



**In This Issue:**

Botany Bill Pg 1-2  
 Fall Programs Pg 3  
 Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice Pg 3  
 Carbondale Community Solar Pg 4  
 Fall Outings Pg 5  
 SB 2213 Alert Pg 6  
 Contact Your Rep. Pg 6  
 Vote! Pg 7  
 Sierra T-Shirts for Sale Pg 8  
 Calendars for Sale Pg 8  
 Volunteer Pg 8

**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 [habitaji@aol.com](mailto:habitaji@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)

**Botany Bill**

-- by Sabrina Hardenbergh

Valentine’s Day 2017, Illinois 5<sup>th</sup> District congressional House Representative Mike Quigley brought flowers to the table, of the native sort, [HR 1054](#). A number of Democrat and a few GOP congressmen co-sponsored this [Botanical Sciences and Native Plant Materials Research, Restoration, and Promotion Act](#). Senator Tammy Duckworth co-sponsored the Senate’s recent version, [SB 3240](#), introduced by Hawaii Senator [Mazie Hirono](#) in July 2018. Nationwide, [73 organizations](#) have endorsed the “[Botany Bill](#),” including the Illinois Native Plant Society and the nearby Missouri Botanical Garden. The Botany Bill is also of interest to Shawnee Group Sierrans who participate in facilitating the proliferation of native plants in our yards and region, whether for helping Monarchs, bees and other pollinators, or maintaining more ecologically resilient woodland and grasslands.

Native plant research under the Department of Interior and its agencies would emphasize 1) effective restoration of habitat damaged by wildfires, 2) use of locally adapted native plant materials in land management activities, 3) strategies to combat invasive plant species, 4) mitigation of the impacts of long- and medium-term environmental changes including moisture levels, temperature, landscape fragmentation, nonnative animal and plant species, and human activity, and 5) recovery of threatened and endangered species.

Federal land management under the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, or Defense would use locally adapted native plants to the extent practicable to maintain and restore degradation caused by human activity or natural events such as fire, flood, or infestation.

The Secretary of the Interior, through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, would support collaborative, competitive grants for projects to prevent rare plant species from becoming endangered species and to encourage the recovery of endangered plant species.

Amending federal highway code, [23 U.S.C. 329](#) - Eligibility for Control of Noxious Weeds and Aquatic Noxious Weeds and Establishment of Native Species, states would to the extent practicable, maximize use of locally adapted native plant materials to carry out environmental mitigation efforts and environmental restoration and pollution abatement activities.

Federal facility development projects with a footprint that exceeds 5,000 square feet would use site planning, design, construction, and maintenance strategies to establish, maintain, (Continued on Page 2)

*(Botany Bill, Continued from Page 1)*

or restore, to the maximum extent technically feasible, the use of locally adapted native plant materials on all natural spaces, including, where feasible, roofs and other appropriate portions of the structure.

Agencies would collaborate to undertake the following activities related to native plant materials:

- 1) Identify seed needs and ensure the reliable availability of genetically appropriate seed.
- 2) Conduct research to develop genetically appropriate seed and to improve technology for seed production and ecological restoration.
- 3) Support land managers' ability to make timely and informed seeding decisions for ecological restoration.
- 4) Efforts to enhance, protect, and restore plant materials necessary to support pollinators and dispersers.
- 5) Efforts to coordinate activities aimed at sustaining and restoring public lands through the use of techniques and materials that promote to the extent practicable the use of locally adapted native plant materials.

Bureau of Land Management conservation program activities would include:

- 1) Identifying, evaluating, and protecting rare plants on public lands.
- 2) Understanding the effects of human activity on native plant species and communities on public lands.
- 3) Supporting efforts to develop genetically appropriate native plant materials for restoring and maintaining habitat for animal and plant species, including sage grouse, and monitoring the effectiveness of such materials.
- 4) Ensuring that the needs of the agency for native plant materials are met.
- 5) Developing seed transfer zones and guidelines.
- 6) Supporting public-private partnerships to catalogue and store plant materials.
- 7) Coordinating a national network of seed storage warehouses.
- 8) Implementing habitat conservation and restoration on a landscape scale.
- 9) Supporting public-private efforts, and volunteer efforts to support plant conservation.

Preference would be given to projects that involve collaborations between Federal, State, and local units of government working in collaboration with nonprofit organizations with knowledge and experience in rare and endangered plant restoration issues.

Thank Tammy Duckworth , and ask your other Congressmen to become co-sponsors to the Botany Bill.



**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 5th**.

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)

## **FALL 2018 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, September 13, 2018, 7 pm**

**Presenter:** Jonathan Gray, SIUC Assoc. Prof of Communication Studies

**Presentation:** Artful Engagement with Environments

**Location:** Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E Main St (enter through the back green door in the alley)

**5 pm Dinner:** Thai Taste, 100 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale, IL

**Thursday, October 18, 2018, 7 pm**

**Presenter:** Karen Hudson, Regional Representative, Illinois Citizens for Clean Air & Water and Cindy Arnett, Concerned Citizen from Fulton County, Illinois

**Presentation:** The Cost of CAFOs in Illinois and Beyond

**Location:** **Carbondale Civic Center, Room 108, 200 N. Illinois Ave. Carbondale, IL**

**5 pm Dinner:** Longbranch Café, 100 E. Jackson Street, Carbondale, IL

**Thursday, November 8, 2018, 7 pm**

**Presenter:** John Schwegman, Conservation Biologist

**Presentation:** An Ecological Trip to Antarctica During Its Summer Season

**Location:** Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E Main St (enter through the back green door in the alley)

**5 pm Dinner:** TBA

### **CARBONDALE AREA'S [RISE FOR CLIMATE, JOBS & JUSTICE](#) EVENTS, SEPT. 7 & 8 FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Please join us! Real climate leadership rises from the grassroots up!

**Friday, Sept. 7 - Documentary Screening of “[Reinventing Power: America’s Renewable Energy Boom](#)” & Clean Energy Forum. Carbondale Civic Center, Rm 108, 200 S. Illinois Ave., Carbondale.**

This event begins at **5:30 pm** with refreshments, a chance to network and tabling by local social- and eco-justice non-profits; at **6:15 – 7 pm**: a screening of “[Reinventing Power](#)”; at **7 – 8 pm**: a Clean Energy Forum with speakers sharing their experiences as solar migrants with time reserved for questions and discussion of working to bring solar and clean jobs to Carbondale.

Speakers will include an ex-miner turned solar installer; a homeowner and non-profit, both with roof-top solar newly installed; a certified trainer of solar installers; and a member of Carbondale’s Community Solar Working Group, which has been working with the City of Carbondale, some area non-profits and churches to bring lower cost community scale solar to our area and lower our carbon footprint.

Read and send in the related Carbondale Community Solar interest form on Page 4.

**Saturday, Sept. 8 - Women for Change: Unity in the Community’s “[Big Event, Working Together for CHANGE with People’s Climate Rise for Climate, Jobs & Justice](#)”**

This event starts at **10:15 am** with a Unity March from Rockhill Baptist Church to Attucks Park on North Wall, in Carbondale, IL. At **11 am**, the day of activities continues at Attucks Park to celebrate and foster our work together for UNITY and CHANGE with a range of speakers, nonprofits disseminating information, performers and refreshments.





## Carbondale Community Solar

Yes, if a community solar array becomes a reality in Carbondale, I'd be interested in becoming a subscriber and receiving a portion of my home electricity from it.

I realize that signing this obligates me to nothing.

It allows Carbondale Community Solar Working Group to contact me with further information about timing and cost.

You do not have to own your home to be a subscriber.

You do not have to live near the solar array.

name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

My electric provider is \_\_\_Ameren \_\_\_Egyptian \_\_\_SIEC

RETURN THIS FORM TO A CARBONDALE COMMUNITY  
SOLAR WORKING GROUP MEMBER OR MAIL TO:

CCSWG

P. O. Box 117

Carbondale, IL 62903-0117

Facebook – Carbondale community solar working group

OR SCAN OR TAKE A PICTURE AND EMAIL TO:

[office@cdalefcc.org](mailto:office@cdalefcc.org)

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY SOLAR?

Illinois' 2017 Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) opens many exciting opportunities:

- \* financial incentives for residential, municipal, business, and non-profit solar power
- \* training for clean energy jobs, and
- \* financial incentives to communities for solar power.

Community solar subscribers would receive a monthly bill from the community solar system and from Ameren, for energy delivery and any portion of their use not covered by community solar (and natural gas, if applicable).

The Carbondale Community Solar Working Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 11a – 1p at 306 W. Monroe St. (First Christian Church). You're welcome to join us. We're currently looking for 10 – 15 acres of land to lease in the Ameren service area for the community solar array. Once we have a site, we'll begin looking for a developer and installer.

The contract between the community solar system owner and subscribers will determine your energy cost. We'll contact you and other interested subscribers when we're closer to that negotiation process.

## **FALL 2018 SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS**

### **Tunnel Hill Bike Ride, Sunday, September 30 2018**

Meet at the Murdale shopping center parking lot by the Murdale sign before 9 am or at the Tunnel Hill ranger station in Vienna before 10 am. We will ride bikes to the Tunnel Hill Trail. The ride will cover about 18 miles. Bring your own bike and water. You must call Bob Mulcahy at 618-942-6342 in order to go on this outing.

### **Petroglyphs Hikes, Fountain Bluff & Piney Creek Ravine, Sunday, October 21, 2018**

Meet in the Murphysboro's Hardees parking lot before noon. We will visit 1,000-year-old native American petroglyphs at both Fountain Bluff near Gorham and at Piney Creek Ravine. We will also see high rock bluffs and hike a beautiful trail at Piney Creek Ravine. Bring water, a hiking staff, and wear appropriate shoes. You must call Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 in order to attend this hike.

### **Bulge Hole Hike, Sunday, November 4, 2018**

Meet at the Murdale shopping center near the sign before 10:30 am, or at the Marion Rural King parking lot before 11:00 am. We will explore the Bulge Hole ecological area of the Shawnee National Forest, featuring a unique shelter bluff, wildlife and rare plants. The 3-mile hike is moderately difficult. Bring water and wear appropriate shoes. You must call Kevin Rohling, 618-694-8150, in order to attend the hike.

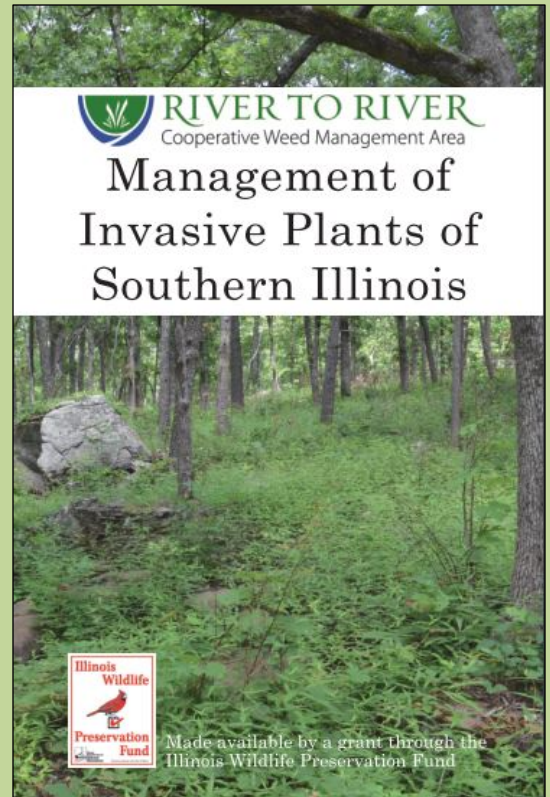
## **FALL 2018 SERVICE OUTINGS**

Invasive Pulls, November 17, 2018 and December 8, 2018  
Both at Fern Rocks Nature Preserve, Giant City State Park.  
For details, call Barb, 618-529-4824.

LaRue Pine Hills invasive pull, TBA. Call Barb, 618-529-4824.

\*\*\*

To learn more about invasive plant management, read the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area's [\*Management of Invasive Plants of Southern Illinois\*](#) and go to their [website](#).



### **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>

## **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.

## **Protect Illinois from Federal Rollbacks of Protections: Support SB2213**

–By Barb McKasson

SB2213, the Illinois Baseline Protection Act, would prevent state and local agencies from weakening Illinois environmental or labor standards below the federal “baseline standard” in place as of January, 2017 for the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Endangered Species Act, plus the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and the Mine Safety and Health Act.

Illinois derives many of its current protections from federal statutes and regulations which set minimum standards that states must meet and may exceed. The current President and Congressional leaders have stated plans to weaken environmental, health and safety laws and regulations. These federal actions would provide an opportunity for Illinois to also lower the state laws and regulations.

For example, Federal EPA administrator Scott Pruitt has announced plans to roll back clean car standards that today cut climate destroying carbon pollution, save consumers \$92 Billion on gasoline and support 288,000 American jobs. This would accelerate climate change and further endanger public health. In addition, the Republican-led U.S. Congress is threatening current environmental laws, such as lowering the protected habitat requirements for threatened and endangered species.

SB2213 does not create a single new regulation, standard or rule, but does make sure our environment in Illinois is as protected as possible from the major steps backward being taken or planned by the Trump administration. There is a sunset provision that would end the Act in three years.

SB2213 passed the Illinois Senate 32 to 21 and was passed to the Illinois House in May to the chief House sponsor, Representative Juliana Stratton. There are now 49 sponsors in the Illinois House (out of 118 representatives). The bill was not voted on by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline, so it has been re-referred to the House Rules Committee. We are pushing to have the bill pass during the fall veto session, which is scheduled for November 13 – 15 and 27 – 29, 2018.

### **ACTION NEEDED**

Our Southern Illinois legislators are not on the list of sponsors for SB2213, so we need to push them to support this bill, which only maintains the status quo. We must also push Governor Rauner to sign the bill. Call or Email your Illinois Representative today. **The Ask:** Support SB2213 to maintain current Illinois environmental, health and safety standards and ideally become a co-sponsor.

#### **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. Natalie Phelps Finnie - 618-253-4189; 217-782-5131; [repphelpsfinnie@gmail.com](mailto:repphelpsfinnie@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/>





### Elizabeth Donoghue

As a longtime fan of the Sierra Club, I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve a second term on the Executive Committee. My background, including graduate school and teaching, is in Communication Studies where the focus of my research was on effective and creative environmental messaging. I was part of an educational entertainment duo from 2005-09 that toured college campuses and used comedic performance to promote dialogue and action about climate change. For ten years now, I have had the pleasure of being the host and producer of an environmental news radio show (Greenhouse Rebellion), on WDBX in southern Illinois. This has given me an opportunity to become familiar with local, national and global environmental issues as well as the tireless work and exceptional leadership of the Sierra Club. Most recently, my activist work has focused on the issue of fracking in Illinois as well as the promotion of solutions that help facilitate our transition to clean energy.



### Carla Womack

I have been a member of Sierra Club for more than 10 years and when I moved to Southern IL three years ago, I became part of my local groups' Ex-Com. I feel strongly about protecting our environment and am active in contacting my state and national Senators and Representatives to encourage them to vote for environmentally friendly legislation (and against environmentally unfriendly legislation!) I also try to do my part to help advance the mission of the Sierra Club at a local level, by participating in activities and programs that do that. I would like to have more time on our committee in order to do this. Thank you.



## VOTE!

Look for Illinois Chapter's mailing soon. Shawnee Group Sierra Club ExCom candidate bios and ballots will be listed in *The Prairie State Update* brochure, arriving in your mailbox this fall.



### Steve Eberhardt

I have been a member of the Shawnee Group chapter of the Sierra Club for over 20 years and have served on the Ex-Com for the last four. During that time, I have also been the outings chair. I have enjoyed the opportunity to help organize, lead and participate in hikes and other outings in many of our beautiful natural areas.



### Patty Weyhrich

Continuously learning to live in a way that leaves a lighter footprint is important to me and for our future. Advocating for informed choices as a society, supporting local and sustainable food, promoting the well-being of a diversity of animals, plants, and wilderness areas, and spending time outdoors in natural areas are some ways that I enjoy living in southern Illinois and being a member of the Shawnee Executive Committee. I have also been the group Treasurer since 2013.

## 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

## 2019 Sierra Club Calendars!

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.

