



# Shawnee Trails



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

**Sierra Club – Shawnee Group**

**March - May 2015 QUARTERLY**

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## President Obama's "All-of-the-Above" 2016 Budget Vision

By Sabrina Hardenbergh

February 2, 2015, [President Obama's 2016 Budget](#) proposed billions of dollars to support [climate change solutions and renewable energy](#), tax [credits](#) for making energy efficient vehicles and homes, [repeal of nearly \\$50 billion in tax cuts for the fossil fuel industry](#), plus funding for education, health and labor provisions for the middle-class, and other aspects of national security. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund taxes will increase, and the Superfund tax will be reinstated. Congress will deliberate Obama's vision in appropriations bills before the [new 2016 fiscal year in October](#).

Many budget items are similar to previous years' proposals. However, the [Clean Power State Incentive Fund](#), \$4 billion over 10 years, is a new feature to fund states that achieve faster or greater reductions in carbon emissions than specified by the proposed [EPA Clean Power Plan Rule](#). Overall, the [EPA](#) is allocated [\\$8.6 billion](#) to protect public health and the environment, and mitigate climate change, or [5.8% greater](#) than currently. \$50 million is marked for communities, states, and private investors to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. \$528 million is allocated to evaluate environmental and human health impacts related to air pollution, water quality, climate change, and biofuels, and to expand EPA's computational toxicology effort to study chemical risks and exposure.

Up 13.8%, [\\$7.4 billion](#) is proposed for clean-energy technology programs, mostly within the Energy and Defense departments, to advance clean energy, job creation, and energy security. \$4.8 billion for workforce education, research, development, and deployment will stimulate solar, wind, and low-carbon fossil fuels, as well as energy-efficient technologies, products, and process improvements, modernizing the U.S. energy infrastructure. Allocations include \$2.72 billion for affordability and convenience of advanced vehicles and domestic renewable fuels, residential and commercial building efficiency, \$356M for integrating energy systems into a modernized electric grid, and \$305M to improve cybersecurity of the energy sector. However, with the Budget's "all-of-the-above" energy orientation, \$560 million goes to developing technologies to reduce the carbon capture costs from fossil fuels, researching the safe, permanent storage of carbon dioxide in underground geologic formations, and the mitigation of fugitive methane emissions from natural gas infrastructure, and \$244M, toward subsurface engineering in new wellbore systems, seismic research, and other areas. [\\$44 million](#) is marked for Sandia National Labs' 10 megawatt [Supercritical CO<sup>2</sup>](#)

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Transformational Electric Power facility [demonstration](#) where more electrical power is produced per unit of fossil, nuclear, geothermal or renewable fuel, reducing operating costs and emissions, using [fluid](#) carbon dioxide in turbines versus steam. Reform and renewal of tax credits will incentivize the deployment of wind, solar, and [carbon capture sequestration](#) technologies. Allocations also protect public health and safety for DOD commitment to clean up the Cold War nuclear weapons production waste while maintaining a safe, secure, and effective nuclear weapons stockpile [without live testing](#).

In 2016, the National Park Service becomes a century old, and the Department of the Interior gets a 12.8% increase, or [\\$13.2 billion](#), while \$3.1 billion in subsidies to oil, natural-gas, coal and other mineral development on public lands and in federal waters will be eliminated over the next decade. \$1 billion over five years will help states and tribes to resolve Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) health, safety, environment and economic issues. Further funds will allow landscape scale management of ecosystem sustainability and resilience, such as the California BayDelta, the Everglades, the Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, the Gulf Coast and the Arctic. [\\$8M](#) is marked for American Indian and Alaska Native communities to plan and adapt to the expected effects of climate change. Other areas include climate resilience and disaster preparedness and response regarding floods, drought, wildfires, and ecosystem change, and endangered species protection. The land owners conservation tax deduction becomes permanent. While fully funded in its 50<sup>th</sup> year, the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) is unfortunately [supported by offshore oil and gas money](#). Yet [\\$100M](#) is marked to review and permit renewable energy projects on public lands and offshore waters.

The [\\$1.29 billion Global Climate Change Initiative](#) and its new \$3 billion [Green Climate Fund](#) support foreign assistance through bilateral, multilateral, and private mechanisms to foster low-carbon growth, promote sustainable and resilient societies, and reduce emissions from deforestation and land degradation. The program will monitor climate issues associated with conflict and its military and humanitarian mitigation.

Educating Congressmen about environmental and renewable energy topics will be important during the next half year. Fossil fuel producing states' representatives have denied earlier years' proposed repeals of fossil fuel tax cuts, renewable energy support, and climate change mitigation; they vow to continue this stance. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.), indicated [he'll halt EPA climate change regulation](#) by cutting [EPA funding](#). Read about the proposed [2016 Budget](#), and let your representatives know of specific parts to support.

### ***2015 RiverWatch Refresher Course and Training Workshops now open!***

Spring is on the way along with RiverWatch stream monitoring! The 2015 RiverWatch refreshers and [training workshops](#) have been set.

Refreshers will work a bit different from now on as it now involves videos and an online test rather than in-person meeting. However, all previously trained RiverWatch citizen scientists are welcome to sit in on any of the new volunteer training workshops for free. All second-year volunteers must take this test to be re-certified. All veteran volunteers must take this test every two years, but only have to take it this year if they did not attend a refresher course in 2014.

The refresher test is open book, you can use whichever resources you like. Be sure to check out some of the 23 new RiverWatch [training videos](#).

[Click Here to Take the 2015 RiverWatch Refresher Test](#)

Sincerely, Matthew Young

[ Illinois RiverWatch Network ] [ <http://www.ngrrc.org/Riverwatch/> ]

Anyone who has been trained as a RiverWatch citizen scientist and who has a survey site with the program can contact Barb McKasson to borrow a stream survey kit – [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) or 618-529-4824

**2015 SPRING 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, February 12, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Bob Gillespie: Woodland Restoration

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Pita Alley, Murdale Shopping Center, Carbondale, 351-6111

**Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Shawn Priddy, Deputy Coordinator, Jackson County Emergency Management Agency: Emergency Preparedness

**Dinner at 5 pm:** El Paisano, 100 North Glenview, Carbondale, 529-2352

**Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** TBA

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Thai Taste, 100 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, 457-6900

**Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Laurel Toussaint: Native Landscaping

**Dinner at 5 pm:** Longbranch Café, 100 East Jackson, Carbondale, 529-4488



Dutchman's Breeches,  
Sabrina Hardenbergh. 2003

**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 socializing and relaxation. New faces are most welcome and we would love to have you join us. Call (618) 684-2196 or email [rth\\_kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com) to RSVP by Wednesday morning before each Thursday dinner. Upcoming dinners will be at:

**Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 5 pm:** El Paisano, 100 North Glenview, Carbondale 529-2352

**Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 5 pm:** Thai Taste, 100 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale 457-6900

**Thursday, May 14, 2015 at 5 pm:** Longbranch Café, 100 East Jackson, Carbondale 529-4488

**Let Nature Take Its Course?**

Op-ed by Ruth Kelley

When restoration is mentioned, some people respond, "Just let nature take its course." Unfortunately, human activities have altered 90% of the planet's surface. These activities include but are not limited to: Logging, dirt work, ditching, draining, damming, channelization, tiling, bulldozing, plowing, road building, off-road vehicles, introduction of non-native species, fire suppression, extirpation of large herbivores and carnivores and habitat destruction and fragmentation.

Mike Jeffords, Education Liaison for Illinois Natural History Survey, says "Ecosystems are not inherently fragile. Human interventions are often massive and sometimes irreversible."

Maples, beeches, pawpaws and poplars have been moving into ridge tops and south-facing slopes due to anthropogenic disturbance, but they are not well-adapted to these habitats. This is not normal, healthy succession. Shade-loving and shade tolerant, their seedlings will grow in dense shade. In the process, they are shading out other tree seedlings, wildflowers, grasses and sedges that normally occupy the floor of a healthy forest.

Oak and hickory seedlings (and trees) are not shade tolerant. Acorns are viable for six months (white oak family) to three years (red oak family), but if the acorns dry out, the embryos will die. Acorns are also subject to heavy predation, from insects to deer. Therefore, successful regeneration depends on seed production by mature trees, not on a "seed bank," and the window of opportunity is narrow.

## 2015 SPRING SHAWNEE GROUP OUTINGS

**Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12:30 PM — Hike at Cove Hollow** — Four mile moderate hike on trail in Shawnee National Forest that borders Cedar Lake, cliff lines and shelter caves. Learn about early wildflowers. Bring water and wear appropriate shoes. We will have a car shuttle so we will walk one-way. Leaders are Ed Max and Bob Mulcahy. Call Bob Mulcahy for details and to register at 618-942-6342.

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM — Hike the Snake Road & LaRue Pine Hills** — Easy hike along the snake road at LaRue Pine Hills. Optional extension to Inspiration Point on the bluffs. This is snake migration time and spring flower season, so come along to learn more about the snakes, birds and flowers that are evident at this very biodiverse area. Leaders are Ed Max and Steve Eberhart. Call Steve at 618-687-2998 or Email at [eberpsy@frontier.com](mailto:eberpsy@frontier.com) for details and to register. Meet **before** 10:00 a.m. at the U.S. Forest Service Office at 221 Walnut St., Murphysboro, IL to drive to the trailhead.

### **Piasa Palisades Group Outings Chair:**

Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506,

[ciklinger@yahoo.com](mailto:ciklinger@yahoo.com)

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

### **Eastern Missouri Group Outings Chair:**

Bob Gestel 636-296-8975, [rgestel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rgestel@sbcglobal.net)

<http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings.aspx>

### **Future Outings TBA:**

Updates listed on our website:

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

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

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

### Sierra Club Joins Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition

by Barbara McKasson

Illinois Chapter Sierra Club is working with other environmental groups, and business, faith and labor groups to work together to pass new standards for energy efficiency and renewable energy that will create thousands of new jobs. The coalition's goals also include a sustainable environment, improved public health, and relief for consumers.

The key principles endorsed by the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition are:

- Revising the Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) to increase the share of power coming from renewable sources, like wind and solar, to 35% by 2030.
- Increasing energy efficiency standards to reduce electricity use in Illinois by 20% by 2025, creating tens of thousands of new jobs for people who design efficiency measures, weatherize buildings and upgrade appliances and technologies in homes and businesses;
- Supporting market-based strategies to reduce carbon. A new revenue stream could be used to invest in areas such as workforce development, low-income bill assistance and research and development into new clean energy technology.

Stay tuned for more information on the Clean Energy Jobs Bills, HB2607 and SB1485, that will prioritize energy efficiency, ramp up wind and solar, and pursue strategies for reducing carbon emissions and creating jobs. We will need everyone's help to pass the bills. Go to <[Illinois.sierraclub.org](http://Illinois.sierraclub.org)> for alerts and updates.

## Protecting Our Illinois Public Lands From Oil and Gas Extraction

by Barbara McKasson

The frenzy for high volume horizontal extraction of oil in Illinois has subsided because of the drop in oil prices (thank you Saudi Arabia). However, leases are still being bought and speculation has not ceased. So, this is time to get ahead of things and work to protect our public lands in Illinois.

Illinois Chapter Sierra Club plans to re-introduce a bill to prohibit any new permits for surface extraction activities and high volume horizontal extraction underlying lands owned by Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) or the federal government (i.e. Shawnee National Forest, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, etc.). This includes prohibiting permits to prospect and explore for petroleum. This applies to lands where the State or Federal government owns at least 51% of the mineral interests.

Currently only certain IDNR lands are protected from oil and gas drilling and extraction activities. This bill extends those protections to all state parks, recreation areas, fish and wildlife areas, forests and historic sites, plus all national forests, grasslands and wildlife refuges. It also repeals provisions governing certain petroleum leases, right of way over public lands and preferential rights to prospecting permits.

The Illinois Legislators were “suffering” from battle fatigue over fracking in 2014, and did not want to consider any fracking bills last year. We are counting on you to help pass this bill in the 2015 legislature. Stay tuned for further information and alerts. Last year’s bill was SB3424, which can currently be found on the <ilga.gov> website. The main sponsor for this year’s bill will be Senator Julie Morrison.



Vertical drilling near Mt. Vernon, July 2014  
Sabrina Hardenbergh

### **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](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) if you are interested in helping in any way.

The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club’s Frack Fight Team is steered by Terri Treacy ([terri.treacy@sierraclub.org](mailto:terri.treacy@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\\_ACTION\\_USER\\_REQUESTS&SURVEY\\_ID=138181](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](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 May. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to [sabrina@midwest.net](mailto:sabrina@midwest.net) by **May 11th**.

## **ALERT! Bobcat Hunting Bills Introduced in New IL Legislature ACTION NEEDED!**

Governor Quinn gave bobcats a reprieve by vetoing the Bobcat Hunting bill that sailed through the 98<sup>th</sup> IL state legislature during the November 2014 “veto session.” Now, the reprieve may not last long because there are three bobcat hunting bills currently in the hopper for this 2015 legislative session.

Sierra Club has consistently opposed hunting bobcats. We do not like the idea of killing predators. We also would like to give bobcats the chance to increase their populations enough to spread across the state. Also, we have not seen the studies that IDNR claims to show that bobcats have recovered enough to justify a hunting season.

Bobcat hunting was originally banned in 1972 after the population plunged due to habitat loss and hunting. Bobcat pelts are highly valued. Bobcats were removed from the Endangered Species List in 1999. We need these predators to keep populations of smaller animals from getting out of control and to keep the “wild” in wildlife.



Photo Credit: David Westphalen/Painet Inc.

### **ACTION NEEDED:**

Please call your state representative and senator, plus Governor Bruce Rauner to oppose any bill to allow bobcat hunting.

### **Illinois Legislative Contacts: Call Your Legislators Today!**

State Dist. 109 Rep. David Reis: 618-392-0108 or 217-782-2087

State Dist. 115 - Rep. Terri Bryant: 618-242-8115; 217-782-0387; [staterepterribryant@gmail.com](mailto:staterepterribryant@gmail.com)

State Dist. 116 - Rep. Jerry Costello II - 618-282-7284; 217-782-1018 [Staterepcostello@gmail.com](mailto:Staterepcostello@gmail.com)

State Dist. 117 - Rep. John Bradley - 618-997-9697; 217-782-1051; [repjohnbradley@mychoice.net](mailto:repjohnbradley@mychoice.net)

State Rep. 118 - Rep. Brandon Phelps - 618-253-4189; 217-782-5131; [bpphelps118@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sendavel@midwest.net)

Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Gary Forby: 618-439-2504; 217-782-5509; [Senatorforby@yahoo.com](mailto:Senatorforby@yahoo.com)

Governor Bruce Rauner: 217-782-0244, <http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/Pages/ContacttheGovernor.aspx>

## **Second Annual Sierra Club Native Plant Sale!!**

**Saturday, May 16**

**10 am 'til ?? Come early – avoid disappointment!**

**Town Square Pavillion, near intersection of US 51 North and Hwy 13 West, Carbondale, Illinois**

Large selection of plants native to southern Illinois – hardy, beautiful, pollinator friendly, and low maintenance. Plants are reasonably priced. We will have more than 1000 plants of many species, including perennial wildflowers, grasses trees, shrubs, and vines for shade and sun. There will also be plants for rain gardens (moist to wet soil).

Our first native plant sale was very successful. We were virtually sold out by 1 pm, and almost 1000 native plants found new homes.

Our goals in hosting this event were and continue to be:

1. To encourage landscaping with native plants, and
2. To raise money for the local Shawnee group Sierra Club's activities.

Both of these goals were fulfilled. We are excited about our second year – we expect to have many more plants and a greater number of species.

Why should you use indigenous Illinois plants in your gardens, yards, fields and woods?

- Birds
- Bees
- Butterflies
- Beetles
- Chipmunks
- Rabbits
- Turkeys and quail
- Erosion control
- Groundwater recharge
- Sustainability
- Climate change
- Most important – they are beautiful!

### **Websites to Learn More About Landscaping with Native Plants:**

Illinois Native Plant Society: <http://www.ill-inps.org/>

Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter: <https://www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants>

Eastern Illinois University, Landscaping and Restoration Using Illinois Native Plant Species:  
[http://castle.eiu.edu/~n\\_plants/](http://castle.eiu.edu/~n_plants/)

Illinois Natural History Survey, Links to Using Native Plants in the Landscape:  
<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/~kenr/prairienativelinks.html>

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas Austin, Illinois Recommended:  
<http://www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=IL>

Plant Native, How to Naturescape: [http://www.plantnative.org/how\\_intro.htm](http://www.plantnative.org/how_intro.htm)

University of Illinois Extension, Wildflowers: <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/wildflowers/nativeplants.cfm>

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Illinois:  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/il/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs141p2\\_030715](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/il/plantsanimals/?cid=nrcs141p2_030715)

US Dept. of Transportation, State Plant Listings, Illinois:  
[http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt\\_rd\\_il.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecosystems/vegmgmt_rd_il.asp)

Wild Ones Native Landscapers: <http://www.wildones.org/>

## 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:

[dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com)

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

<http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee/> Visit the website also for information on upcoming local programs and outings as well as 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 also need:**

##### **\* Hospitality team members**

Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (second Thursday). Contact Hospitality Chair Phyllis Beck at 618-549-9819, [ptherapist@frontier.com](mailto:ptherapist@frontier.com) 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](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com).

### **August SIU Arena Yard Sale Donations**

Spring is around the corner, so now is the time to start getting rid of things you no longer need. As one of our fundraisers, Shawnee Group has decided to take part in the August Arena Flea Market. So, we are willing to house your castaway items until then.

You can help yourself and Shawnee Group by collecting items that you no longer need, such as old bicycles, fishing equipment, household items, etc. – just no clothes, no Christmas decorations. Then bring your items to McKasson's garage. Call Barb at 618-529-4824 for directions and a drop-off time.

**Giant City State Park** needs **volunteers** to help at the Visitor Center this spring. If you are able to provide a few hours any day of the week, please contact Jennifer Randolph, 618-457-4836, [Jennifer.Randolph@illinois.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Randolph@illinois.gov).

Cliffs along Trillium Trail, Giant City State Park,  
Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2013

