



# Shawnee Trails



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

**Sierra Club – Shawnee Group**

**September – November 2017 QUARTERLY**

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### Website:

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

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### 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)

## Trumping Trump on Climate Change

by *Sabrina Hardenbergh*

Recently, concern whether [President Trump](#) will approve, [cancel or alter](#) the Congressionally mandated National Climate Assessment prompted a scientist to leak a June 28, 2017 [final technical draft](#) of its [Climate Science Special Report](#) to the media. In the report, the [U.S. Global Change Research Program](#)'s 13 federal scientific agencies find evidence that human induced global warming has changed the environment and this impacts Americans. A National Academy of Sciences review of this Fourth National Climate Assessment will occur during Fall 2017 before its final approval, while many scientific organizations already reviewed earlier drafts. The [EPA](#) must also approve the Report, wherein [EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt](#), has stated his belief that the human contribution to climate change is uncertain. While you can read either the Executive Summary or whole 673 page technical [draft](#), the National Academy of Sciences' [Climate Change: Evidence & Causes](#) summarizes key climate change factors for the public.

Soon after his inauguration, Trump's fossil fuel aligned Cabinet nominees were narrowly confirmed by the Congressional GOP majority. In similar orientation, climate change information was censored in the federal agencies, climate scientists were intimidated or let go, and environmental regulatory processes are being repealed, ignored, or underfunded across the federal agencies. The climate change data censorship or obfuscation continues a stance that [Exxon took in the early 1980's](#) and during the past decades of international climate talks, and that scientists exposed in the [Climate Deception Dossiers](#). Now Exxon's CEO heads the State Department, while a fossil fuel industry attorney heads the EPA.

Two months ago, Trump indicated intent to pull out of the [Paris Agreement](#) that the former administration signed onto in 2016. On August 4, 2017, United Nations Secretary General António Guterres finally received [notification](#) from the United States delegation expressing intent to withdraw from the climate change Agreement as soon as allowed. The UN notes, "[Under article 28 of the Paris Agreement, a Party may withdraw at any time after three years from the date on which the Agreement has entered into force for that Party, and such withdrawal takes effect upon expiry of one year from the date of receipt by the Depositary of the notification of withdrawal.](#)" Thus, official exit would occur around November 4, 2019. Some nations including Russia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Turkey,

*(Continued on Page 2)*

*(Trumping Trump on Climate Change, Continued from Page 1)*

Libya, and Columbia, have not [ratified](#) the Agreement. Another 159 nations, including China and India, may lead on slowing climate change and related energy development.

Counter-measures to Trump and the Cabinet administrator's actions have appeared across the nation. In early June 2017, over 300 mayors of United States cities pledged to [support](#) local measures to reduce climate change. A [Climate Mayors](#) statement listed 369 signatures on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the [Compact of Mayors](#) lists similar numbers in June plus increases in signatures since then. The [U.S. Conference of Mayors](#) lists 1060 who have committed to reduce carbon emissions in their cities below 1990 levels. In a joint mayoral, business, governor, attorney general and higher education institution open letter, [We Are Still In](#), 1219 indicate support for the Paris Agreement, including Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Over [7,400](#) mayors worldwide have indicated commitment to reducing climate change in accord with the Paris Agreement. Such mayoral initiative actually first grew after the United States failed to ratify the 1997 [Kyoto Protocol](#), an earlier international accord to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and climate change that evolved from conventions associated with the 1992 [Rio Earth Summit](#). In our region, cities committed to reducing emissions and climate change include [Urbana, Alton, St. Louis, Memphis, and Nashville](#). The mayors represent conservative and liberal parties, and all see common elements for new business growth, plus disaster preparedness, diversion and resilience.

[Hawaii](#) was the first state to commit to Paris Agreement goals what with rising sea levels, disaster preparedness issues, and its earlier reliance on oil. Following Trump's announcement to pull out of the Paris Agreement, a bipartisan coalition of 12 states and a territory, the [United States Climate Alliance](#) (California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington), committed to uphold the Paris Agreement, Clean Power Plan and Climate Action Plans, and to share information and best practices. [Other states](#) committed to reducing their climate impact, but have not joined the U.S. Climate Alliance.

With the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's USC Schwarzenegger Institute recently set up a [Digital Environmental Legislative Handbook](#). The repository shares best practices and legislation from across the U.S. that protect both the environment and economic and job growth. Topics cover air quality, energy efficiency and renewable energy, human health, and climate change. *(Continued on Page 3)*

### **A Few 4NCA Points re Climate**

Average annual temperature over the contiguous United States increased by 1.2° F between 1986-2016, and 1.8 ° F between 1901 and 1960. Paleo evidence indicates that recent decades are the warmest in the past 1500 years. While the Southeastern part of the US has lesser increase, many parts of the globe incurred much hotter climate, including many northern and Arctic regions. Given current processes, temperature is projected to increase, with urban heat island effect. Human influence has been the dominant cause of temperature increase since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, while solar output and internal natural variability (e.g., El Niño) are marginal factors. Given current and different estimated greenhouse gas emissions projections, global warming will continue to increase at various rates if the emissions aren't seriously decreased.

[Temperature and precipitation extremes](#) impact water quality and availability, agricultural productivity, human health, infrastructure, ecosystems and species, and the likelihood of disasters. Changes in hurricanes, tornadoes and winter storms have been linked to climate change. Changes in one part of the globe, such as the Arctic or the Tropics, can impact other parts of the globe, such as the lower 48 U.S. states.

*(Trumping Trump on Climate Change, Continued from Page 2)*

Unlike the fossil fuel industry, many major and smaller U.S. and international companies support the Paris Agreement, as seen in the aforementioned [We Are Still In](#) letter. While not to imply any other socially conscious management priorities, 102 [RE100](#) multinational companies are committing to [100% renewable energy](#) for their operations. Apple is issuing bonds to support [renewable energy infrastructure](#) for its [data centers](#). [IKEA](#) is trying to produce as much renewable energy as it consumes. Invenergy, North America's largest renewable energy company, and GE Renewable Energy, are building the 2,000megawatt Wind Catcher Energy Connection in the Oklahoma panhandle that will be the [largest wind farm](#) in the U.S. and second-largest in the world. [Nearly half of Fortune 500](#) companies are setting at least one climate or clean energy target, and nearly 80,000 emission-reducing projects by [190 Fortune 500 companies](#) resulted in \$3.7 billion in savings during 2016. The United Nations Framework Convention of Climate Change [seeks input](#) from the private sector concerning their actions to deal with climate change to further identify opportunities and risks for businesses.

**FALL 2017 SIERRA CLUB PROGRAMS NOTE: Start time at 7 PM!**

**Location for October & November Programs: 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, Sept 14, 7 pm:**

**Location: Carbondale Civic Center, Room 116, 200 S. Illinois Ave.**

**Panel:** "Transforming Southern Illinois: Harnessing New Solar and Energy Efficiency Opportunities"

**Introduction to Panel:** Kady McFaddin & Caroline Wooten, Illinois Chapter Sierra Club

**Panel Members:** Rev. Booker S. Vance, Faith in Place; Shannon Fulton, Past President, Illinois Solar Energy Assoc; Representative, Citizens Utility Board

**Dinner at 5 pm:** TBA

**Thursday, Oct. 12, 7 pm:**

**Location: Carbondale Township Hall**

**Speaker:** Clayton Daughenbaugh, Midwest Regional Organizer, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Chair, Sierra Club's National Wildlands and Wilderness Team

**Presentation:** "Wild Utah: America's Red Rock Wilderness"

**Dinner at 5 pm:** TBA

**Thursday, Nov. 9, 7 pm:**

**Location: Carbondale Township Hall**

**Speaker:** Kay Rippelmeyer-Tippy

**Presentation:** "Radical Land and Social Experiments during the Depression Era in Southern Illinois: The Civilian Conservation Corps and the College in the Hills."

**Dinner at 5 pm:** TBA

Shawnee Group Sierra Club suggests that you see the [Wild & Scenic Film Festival](#) sponsored by Prairie Rivers Network and the Environmental Studies Program at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

**When:** September 22, 2017. Doors open at 5:30pm, films begin at 6:00pm and run until 8:30pm.

**Where:** Morris Library, Guyon Auditorium, 605 Agriculture Dr., Carbondale

**TICKETS**

\$10: General Admission | \$30: General Admission + PRN Membership

[Tickets available here.](#)

All proceeds from the event support PRN clean water and wildlife habitat protection initiatives.

## **FALL 2017 SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS**

### **Service Outing, Snake Road, Larue Pine Hills, Sunday, September 10, 2017**

Meet at the Forestry Station on Walnut St. in Murphysboro before 1 pm. By pulling invasive species, we will help save native plants in a high quality natural area. Wear appropriate clothing and shoes, and bring gloves and water. Call Barb McKasson at 618-529-4824 for further information.

### **Little Grand Canyon Hike, Saturday, September 23, 2017, 10 am**

Meet at the Murphysboro Forestry station on Walnut St before 10 am or at the Little Grand Canyon entrance by 10:15. We will do a moderate hike of about 3.6 miles. We will hike through the canyon and also see views of the Big Muddy river valley. Bring water, a hiking staff, and wear appropriate hiking shoes. You must call Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 before September 17 to go on the hike.

### **Cache River Full Moon Canoe Outing, Thursday, October 5, 2017, 6 pm**

We will meet by the Murdale sign in the Murdale shopping center parking lot before 6 pm and then drive to Cache River. You can also meet at White Crane Canoes, 240 Dean Lane, Ullin before 7 pm. We will canoe the beautiful Cache River under the light of the full moon. The outing will last about 2 hours. Canoes will be provided. The cost is \$25 per person. To go on the outing, you must contact Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 by September 26.

### **Bulge Hole Ecological Area Hike, Sunday, October 22, 2017**

Meet by the Murdale sign in the Murdale shopping center in Carbondale before 10:30 am or at the Marion Rural King parking lot before 11 am. This will be a moderate hike of about 3 miles. Bulge Hole features a unique shelter bluff and a chance to see abundant wildlife and rare plants. You must call Kevin Rohling at 618-694-8150 in order to go on the hike.

### **Panthers Den Hike, Sunday, November 5, 2017, 1 pm**

Meet by the Murdale sign in the Murdale shopping center parking lot before 12:30 pm or at Panthers Den before 1 pm. This will be a moderate hike of about 4 miles. Bring water, a hiking staff, and wear appropriate hiking shoes. You must contact Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 by October 28 to go on the hike.



Panthers Den, by Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2010

#### **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>

## Shawnee Group Conservation Committee Report

*By Barb McKasson and Jean Sellar*

Woolsey Operations Co., LLC has submitted the first application for a permit to frack a high-volume horizontal hydrofracking (HVHFF) oil well in Illinois. The application had many deficiencies and did not meet the standards of the HFRA Act, including not giving the correct location of the well and giving very generic answers to many of the questions asking them to describe their planned operations in detail. Illinois Chapter Sierra Club has signed on to comments generated by Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). Also, Barb testified on still unresolved deficiencies in the Woolsey application at the official public hearing on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, such as their deficient plan for handling toxic laden flowback water. We also voiced concerns about induced earthquakes and how they could affect us and other residents in Southern Illinois.

You can comment on the testimonies given on August 2<sup>nd</sup> until August 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. Go to <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/default.aspx>, click on “Hydraulic Fracturing”, then on the right-hand sidebar, click on “[Pending HVHFF Permit Applications](#)” to find details. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has until August 31<sup>st</sup> to decide whether or not to grant the permit. Since this is the first application (HVHFF #000001), it has the added importance of setting a precedent on how strictly IDNR will hold companies to the regulations.

Jean and Barb attended a Forest Service “collaboration session” led by a facilitator, with the purpose of letting the Forest Service and Shawnee National Forest personnel know our views on how they can better manage the forest, set priorities, and also collaborate with Sierra Club and other volunteer groups to help meet goals in spite of budget cuts. Through the generosity of Krista Velarde, Kay Werner’s daughter, and her family, Shawnee Group Sierra Club has committed money and volunteer hours to help Shawnee Forest combat invasive species and other work in high quality natural areas. One area we plan to help is Snake Road at Larue-Pine Hills Natural Area. If you would like to help with this project, contact Jean ([biojean@peoplepc.com](mailto:biojean@peoplepc.com)) or Barb ([babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)). As you may know, the Larue-Pine Hills NA is tied with Smoky Mountain National Park as the most biodiverse area in the country. However, like other natural areas, the diversity is being threatened by plant invaders and shade suppression of sun- starved native plants. If you can possibly help with this project, please let us know!

Jean has also been helping to monitor some areas that both Shawnee National Forest (SNF) and Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) have been working to restore – i.e. burning and cutting in order to allow the seed bank of native plants to start re-growing. Both SNF and IDNR have good intentions, but do not always follow up with enough monitoring to make sure the restoration is going as planned. They really need our prodding when follow up is needed.

### **Thank you for the Kay Werner Memorial Fund**

Krista Velarde, her family and friends deserve much gratitude for their donations to the Kay Werner Memorial Fund. Kay and Tim Werner were volunteers for Shawnee Group and Friends of the Cache. They adopted the Larue-Pine Hills area and monitored it for trash and other disturbances every month. They also helped with tabling and other ways. As a memorial, Krista asked their friends to contribute to a fund to benefit the efforts of Shawnee Group. Their friends contributed \$630 and then Krista’s family matched that amount. We will be using that money to help fund efforts to restore and protect natural areas, especially the Larue-Pine Hills Natural Area.

**Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails!** The next issue will be published in December. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to [sabrina@midwest.net](mailto:sabrina@midwest.net) by **November 6th**.

### **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.

## Don't Let Factory Farms Ruin Southern Illinois

--update by Patty Weyhrich

Residents of Jackson County suffered a blow on June 13<sup>th</sup> when several Legislative and Public Safety Committee Board members voted down a resolution that would have allowed citizens some legal control in the size and location of Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's). Tamiko Mueller and Scott Comparato supported the resolution, while Dan Bost, Emily Burke, Keith Larkin and Jose Mendoza rejected it. These factory farms confine large numbers of animals and release huge amounts of animal feces to the land and water. Under current legislation citizens have no say in the building and operation of CAFOs.

The 2015 construction of a 25,000 chicken/egg CAFO in the Cedar Lake watershed should be a concern for all who get their water from this clean reservoir. All people share this concern, however, as CAFOs are expanding across Illinois and all states, thereby jeopardizing our water and the future health of our children and environment.

Let your government officials know that you expect them to safeguard our water. Please contact:  
**Governor Bruce Rauner** (See sample letter, then copy and paste):

[http://action.prairierivers.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=11128](http://action.prairierivers.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=11128)

**Illinois Legislator's:** (see below)

**Jackson County** residents contact Board Members at:

[www.jacksoncounty-il.gov](http://www.jacksoncounty-il.gov), [jcboard@jacksoncounty-il.gov](mailto:jcboard@jacksoncounty-il.gov), 618-687-7240

### **Illinois Legislative Contacts: CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY!**

State Dist. 109 Rep. David Reis: 618-392-0108 or 217-782-2087; [www.davidreis.org](http://www.davidreis.org)

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. 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 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 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](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/>

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 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)

## Monarch Team News August 2017

The Monarch Team's project proposal was accepted by the Carbondale Park District! Planning involved several months of site study by Park District horticulturist, Randy Montgomery, Kathy Belletire, Jane Cogie and Patty Weyhrich. The Park District has generously agreed to support our project by matching funds, and giving materials and help from staff where needed.



The site chosen is mini wetland that functions as a drainage ditch. It is located in the Super Block and lies between the baseball and soccer fields. The ditch starts at a large culvert running under Lewis Lane from a retention pond belonging to the University Mall. So it's fitting that "The Ditch" became the project title. Already growing there, but not looking like anything special unless you're a butterfly or a bee, are Cattails, Daisy Fleabane, Blue Vervain, Common Boneset, and Iron Weed, mixed fescue a few Swamp Milkweeds. The goal of the project is to plant all along the banks of "The Ditch" with Swamp and Common Milkweed, Wingstem, Cardinal Flower and other colorful, moisture-loving, native plants that bloom all season. The lowly ditch will become a beautiful pollinator habitat.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> cardboard and mulch were put down in a 6x8 area that will be the foundation for the first planting to take place in several months when the cardboard disintegrates and the dead fescue underneath becomes fertilizer. Monarch Team members will put the plants in the ground the end of October when dormant and rain will encourage root growth. A fieldtrip to Southernwood Gardens in Pomona to choose plants has been planned for Wednesday, August 23rd.

Kathy Renfro, Park District Ex. Director, said she hopes this project becomes a long-term, cooperative relationship. Eventually signage at "The Ditch" will explain our purpose to provide habitat for Monarchs and other pollinators and display the collaboration between the Shawnee Sierra Club and the Carbondale Park District.

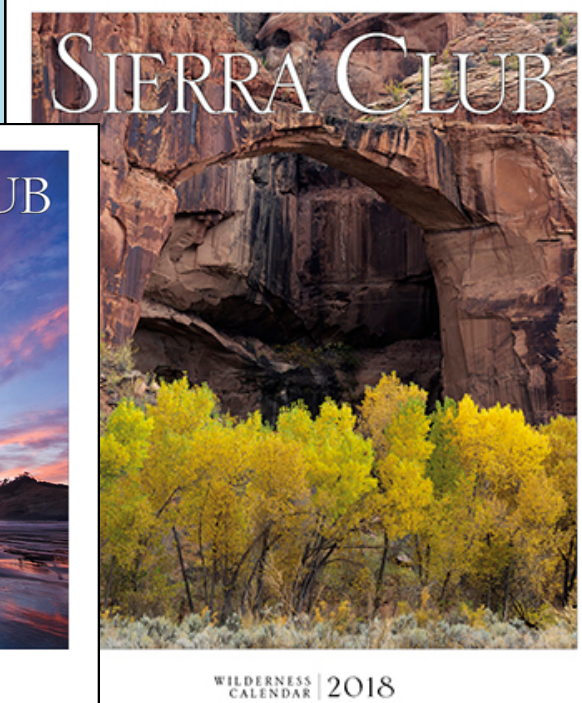
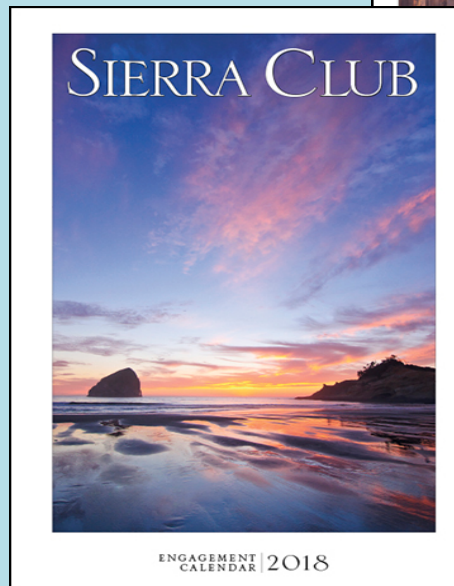
Kathy Belletire, Monarch Team Leader, [KBelletireArt@gmail.com](mailto:KBelletireArt@gmail.com)

## 2018 Sierra Club Calendars Available!

Buy at our monthly meetings this fall.

Or contact Barb McKasson ([babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com)).

We also seek volunteers to sell calendars.



## 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.



## VOTE!

Look for the Illinois Chapter mailing soon. Shawnee Group Sierra Club ExCom candidate bios and ballots will be listed in this brochure, *The Prairie State Update*. The DEADLINE is NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>.

### 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).

### Don't Let Ameren Unplug the Energy Efficiency Agreement

Sierra Club and others fought for years to finally pass the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) last year. FEJA set targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy that the large Illinois electric utilities (Commonwealth Edison and Ameren) must adhere to. These standards will help lower our electric bills, alleviate climate change, and create new jobs. However, now Ameren is trying to lower the standards that were agreed on by 27 percent, claiming that they cannot meet the requirements while providing increased energy efficiency for low income communities. Ameren is hoping to pull the plug on the standards by appealing to the Illinois Commerce Commission for a lower target, plus asking for a \$36 million bonus! Southern Illinois deserves lower rates, better electrical efficiency and extra jobs just as much as the CommEd customers in Northern Illinois. There really is no reason Ameren should not be held to those standards – and we all need a livable planet!

### Help Amp Up our Power to Resist Ameren's Efforts to Short Circuit FEJA!!

Tell the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to require Ameren to meet both its Energy Efficiency standards and goals for low income communities by submitting comments to the ICC webpage on the Ameren case (Docket 17-0311): <https://www.icc.illinois.gov/docket/PublicComments.aspx?no=17-0311> Click on "File a Comment" and Submit your own comment. Mention if you are an Ameren Customer or live in Ameren territory, but you do not have to be an Ameren customer in order to comment. You can also give a verbal comment by calling 1-800-524-0795.

**Talking Points:** I am completely opposed to Ameren's proposed lowering of energy efficiency standards agreed on in the Future Energy Jobs Act because:

- The ratcheted target for Ameren of 16 percent by 2030 is reasonable and achievable.
- Energy efficiency is one of the easiest and significant ways to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions.
- Climate change is already disproportionately causing disruption and problems in low income communities so we should not allow a wealthy private monopoly such as Ameren to shirk their responsibility to alleviate climate change.
- Energy efficiency is vital for lowering energy costs for working people, who are facing rising costs and stagnating wages. The energy efficiency target for Ameren must be maintained, not lowered.
- Rolling back Ameren's targets will reduce the number of good jobs created for downstate communities – don't leave Southern Illinois behind again!
- The energy efficiency target for Ameren is already lower than the target for Commonwealth Edison. The statutory cumulative annual energy efficiency target for Ameren must be maintained at 16 percent by 2030 – not lowered.
- Ameren should not be using its \$15.64 million Income Qualified Initiative for low-income weatherization services as an excuse to roll back its agreed target for energy efficiency programs.