from across our state.

The Coalition has engaged in productive discussions with ComEd and Exelon Generation about legislation that achieves these goals. At this time, those discussions have not concluded, and we have not yet reached an agreement. We look forward to reviewing the details of this new proposal, and continuing discussions toward comprehensive energy legislation that achieves the goals of the Illinois Clean Jobs bill."

The Illinois Clean Jobs bill is sponsored by over half of the Illinois General Assembly and we need to continue to show support and highlight the urgency for this bill. We also will be supporting [SB3383/HB5971](#) which protects clean energy funds, and [SB2920/HB5946](#) which will emphasize environmental justice in the Clean Power Plan.

Harms to Wildlife, Natural Areas and Environment Caused by Illinois' State Budget Impasse

Given Illinois' state budget impasse this past year, wherein many sectors have not been allocated expected funds, and many supposedly dedicated budget lines have been swept to other uses, countless people are upset about the state deficit and legislators' inability to pass a budget. The budget impasse impacts the environment, wildlife, tourism and environmentally related jobs. Illinois Chapter Sierra Club is among the many [affiliates of the Illinois Environmental Council \(IEC\)](#) that monitors legislative bills and agencies in Springfield. IEC has documented [the budget impasse's impacts upon Illinois' environmental sector](#), some of which are listed below.

INCREASED POLLUTION:

- ▶ Half of Illinois' 97 Soil and Water Conservation Districts are at risk of closing, meaning at least 85,000 additional tons of soil will erode into the state's surface waters each year, plus thousands of tons of nutrient overload.
- ▶ Programs for energy efficiency for municipalities and low-income customers have been delayed, in spite of the fact they are paid for by utilities and ratepayers, leading to an additional 160,253 tons of carbon pollution in Illinois.

THREATS TO WILDLIFE:

- ▶ IDNR has zeroed out the budget for the Endangered Species Protection Board and laid off the director.
- ▶ Grants to fisheries and wildlife operations – from mostly federal funding – have been suspended or delayed.
- ▶ Grants from the Wildlife Preservation Fund – money donated to the state through a tax check off – have not been paid out to wildlife protection programs.

JOB LOSS:

- ▶ Sweeps of renewable energy funds threaten support for energy businesses - solar and wind energy companies. This also means larger utility bills for homeowners and businesses who would have wanted to install and purchase renewables.
- ▶ Funds swept from recycling and recycling businesses

HARM TO TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION:

- ▶ Fund for Natural Areas and Open Space have been swept to pay for stop-gap measures needed due to lack of a state budget.
- ▶ Almost \$1 Billion in delays for repairs and other needs at Illinois' state parks.
- ▶ Decrease in Conservation Police Officers leading to less safety in outdoor recreation.
- ▶ Grants from federal dollar withheld because state matching money is not available.

SWEEPS – Money borrowed from designated funds in FY2015 – not including FY 2016 – IN MILLIONS:

- \$6 M – Natural Areas Acquisition Fund
- \$6M Partners for Conservation
- \$15M Park and Conservation Fund
- \$3M for solar rebates
- \$6M from Energy Efficiency Trust Fund
- \$98M from Renewable Energy Resources Fund (RPS money)
- \$15M from Solid Waste Management Fund (recycling and composting grants)

IEC, including Sierra Club, urges legislators and the Governor to pass a budget and sufficient additional revenue to fully fund a year-long budget that prioritizes the environment and health of Illinois families and communities first. We also urge legislators to pass the Illinois Clean Jobs Bill as soon as possible in order to bring more clean energy businesses, jobs and revenue to Illinois.

Other Priority Bill Updates

SB3289 - Wrongful Tree Cutting Act: This bill passed out of the Senate (44-5) has moved on to the House. We should now be asking Representatives to support [SB3289](#). No need to talk about HB5577 any longer. SB3289:

“Amends the Wrongful Tree Cutting Act. Defines "land with a primary purpose of preservation or conservation". Provides that any party found to have intentionally cut or knowingly caused to be cut any timber or tree on land with a primary purpose of preservation or conservation that he or she did not have the legal right to cut or caused to be cut must pay the owner of the timber or tree 3 times stumpage value plus all remediation costs. Provides that nothing in the Act limits the rights provided under other law of an owner of land with a primary purpose of preservation or conservation. Provides that the court may not use the diminution of market value in determining damages. Provides that the court shall allow a plaintiff who prevails to recover the cost of expenses incurred.”

SB2920 - EJ Commission: This bill’s initial intent was to change Commission on Environmental Justice members, and added that the Commission would provide input to the Illinois EPA for its submission to the U.S. EPA’s Clean Power Plan. SB2920 has been allowed extensions because of several amendments. An [initial amendment](#) removes the portion of the Act requiring Environmental Justice Commission involvement in the IEPA's state implementation plan for the Clean Power Plan. The [third amendment](#) adds more energy, labor and manufacturing sector people to the Commission, recommended by [Chamber of Commerce](#) and other interests. Thus, some of the current amendments detract from the earlier environmental justice intent of the 2011 Environmental Justice Act, and the initial intent of the bill to extend this environmental justice Commission input into the implementation of the Clean Power Plan. [SB2920](#) (as initially drafted):

“Amends the [Environmental Justice Act](#). Provides that the [Commission on Environmental Justice](#) shall review any state implementation plan to comply with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Clean Power Plan and provide comments to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency before submittal to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency shall respond to the comments and make modifications to the plan in response. Makes changes to the membership of the Commission.”

Our priority bills dealing with pollinators, pipeline safety, and the energy funds died in committee. However, these issues are not going away and we will try again.

Illinois Legislative Contacts: Call Your Legislators Today!

State Dist. 109 Rep. David Reis: 618-392-0108 or 217-782-2087; www.davidreis.org
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. John Bradley - 618-997-9697; 217-782-1051; repjohnbradley@mychoice.net
State Rep. 118 - Rep. Brandon Phelps - 618-253-4189; 217-782-5131; bpphelps118@gmail.com
Senate Dist. 55 Senator Dale Righter: 217-235-6033 or 217-782-6674
Senate Dist. 58 - Senator Dave Luechtefeld: 618-243-9014; 217-782-8137; sendavel@midwest.net
Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Gary Forby: 618-439-2504; 217-782-5509; www.senatorforby.com
Governor Bruce Rauner: 217-782-0244, <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx>
Speaker of the House Madigan: 217-782-5350; 773-581-8000; <http://www.housedem.state.il.us>
Senate President Cullerton: 217- 782-2728; 773-883-0770; jcullerton@senatedem.illinois.gov

Congressional Contacts

Senator Dick Durbin: 618-351-1122; 202-224-2152; durbin.senate.gov
Senator Mark Kirk: 202-224-2854; 312-886-3506; kirk.senate.gov
Representative Mike Bost: 618-457-5787; 202-225-5661; bost.house.gov
Representative John Shimkus: 618-252-8271; 202-225-5271; shimkus.house.gov

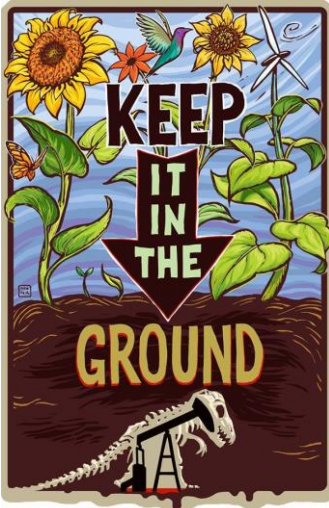
Has Your Email Address Changed?

To continue 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:

jane.cogie@gmail.com

At any time you can read current and past newsletters on the Shawnee Group website:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee> Visit the website also for information on upcoming local programs and outings as well as state and national Sierra Club issues.



Volunteers Needed to Help Protect the 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.

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 also need:

Hospitality team members

Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (second 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 Program Chair Ruth Kelley at (618) 684-2196 or rth_kelley@yahoo.com.



2010 Shawnee Sierra Club canoe trip on the Cache River. Check our [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) later for the canoe trip we're trying to organize this summer.

Photo by Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2010.