

<u> Sierra Club – Shawnee Group</u>

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Shawnee Trails

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

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September - November 2014 QUARTERLY

New EPA Clean Power Plan Proposed Rule

On June 2, 2014, the EPA proposed its new <u>Clean Power Plan</u>, an administrative Rule outlining the means to lower pollution from power plants across the United States. The Plan precipitates from directives in President Obama's 2013 <u>Climate Action Plan</u>. While public hearings were already held in Atlanta, Pittsburgh, Denver and Washington DC this summer, citizens and organizations can provide written public comments through <u>October 16th</u>. Already the Proposed Rule has created quite diverse activity from the energy industry, rural energy cooperatives, environmental groups, and other stakeholders who have a wide array of observations and opinions.

The government has tracked climate change for a few decades. The US Global Climate Change Research Program recognizes that, in our Midwest, this presents in the form of extreme weather (increased heat waves, humidity, flooding rainfall), lower air and water quality, and disruption of forest and aquatic ecosystems, which lowers agricultural productivity and creates public health problems. The highly energy dependent Midwestern economy produces 22 percent more greenhouse gases per capita than the national average, in part because of fossil fuel generated electricity, including coal. In our power plants, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, methane, mercury, non-mercury metals (e.g., cadmium, arsenic, lead, iron), acid gases, and particulate matter are at issue. The EPA reports some of this data on their FLIGHT, or Facility Level Information on Greenhouse gas Tool website. The Midwest has good solar capacity and more than one-quarter of the national installed wind capacity; however, electricity price distortion from direct and indirect subsidies, and unaccounted-for costs for conventional energy, hinders increased use of renewable energy. Lowering emissions, energy efficient design, and increasing forest and crop cover to form carbon sinks are means to slow climate change.

Each state will have <u>flexibility to determine</u> how they will maintain an affordable, reliable energy system, while cutting pollution and (*Continued on Page 2*)

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protecting our health and environment. Power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution, accounting for one-third of all greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. The Plan estimates a 30 percent decrease in carbon pollution from the power sector, compared to 2005 levels, as well as less soot and smog. Climate and health benefits are valued at \$55 billion to \$93 billion in 2030, including avoiding 2,700 to 6,600 premature deaths, and 140,000 to 150,000 fewer child asthma attacks. American jobs will make the U.S. electric system less polluting, and our homes and businesses more efficient, lowering electric bills by about 8 percent in 2030.

The <u>National Rural Electric Coop Association</u>, in which southern Illinois' various rural electric coops are members, has a counter <u>Cooperative Action Network</u> campaign, which is lobbying against the Clean Power Plan. This action network argues against the Plan, saying that it will threaten jobs and increase rates, but such southern Illinois coops appear to be aligned with the <u>coal industry</u>. Coal and nuclear energy are Illinois' predominant energy sources. Our rural electric coops incorporate <u>renewable energy and smart grid capacity</u> in an "all of the above" approach to their <u>fuel portfolio</u>, in which coal plays a major role, and in which natural gas and nuclear energy are included.



Lake of Egypt Power Plant. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2014

On the other hand, various groups around Illinois have been busy with a variety of technological developments, practical projects, educational programs, and renewable energy policy. During a July 16th <u>All Renewables Conference</u>, the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University showcased technical,

case study and policy examples for solar, wind, biofuel and geothermal alternatives to fossil fuel and nuclear energy. Copies of presentations from the conference are available on their <u>website</u>. Illinois Chapter Sierra Club is promoting <u>Clean Energy, Energy Solutions, and Cool Cities</u>, around which municipalities can plan sitespecific projects. A citizens' group in southern Illinois, <u>Illinois South Solutions Project</u>, influenced by Josh Fox's <u>TheSolutionsProject.org</u>, has recently been exploring energy alternatives during a number of meetings and open houses. They've directed attention to what rural energy cooperatives could do in the future to be part of this transition, since many southern Illinois residents belong to these coops. Plus they are planning community and institutional outreach. They will meet again Thursday, August 28th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm in the Illinois Room on the 2nd Floor of the SIU Carbondale Student Center in Carbondale, Illinois.

Environmental groups such as the <u>Sierra Club</u> see the Clean Power Plan as a step in the right direction, although some want a faster transition to renewable energy. The EPA lists gas and nuclear as bridge fuels to this end, which while phasing out coal, still present environmental, climate change, health and socioeconomic issues.

ACTION!

Read the Clean Power Plan: <u>http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/clean-power-plan-proposed-rule</u> Comment on the Plan via Sierra's website:

https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=13709

Comment by OCTOBER 16th with your own letter or email to the EPA (directions):

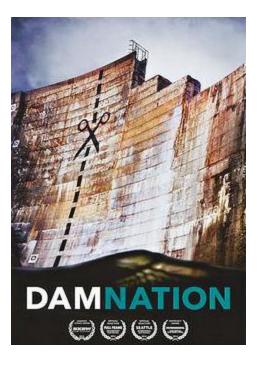
http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards/how-comment-clean-power-plan-proposed-rule

DamNation. Save the Date! September 4th, 6:30 pm, Guyon Auditorium in Morris Library at SIU Carbondale, followed by informal Q&A and reception.

Through scenic cinema photography, DamNation explores a metamorphosis in our national attitude toward dams as an engineering wonder, to an awareness that our future is interwoven with the life and health of our rivers, from conquest of the world to knowing ourselves as a part of nature. The film argues for removal of low value, high cost dams. Sierrans will revisit preservation and resource management issues also debated by our founder John Muir with Gifford Pinchot over the Hetch Hetchy Dam a century ago.

DamNation website: <u>http://damnationfilm.com/</u>

Co-sponsored by Shawnee Group Sierra Club and IGERT



2014 FALL PROGRAMS NOTE: 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, Sept. 11, 2014 at 7 pm

Speaker: Silvia Secchi: Climate Change and Land Use **Dinner, 5pm:** El Paisano, 100 North Glenview, Carbondale, 529-2352

Thursday, Oct 9, 2014 at 7 pm Speaker: Richard Reilly, Illinois Home Performance - Energy Efficiency for Homeowners Dinner, 5pm: Thai Taste,100 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, 457-6900

Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 at 7 pm Speaker: Deidre Davis: Environmental Justice Dinner, 5pm: Git Sum India, 709 South Illinois Ave, Carbondale, 457-6666

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 at 7 pm

Speaker: Jay Needham: Acoustic Ecology **Dinner, 5pm:** Fujiyama, 715 N Giant City Road, Carbondale, 549-2000

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 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:

Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014 at 5 pm Dinner: El Paisano,100 North Glenview, Carbondale Thursday, Oct. 9, 2014 at 5 pm Dinner: Thai Taste,100 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 at 5 pm Dinner: Git Sum India, 709 South Illinois Ave, Carbondale Thursday, Dec. 11, 2014 at 5 pm Dinner: Fujiyama, 715 N Giant City Road, Carbondale

Wilderness Act 50th Anniversary Hikes in Southern Illinois

In Celebration of the Wilderness Act, several local groups of the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club collaborated to plan an outing to every wilderness area in the state. Seven of the wilderness areas are located in the only National Forest in the state – the Shawnee National Forest. The eighth is in Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Although not a part of the outing itself, Sierrans will camp for the weekend at nearby campgrounds. We face a unique outings challenge in that Wilderness areas are restricted to groups of ten or less. We may need to form multiple groups if the numbers exceed ten. **Contact Carol Klinger, ciklinger@yahoo.com, to reserve your spot for the hikes listed below.**

09/27/14 Crab Orchard and Panther's Den Wilderness

Sheltered overhangs beneath the bluffs provide habitat for the endangered French's shooting star. Muskrats, deer, and beavers are common sights. Mink and bobcats have been seen here too. Wear weather appropriate clothing and pack a lunch. Camping is not part of the outing; however, Sierrans camp for the weekend in nearby Ferne Clyffe State park in the tent camp area. <u>http://tioga.sierraclub.org/oars-activity/pages/activity.jsf?activity=50561</u>

10/25/14 Garden of the Gods Wilderness

Admire breathtaking views of forests below massive sandstone formations, canyons and bluffs, carved by millions of years of wind and water. Wear weather appropriate clothing and pack a lunch. This location was selected for the fall outing due to its wonder fall color beauty. Camping is not part of the outing; however, Sierrans camp for the weekend in nearby Pharaoh Campground. <u>http://tioga.sierraclub.org/oars-activity/pages/</u>activity_jsf?activity=50562

Tour of Trail of Tears Forestry Management Plots

Following up her July presentation to the Sierra Club, Tracey Boutelle Fidler has set up a field trip on Saturday, September 6th at 9 am. Participants will meet at the white barn at Trail of Tears park.

Piasa Palisades Group Outings Chair:

Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506, <u>ciklinger@yahoo.com</u> http://illinois.sierraclub.org/PiasaPalisades

Eastern Missouri Group Outings Chair:

Bob Gestel 636-296-8975, <u>rgestel@sbcglobal.net</u> http://missouri.sierraclub.org/emg/outings.aspx



Panther's Den.

Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2010.

9 am, Sunday, September 28, 2014 Hike at Belle Smith Springs <u>in the Shawnee National Forest</u>

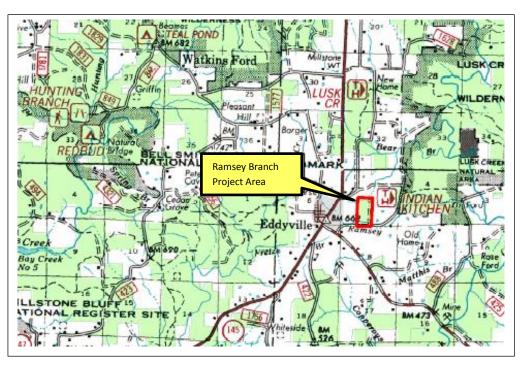
Scenic 3-4 mile hike for all levels. This relaxing jaunt is a perfect add-on to the Wilderness Weekend activities of Friday night camping and the Saturday hike at Panthers Den. Wear weather appropriate clothing and sturdy shoes. Water shoes are a good idea if we decide to hike to the natural bridge. Bring water and a lunch for an optional picnic in a nearby scenic area. Ed Max will lead as head botanizer, and Joe Harris will be assistant leader for Shawnee Group. Meeting place TBA. Registration required by September 26th by Email to: joeharris567098@gmail.com

<u>Future Outings TBA</u>: We have two soon-to-be certified outings leaders who plan to hold outings in the fall. Check our "Outings" page for updates: <u>http://illinois.sierraclub.org/shawnee</u>

Sierra Club Victory in Shawnee National Forest: Proposed Timber Sale Decision Halted by Appeal By Barbara McKasson

Illinois Chapter Sierra Club submitted a formal appeal to the May 2014 "Draft Decision Notice for Ramsey Branch Restoration of Hardwoods in a Pine Stand" on the grounds that a range of alternatives was not developed. Alternatives that we would like to see developed include "No Action" and alternatives to commercial logging that would reduce the density of the pine stand. This appeal follows a public <u>notice</u> and <u>30</u> <u>day public comment period</u> on the <u>project proposal</u> last winter that did not prompt the U.S. Forest Service to adequately accommodate public input about the forestry history and environmental issues.

Ramsey Branch tract is a small (53 acre) isolated tract surrounded by farm fields. The site is east of Eddyville and Bell Smith **Springs National Natural** Landmark, and southwest of the Lusk Creek Wilderness Area. This leads us to believe that this project has been given priority mainly to allow Shawnee National Forest to receive additional government funding through restoration funds they receive when commercial logging is used.



The Club has worked for decades to eliminate incentives that lead the Forest Service to give priority to commercial logging projects that provide additional government funds for "restoration" through the Knudsen-Vanderburg (K-V) Restoration fund. The commercial logging on our National Forests in turn leads to increased soil erosion and compaction, invasive plants, and sedimentation of streams.

In particular, the Ramsey Branch project would lead to sedimentation in Ramsey Branch, which flows into Lusk Creek, which is one of the highest quality streams in Illinois. Sedimentation would threaten the diverse aquatic life in Lusk Creek.

The Illinois Chapter Shawnee National Forest Committee, led by Chair Jim Bensman, is continuing to work to persuade and compel the Forest Service to follow the stated priorities of preserving the designated high quality Natural Areas, Wilderness Areas, and Threatened and Endangered Species in the forest. The K-V Fund subverts these priorities, and makes commercial logging a higher priority.

Thanks to Jim Bensman for writing the excellent formal appeal and continuing to lend his knowledge and experience to reform the U.S. Forest Service and protect Shawnee National Forest and other national forests.

Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails!

The next issue will be published in November. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to <u>sabrina@midwest.net</u> by **November 10th.**



Resident contests technical procedures at June 23rd Cottage Grove Township meeting; miners look on. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2014.

Rocky Branch Road Coal Mine Update

April 15th, despite residents' protests, the Saline County Board closed Rocky Branch Road and handed it to Peabody Arclar, further enabling strip mining in Cottage Grove. During a series of Cottage Grove Township meetings, literally in Cottage Grove Road immediately north of Rocky Branch Road, a road commissioner resigned and his indicated replacement attempted to declare that the road would not be given to Peabody. As the process of the new commissioner's appointment was technically improper, the Saline County Road Commissioner then attempted to give the road to Peabody. The road decisions are now contested in Circuit Court based on violations of the Open Meetings Act and other procedures. Meanwhile, resident Judy Kellen's Permit Appeal is in process under Administrative Judge Jack Price at the IDNR, while other citizen complaints are under review with the Illinois EPA and Illinois Attorney General. Peabody has excavated waste water impoundments near a creek. Sierra Club is considering further cases, adding to those of the residents.

Illinois Legislative Contacts: Call Your Legislators Today!

State Dist. 115 - Rep. Mike Bost - 618-457-5787; 217-782-0387; rep.bost@hotmail.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. 58 - Senator Dave Luechtefeld 618-243-9014; 217-782-8137; sendavel@midwest.net Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Garv Forby - 618-439-2504; 217-782-5509; Senatorforby@vahoo.com The Illinois Chapter Sierra Club's Frack Fight Team consists FYI, to receive more timely alerts of Terry Treacy (terri.treacy@sierraclub.org) and Jennifer from the Illinois Chapter of the Hensley (jennifer.hensley@sierraclub.org). Sierra Club, sign up online at their To receive periodic updates and communications from local state website: and national Sierra Club, become a member of the Illinois https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/S Chapter's Frack Fight Team: PageNavigator/Chapter/il_newslet http://action.sierraclub.org/site/Survey?ACTION_REQUIRED ter_signup.html;jsessionid=84420 =URI ACTION USER REOUESTS&SURVEY ID=138181 F4C49A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131 E25.app205a

Call for Nominations for the Shawnee Group Executive Committee

Shawnee Group Sierra Club is guided by an executive committee of 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. 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 Nominating Committee by September 1st. Contact Dorcy Prosser (dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com) or Barb McKasson (babitaji@aol.com).

Leadership Opportunities

Get active in the Shawnee Group. 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.

* 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 appear 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 joannnelson1928@gmail.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 <u>rth_kelley@yahoo.com</u>.

* 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 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 it needs additional promotional efforts.

Contact Barb McKasson (babitaji@aol.com).

* Calendar Sales Team members

Sale of 2015 Sierra Club calendars is about to switch into high gear. We are looking for some motivated people to organize our sales efforts.

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: <u>dorcyprosser2001@yahoo.com</u>

At any time you can read current and past newsletters on the Shawnee Group website: <u>http://illinois.sierraclub.org/Shawnee/</u> Visit the website also for information on upcoming local programs and outings as well as state and national Sierra Club issues.

Shawnee Group ExCom Election Change - Be ALERT!

The 2014 Shawnee Group ExCom Election candidate bios and ballots will be included in the Illinois Chapter fall mailing, which should arrive in your snail mailbox the beginning of October. We would like to spend the time and energy and Shawnee Group funds for environmental campaigns, education and outings instead of on an all-member hard copy mailing, which is a bylaw requirement for our elections.

Your vote is important to us!



Native Plant sale a flourishing success!

A big "thank you" to the organizers, volunteers, customers, and our supplier, Missouri Wildflower Nursery, who helped with the Shawnee Group Sierra Club Native Plant Sale in May! Missouri Wildflower Nursery arrived with a pickup truck and trailer full of plants enough to fill eleven six foot tables. We opened at 8 am, and by 1 pm we were just about sold out. Our vendor loaded his truck with six unsold plants and a lot of empty flats.

--Ruth Kelley

2015 Sierra Club Calendars Available Soon!

Buy at our monthly meetings this fall, or contact Barb McKasson (<u>babitaji@aol.com</u>).

