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**Shawnee Group Contact Information:**

Shawnee Group Sierra Club  
PO Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>  
also <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

**Chair, Membership/Political Chair:** Jane Cogie 618-549-4673 [jane.cogie@gmail.com](mailto:jane.cogie@gmail.com)

**Vice Chair:** Carla Womack, [crusso1957@yahoo.com](mailto:crusso1957@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Patty Weyhrich [pweyhrich711@hotmail.com](mailto:pweyhrich711@hotmail.com)

**Secretary:** John Magney 618-529-3194 [jmagney@siu.edu](mailto:jmagney@siu.edu)

**Program Committee:** Jane Cogie, John Magney, Elizabeth Donohue, [glendagreenhouse@gmail.com](mailto:glendagreenhouse@gmail.com)

**Lobbying Chair, Conservation Co-Chair:** Jean Sellar 618-893-1379 [biojean@peoplepc.com](mailto:biojean@peoplepc.com)

**Conservation Co-Chair, Shawnee National Forest Committee, Cool Cities Initiative:**

Barb McKasson  
618-529-4824 [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)

**Outings Chair:** Steve Eberhart, [eberpsy@icloud.com](mailto:eberpsy@icloud.com) 618-687-2998

**Fundraising Committee:**  
Carla Womack (native plant sale)  
Barb McKasson (calendars)

**Hospitality:** (vacant, please volunteer!)

**Newsletter Editor, Webmaster:** Sabrina Hardenbergh [sabrina@midwest.net](mailto:sabrina@midwest.net)

**Publicity:** Mike Covell [emike@siu.edu](mailto:emike@siu.edu)

**VP Pence: Another Dirty Secret Back Home Entering Our Backyard**

*By Sabrina Hardenbergh*

Environmentally concerned southern Illinoisans have spoken up about the many problems of coal and the need to transition to renewable energy for many years. The recent federal repeal of EPA regulations intended to protect water, air, and our health, and the many fossil fuel proponents in top federal positions, is disturbing, to say the least. We fight in Springfield and Washington, yet we also need to look just across our state border at our neighbors' decisions that impact us. While reading yet another health research article on a topic of key interest concerning a relative, regarding [PM 2.5 air pollution's relationship to Alzheimer's](#) (a condition where many [systemic](#) or [inflammation factors](#) are of concern), the thought occurred to look up the air pollution maps on the EPA [EJScreen](#). Particulate matter is also a factor in [asthma](#), [lung cancer](#), [heart disease](#), [diabetes](#), and [premature birth](#); [Illinois is among states with high PM 2.5](#). On the [EJScreen map](#), southern Illinois is layered with even higher proportions of PM 2.5, ozone and other hazards. Upon zooming out, the PM 2.5 pollution appears to emanate from Evansville, Indiana. A Google search reveals coal power plants and a new permit for a plant to liquify coal to gas. EPA [EasyRSEI](#) air data is discouraging too. Not recalling the [exposé of Evansville's air pollution health hazard](#) being well known in southern Illinois, despite its being an [Indiana Sierra Club Beyond Coal issue](#), some details follow.

Seven coal fired power plants are within 40 miles of Evansville. In 2014, the [Center for Public Integrity](#) examined two large toxic air release and greenhouse gas emissions databases. A third of toxic releases come from a top 100 out of 20,000 power plants, factories and other sources. [Twenty-two "Super Polluters"](#) appeared on both lists. [Four Super Polluters are in southwest Indiana](#), home to 5 of Indiana's 6 coal fired power plants. The study found that more toxic pollution from utility coal plants was sent into the air within 30 miles of Evansville than around any other mid-sized or large American city, which also is impacted by air pollution from other [manufacturing](#). The 6 Indiana power plants made a quarter of Indiana air emissions, and within its 7 most southwestern counties, three-quarters of the air pollution recorded in the inventory came from the 6 coal plants. A couple nearby Kentucky plants add to regional air pollution. Indiana ranks [first out of 56](#) states/territories nationwide based on total highest toxic chemical releases per square mile, although part of the pollution is produced by manufacturing such as steel, aluminum and plastics production. Some coal-fired plants are being [closed](#), but mostly in central Indiana. Indiana, then under Governor Pence, was among 27 states suing the federal government over the Clean Power Plan. [Eight northeastern states](#) sued the EPA for permitting too much air pollution in upwind Indiana and other coal mining and coal power plant states.

By the Wabash River and I64, 25 miles northwest of Evansville, **Gibson** is Duke Energy's largest plant at [3,145 megawatts](#), (Continued on Page 2)

(Our Backyard , Continued from Page 1)

the 4th-largest coal plant in the country by capacity. It released [2.9 million pounds of air pollutants in 2014](#), according to the [toxics inventory](#), much of that sulfuric acid, contributing to the formation of fine particles, a lung irritant. Lead, arsenic and mercury, all neurotoxins, added up to 1,000 pounds that year too. Gibson was the [4<sup>th</sup> top greenhouse gas polluting site nationwide](#).

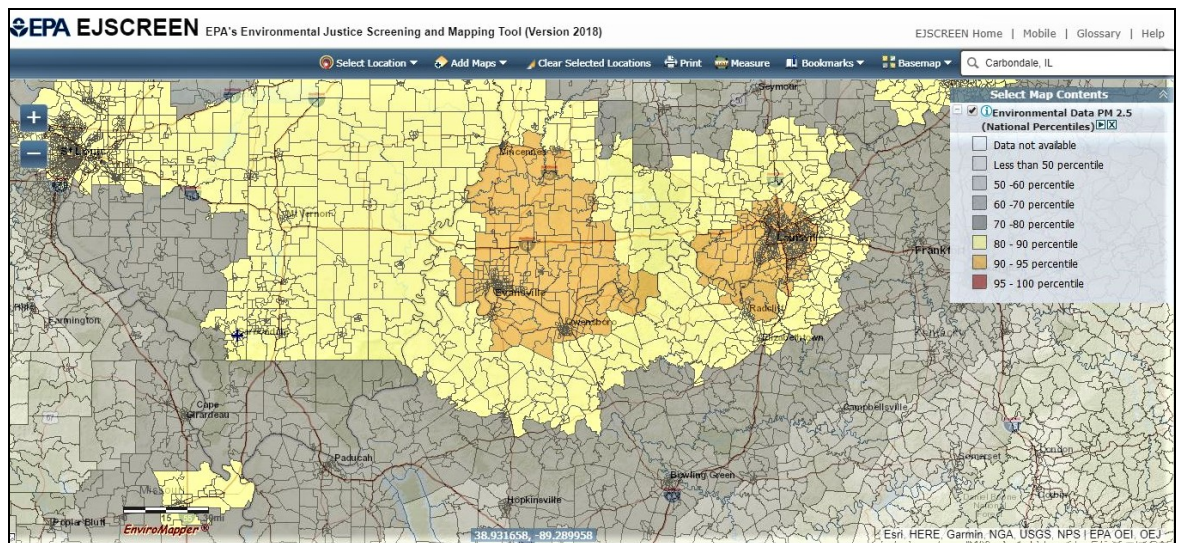
**Rockport Generating Station**, with its nearly world record 1,038-foot stack, operated by Indiana Michigan Power, a subsidiary of American Electric Power, tied for tenth-largest coal plant in the country. [Spencer County](#) ranks [23 for toxic releases](#) among all United States counties in the EPA's [Toxic Release Inventory](#), from AK Steel and this coal-fired power plant, which has non-compliance [violations](#). In 1999, the EPA, environmental groups and eight states (not Indiana) sued American Electric Power for emissions at coal plants; settlement remains pending.

Recently, although Indiana Department of Environmental Management denies significant impact, [southwestern Indiana residents](#) are also [concerned](#) about a new [coal hydrogenation plant](#) in Dale, IN adding to Spencer County and the region's pollution. Finely ground coal slurry mixed with hydrogen, heated to 450° C, yields hot gas, which then is condensed to [liquid crude oil](#) to fractionate into gasoline, middle oil, and heavy oil. Riverview Energy Corporation anticipates [marketing](#) 4.8 million barrels of low-sulfur diesel fuel, 2.5 million barrels of naphtha, and sulfur, made from 1.6 million tons of coal a year. This process can release [hydrogen cyanide, phenols, cresols, carbonyl and hydrogen sulfides, ammonia, mercaptans, thiocyanides, aniline, arsenic, trace metals and various polycyclic hydrocarbons](#) if mismanaged, risks for cancer, cardiac, endocrine, neurological and respiratory problems.

[AES Corp.'s Petersburg](#) power plant, 40 miles northeast of Evansville, put more chemicals into the air in [2014](#) than all but eight other sites nationwide. **Petersburg** was [35th for greenhouse gases](#). The plant had multiple [emissions violations](#).

[Warrick](#) (Alcoa) and [F.B. Culley](#) (Vectran Corp.) coal-fired power plants are located 7 miles southeast of Evansville in [Warrick County](#). **Warrick** power plant is also among the [top 100 toxic releases and greenhouse gas](#) emissions in the nation, and has had many [violations](#). F.B. Culley has also had [violations](#).

*“In Southwest Indiana, ozone pollution is a problem during spring, summer, and early fall, while fine particulate pollution may be a problem year-round. These and other air pollutants can be hazardous to our health and environment.” – [Vanderburg County Health Department](#)*



Vanderburg County Health Department acknowledges the health hazard of air pollution around Evansville, including posting alerts of days with [high ozone and particulate matter](#). However, they do not say anything about the many area power plant sources. Instead they advise residents to reduce their own fossil fuel consumption by less vehicle, lawn mower and appliance use, insulating homes, and planting trees. They state that this upholds their mission to [“insure that the citizens of Southern Indiana have healthy air to breathe, while not suffering hindered economic development due to air quality problems.”](#) Other websites report air quality, like the EPA's [Air Now](#), [Easy RSEI](#), and [Weather Underground](#). A local group, [Valley Watch](#), notes that air pollution monitors have often been down for “maintenance” when air pollution is high, leading to no alerts or documentation. Vanderburg had higher PM 2.5 levels than nearly [90 percent](#) of U.S. counties.

## **SPRING 2019 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, March 14, 2019 Program 7 pm**

**Title:** Discovering the Shawnee

**Presenter:** Prof Gary Kolb, SIUC Cinema & Photography Department, Emerita

**Location:** Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main (back entrance)

**5 pm Dinner:** Keeper's Quarters

### **Thursday, April 11, 2019 Program, 7 pm**

**Title:** Regenerative Agriculture: The What, Where & Why

**Presenter:** Kim Erndt-Pitcher, Habitat & Agriculture Programs Specialist, Prairie River Network

**Location:** Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main (back entrance)

**5 pm Dinner:** Location TBA

### **Thursday, May 23, 2019 Program, 7 pm**

**Title:** Molecular Evolution Research: What Is It, Why Is It Important, and Why Do Scientific Names Change Because of It?

**Presenter:** Marisa Szubryt, SIUC Graduate Student in Plant Biology

**Location:** Carbondale Township, 217 E. Main Street

**5 pm Dinner:** location TBA



**Save the Date: Sunday, June 30, 2019 for a member-guest gathering, sharing a meal at Scratch Brewery in Ava.** This event will replace our June Picnic. Details will follow, in our summer newsletter and the Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club Facebook page.

### **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.

### **Concerned about fracking?**

Contact Barb McKasson at [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com) if you are interested to help. New 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](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 6th**.

## **SPRING 2019 SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS**

### **Kincaid Lake Trail hike; Sunday, March 10, 2019, 10:00 AM**

Meet at the US Forest Service at 2221 Walnut in Murphysboro before 10 am to carpool. This moderate hike of up to 5 miles will offer views of Kincaid Lake, rock ledges and a cave. Wear hiking shoes and bring water. Contact Bob Mulcahy at 618-942-6342, [bobmulcahy29@yahoo.com](mailto:bobmulcahy29@yahoo.com), to sign up for the hike.

### **Little Grand Canyon Hike; Sunday, April 14, 2019, 10:00 AM**

Meet at the Forestry Station at 2221 Walnut St in Murphysboro before 10 am to carpool to this moderate hike. We will hike along the upper trail and then down and through the canyon. We will also see views of the Big Muddy river valley. Bring water, hiking staff, and hiking boots. Contact Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690, [eberpsy@icloud.com](mailto:eberpsy@icloud.com), to sign up for the hike.

### **Jackson Hole and Double Branch Hole hike; Sunday, May 5, 2019, 9:30 AM**

Meet at the Murdale shopping center in Carbondale by the Murdale sign before 9:30 am or at the Marion Rural King parking lot before 10 am. This moderate 3-mile hike will go through two natural areas of the Greater Shawnee Hills. We will see cliffs, valleys and waterfalls. Call Kevin Rohling at 618-694-8150, [kgr7998@gmail.com](mailto:kgr7998@gmail.com), to sign up for the hike.

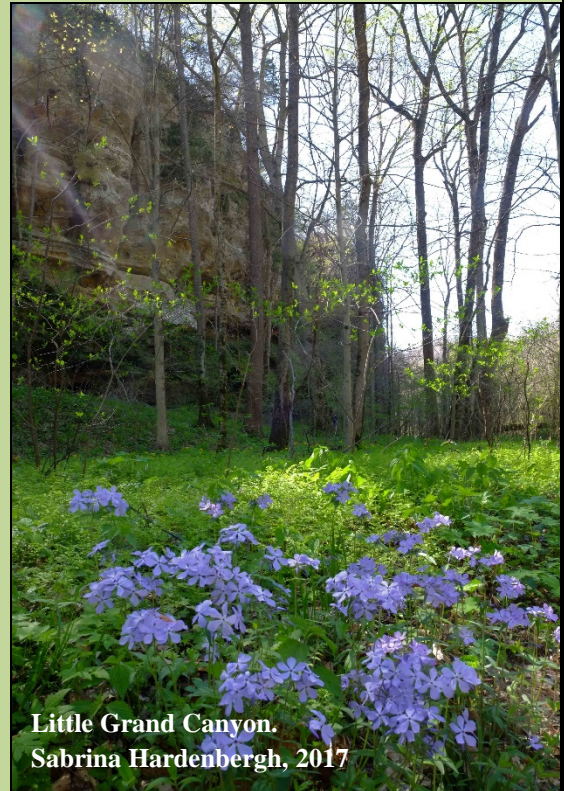
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### **Service Outings – Native Plant Rescue Team**

Shawnee Group is committed to helping rid high-quality natural areas of non-native invasive plants (NNIS) that are threatening to out-compete the natives, many of which are threatened, endangered or rare. In particular, we have been holding invasive pulls and lopping at the Fern Rocks Nature Preserve (Trillium Trail) and at LaRue – Pine Hills area in Shawnee National Forest.

Because our ability to hold these service outings depend so much on the weather and condition of the ground, we cannot nail down dates very far ahead. Thus, if you are interested in participating, please contact us and we will put you on our Email list to be notified when we do set dates. Please respond to Barb to be on our Native Plant Rescue Team with your name and Email address.

Contact Barb by phone at 618-529-4824 (voice mail) OR by text only to 618-534-7440.



Little Grand Canyon.  
Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2017

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

Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506, [ciklinger@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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>

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

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

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

## Spring 2019 Monarch Team News



Reports indicate increased monarch hibernation in Mexico, according to a recent [World Wildlife Fund survey](#). However, they also warn that monarch butterflies continue to face threats such as climate change, forest degradation in Mexico, and milkweed depletion along their migratory route.

*Photo by Terry Foster, Master Naturalist/Master*

### **“Pollinators~ Through the Artist’s Eye” ART SHOW Coming to Carbondale in June!**

It won’t be long until Monarchs that overwintered in the forested mountains of Michoacán, Mexico start making their way northward. In mid-April, when weather warms, we’ll start seeing their orange and black wings flitting above our greening meadows.

For butterflies and other pollinators, June is high season. Milkweeds, wildflowers and home gardens are in full bloom; a veritable nectar feast and procreation party.

June is the perfect time to celebrate pollinators! In collaboration with Carbondale Community Arts, we are putting on an art show, “*Pollinators ~ Through the Artist’s Eye*”. Drawings, paintings, photography, fiber art and sculpture by local artists and students will on exhibit during June at CCA’s, Gallery 304, located at 304 W. Walnut. The show is made possible by a grant from the Illinois Sierra Club and generous in-kind donation from CCA.

Please watch for the show flyer with specifics about entering the show, and info on the opening reception, workshops and lectures on the life cycles and conservation of pollinators in the on-line CCA newsletter, [www.carbondalearts.org](http://www.carbondalearts.org).

Kathy Belletire  
[KBelletireArt@gmail.com](mailto:KBelletireArt@gmail.com)



*Monarch Metamorphosis, Kathy Belletire*

## **URGENT!! Will Illinois Be a Leader In Easing the CLIMATE CRISIS? YOU DECIDE!**

*By Barbara McKasson*

Illinois Chapter Sierra Club and hundreds of environmental, healthcare, consumer, faith-based, community, and environmental justice groups plus businesses have joined together as the [Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition](#) to up the ante on fighting against the worst consequences of our human-caused climate crisis. We partnered to pass the Future Energy Jobs Act of 2016, which has led to a winning solar and energy efficiency industry. Now we are raising the level of our game to pass the new Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA).

The finer details of CEJA are still being worked out, but the “Clean Energy Jobs – Tech” bills have been introduced in both the Illinois House ([HB3624](#)) and the Illinois Senate ([SB2132](#)). Rep. Ann Williams is the main sponsor in the House, and Senator Cristina Castro is the main sponsor in the Senate. There are a good number of legislators signed on as co-sponsors of the bills, but more are needed to help move the bills along in the process. We need you to educate your legislators now.

The recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) “[Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5° C](#)” is strongly urging all earthlings and governments to take immediate action to keep earth from warming to 1.5° C above pre-industrial levels to avoid many dire consequences, and that the pledges made in the [Paris COP21 Agreement](#) is insufficient to meet the “below 1.5° C” goal. The report warns that to stabilize global temperatures at any level requires us to reduce net CO2 emissions to ZERO! Earth has already warmed by 1° C and the current rate of warming is 0.2° C per decade. We have LESS THAN TWELVE YEARS TO GET DOWN TO ZERO NET CO2 EMISSIONS!

The Clean Energy Jobs Act will repower Illinois equitably with the following goals:

- Power more than 4 million homes and lower electricity bills while pushing back against harmful federal attacks on clean energy.
- Create more than \$30 billion in new private investment in Illinois through incentives.
- Expand access to clean energy careers, build community wealth, and improve air and water quality, leading to healthier communities.
- Reduce pollution from transportation by increasing electric vehicles and support systems, and cleaner, more convenient public transportation.
- Decarbonize the electric grid.
- Prioritize jobs and economic opportunities, especially for economically disadvantaged and minority communities.

### **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

1. Find your State Representative’s and Senator’s contact information on the list on page 7 OR go online at [www.illinoispolicy.org/maps](http://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps) and type in your address.
2. Call their offices and ask them to co-sponsor the Clean Energy Jobs Act – HB3624/SB2132.
  - a. State your name and let them know you live in their district.
  - b. Say you want your Rep/Senator to co-sponsor HB3624/SB2132, the Clean Energy Jobs Act. If they are already a co-sponsor, thank them for co-sponsoring.
  - c. Let them know your personal concerns if you want to – don’t be shy!

*Note: Gov. Pritzker signed Illinois onto the U.S. Climate Alliance, and he supports the CEJA bill.*

## REGISTERING YOUR SUPPORT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

We hope you will join us in Springfield for the following Spring 2019 Lobby Days. Each one focuses on legislation targeting specific high priority environmental issues:

- **Conservation and Nutrient Pollution Lobby day - March 13:** To express your support for conserving our water and protecting it from nutrient pollution, such as from CAFOs and other agricultural practices.
- **Water & Toxics Lobby Day - April 10:** To forward legislation on lead service line replacement, water infrastructure, and more.
- **Clean Energy Lobby Day -- May 9:** To support sustainable energy and jobs created from its infrastructure.

### **Opportunity for Constituents in IL Senate District 59 (Dale Fowler) and IL House District 117 (Dave Severin) or 118 (Patrick Windhorst): GRASSROOTS VOLUNTEER LOBBY TEAM VACANCIES:**

If you are a constituent of Dale Fowler and either Dave Severin or Patrick Windhorst and are interested in lobbying these legislators in their in-district offices on Sierra Club environmental legislative priorities, please contact the Shawnee Group Chair, Jane Cogie (see contact information below).

The aim in pushing to fill these vacancies is to ensure state legislators hear about our top environmental bills face-to-face from their constituents.

Lobby team members need not have previous lobbying or policy experience. We provide them with basic lobby training and a briefing on priority bills. To volunteer for this position, you need only to be a strong communicator and be willing to attend trainings and schedule and attend lobby visits.

For more information on the three spring lobby days or the in-district lobby team openings for Senate District 59, please contact Jane Cogie, Chair, Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club (618-713-7024; [jane.cogie@gmail.com](mailto:jane.cogie@gmail.com)).

### **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](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. Dave Severin: 618-440-5090; 217-782-1051; [www.ilhousegop.org/contactseverin](http://www.ilhousegop.org/contactseverin)  
State Rep. 118 – Rep. Patrick Windhorst: 618-294-8703; 217-782-5131; [www.ilhousegop.org/windhorst\\_contact](http://www.ilhousegop.org/windhorst_contact)  
Senate Dist. 55 - Senator Dale Righter: 217-235-6033; 217-782-6674; [dalerighter.com/Contact](http://dalerighter.com/Contact)  
Senate Dist. 58 - Senator Paul Schimpf: 618-684-1100; [senshimpf58@gmail.com](mailto:senshimpf58@gmail.com)  
Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Dale Fowler: 618-294-8951; 217-782-5509; [senatorfowler59@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mmadigan@housedem.state.il.us)  
Senate President John Cullerton: 217-782-2728; 773-883-0770; [jcullerton@senatedem.illinois.gov](mailto: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: [jane.cogie@gmail.com](mailto:jane.cogie@gmail.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](mailto: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

## Sierra Club Native Plant Sale!

May 4, 2019, 10 am - 2 pm

Townsquare Pavilion, Rt. 51 & 13, Carbondale, IL

Pre-order with Carla Womack, [crusso1957@yahoo.com](mailto:crusso1957@yahoo.com).

### Wildflowers of Southern Illinois

