



# Shawnee Trails



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

Sierra Club – Shawnee Group

March – May 2016 QUARTERLY

## In This Issue:

Coal Severance Tax Pg 1-2  
Spring Programs Pg 3  
Alien Flora Pg 3  
Native Wildflower Sale Pg 3  
Spring Outings Pg 4  
Shawnee Parkway Update/Alert Pg 5  
Chicken Factory Farm Alert Pg 6  
Bobcat Hunting Alert Pg 7  
Volunteer Pg 8

## Shawnee Group Contact Information:

Shawnee Group Sierra Club  
PO Box 117, Carbondale, IL 62903-0117

### Website:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee>  
or <http://shawneegroup.blogspot.com>

**Chair and Outings Chair:** Steve Eberhart,  
[eberpsy@icloud.com](mailto:eberpsy@icloud.com)

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

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

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

**Ex-Com Member:** Joe Dobson  
[joedobson\\_36@msn.com](mailto:joedobson_36@msn.com)

**Education Co- Chair, Program and  
Publicity Chair:** Ruth Kelley 618-684-2196  
[rth\\_kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com)

**Legislative/political/lobbying Chair,  
Conservation Co-Chair, Alternate  
Chapter Delegate:** Jean Sellar  
[biojean@peoplepc.com](mailto:biojean@peoplepc.com)

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

**Hospitality:** John Cox, 618-713-2840  
**Newsletter Editor:** Sabrina Hardenbergh  
[sabrina@midwest.net](mailto:sabrina@midwest.net)

**Webmaster:** Christina Cannova  
[simoncini2@yahoo.com](mailto:simoncini2@yahoo.com)

## Coal Severance Tax: Transition to Sustainable Southern Illinois?

By Sabrina Hardenbergh

Illinois is often touted as a coal state, whether by southern legislators, county boards, chambers of commerce, mining companies, or electric companies and cooperatives. Such a stance often conflicts with recent promotions for the EPA's Clean Power Plan, Clean Water Act Rule, the Stream Protection Rule, and many other health and environment preserving regulations. One argument is jobs. Another elephant in the room is the state budget deficit and its [mismanagement](#) over multiple administrations. Yet coal mining and supporting industry were just [0.17%](#) of Illinois' private industry economic activity in 2010. The vision for economically and environmentally sustainable, healthy communities is caught in this quagmire, which some argue could be partly turned around were Illinois to implement a coal severance tax, among other changes, and if these funds are specifically used to clean up coal pollution and transition to a more diversified economy. [Illinois South Project](#) promoted coal severance tax legislation several decades ago after Lenzi's [analysis of other states' coal regions with and without the tax in the 1970s](#). An Illinois coal severance tax is presently being [promoted](#) again by the [Community Futures Initiative](#).

First a few assumptions and facts should be clarified regarding jobs, energy, and budgets. Coal provides fewer and fewer jobs because of mechanization; only about [4,000](#) coal miners are employed in the Illinois coal industry, less than 0.1% of the state population. Only [15%](#) of Illinois coal supplies our electricity, while Wyoming Powder Basin coal and other sources of energy supply the rest of our [electric](#) grid. Most high-sulfur Illinois coal is shipped out-of-state and abroad, with some of these markets cutting back on their purchases, such as [China](#) and [India](#). Importantly, the coal industry sticks our Illinois budget with [nearly a \\$20 million net loss](#) because of tax breaks and subsidies. Yet [renewable energy](#) is a [growing industry](#) with [jobs](#) for which coal miners could easily retrain. Indeed, [coal miners](#) in other states with mine closures have quickly retrained their electrical skills for [solar installation](#) and maintenance jobs, or for [computer](#) oriented jobs.

Many other coal states have long had coal severance taxes, which are [calculated variously](#) by coal [production](#) or price, including the Wyoming Powder Basin from which Illinois derives much of its coal used for electricity. Adding a coal severance tax in Illinois is not going to change our electric rates appreciably since we already pay such with the major use of [Wyoming coal](#). However, how these funds are [structured](#) and [used](#) serve as a good [lesson](#) for best management

(Continued on Page 2)

(Coal Severance Tax, Continued from Page 1)

practices should Illinois finally adopt a coal severance tax. When the recent Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act was passed, a [gas severance tax](#) was also created that directed all such funds to the state General Revenue Fund. While we may not be able to keep all coal severance tax funds away from the General Revenue Fund, given state politics, a sizable portion could be allocated to coal regions for projects that involve coal pollution clean-up, coal-related health services, renewable energy retraining and infrastructure, and other diversified environmentally and economically sustainable businesses and jobs with less of the boom-bust feature of the fossil fuel industry. Coal severance tax in the General Revenue Fund could potentially be further channeled to state budget deficit sectors as coal-related Medicaid reimbursement, workers' compensation, education, road repair, reclamation, and other coal-related infrastructure imbalances in the coal regions. However, other states' lessons have shown that certain kinds of projects do not produce results, such as [industrial parks](#) or [basketball arenas](#). Each location should be part of defining which local improvements are actually most needed in its transition. Importantly, many states allocate part of their coal severance tax to a [permanent trust fund](#) which perpetuates support for the transition to a diversified economy beyond the life of the coal mining industry.



Former woodland hills of 2014, now strip-mined for coal, with Peabody laying off miners in early 2016. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2015

Southern Illinois, like other regions, repeatedly experiences the cycles of mine layoffs and closures. [Layoffs](#) are occurring at the recent Peabody mine along Rocky Branch Road east of Harrisburg, at mines near Galatia operated by American Coal, a subsidiary of Murray Energy Corporation, and at Hamilton and White county mines operated by Alliance Coal. Scrutiny of the past couple years of Murray Energy [layoffs](#), [lawsuits](#), [mergers](#), [and international expansion with the Columbian mine buyout from Goldman Sachs](#), or the [Arch Coal](#) bankruptcy, shows a series of coal mine flipping wherein companies actually gain financial benefits from so-called losses, although not necessarily for their miner employees. Understandably, miners want remedies, prompting the new [Coal Miners Movement](#), the outcome of which needs to be handled very carefully.

Southern Illinoisans should review visions for communities' futures in our social and work organizations and networks. We must redefine what is of intrinsic value in our region to preserve, and consequently what to highlight in our creation and marketing of local business to the state and country. For whatever remains of coal, the industry must be held accountable to the energy transition by way of the coal severance tax to help fund it.

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)

**SPRING 2016 PROGRAMS NOTE: Start time at 7 PM!**

**Location:** REAR entrance, through green door in alley, of the Carbondale Township Meeting Room at 217 East Main, across from Rock Hill Baptist Church (at Monroe and Marion Streets). The front door is locked! FREE and open to the public. Refreshments and socializing before and after meeting.

**Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Richard Thomas, Darwin of Down House: Husband, Father, Researcher  
**Dinner at 5 pm:** Bandanas BBQ, 309 E. Main, Carbondale, IL (618) 490-1303

**Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Leila Monaghan, Plains Indian Women  
**Dinner at 5 pm:** McAllister's Deli, 1382 E. Main, Carbondale, IL, (618) 319-4028

- \* **SPECIAL PROGRAM – MONDAY, May 2, 2016 at 7 pm**
- \* **Speaker:** Dave Tylka, Native Landscaping for Pollinators
- \* **Location:** Carbondale Civic Center, 200 South Illinois Avenue, Carbondale, IL

**Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7 pm**

**Speaker:** Dan Nickrent, Invasive Species Research  
**Dinner at 5 pm:** TBA

**GloNAF (Global Naturalized Alien Flora) Database Study Results Important for Planet's Biodiversity**

Daniel Nickrent, professor emeritus in the Department of Plant Biology at SIU, was among about 40 international co-investigators in a first-ever comprehensive analysis of the global accumulation and exchange of alien plant species between continents. Recently published in [Nature](#), the study used a massive, unique global database containing information on naturalized alien plant species in 481 mainland and 362 island regions. Nickrent provided plant data from the Philippines. Nearly 6,000 non-native naturalized species were introduced into North America since Europeans arrived in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, and Europe gained 4,000.

*“To me, controlling invasive species is the No. 1 problem worldwide in terms of natural ecosystems”--[Dan Nickrent](#)*

*Sat, May 14, 2016  
10 am til ?*

Town Square Pavillion  
Near the intersection of US  
51 North and Hwy 13 West  
Carbondale, Illinois



*Native Wildflower Sale*

LARGE SELECTION OF PLANTS NATIVE TO SOUTHERN ILLINOIS – HARDY, BEAUTIFUL, POLLINATOR FRIENDLY, AND LOW MAINTENANCE, REASONABLY PRICED.



WE WILL HAVE MORE THAN A THOUSAND PLANTS OF MANY SPECIES, - WILDFLOWERS, GRASSES, TREES, SHRUBS, AND VINES FOR SHADE AND SUN. THERE WILL ALSO BE PLANTS FOR RAIN GARDENS (MOIST TO WET SOIL).

## SPRING 2016 SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

### **Little Grand Canyon hike Sunday March 6, 2016**

Meet at the Murphysboro Forestry station on Walnut St before 1 p.m. or at the Little Grand Canyon entrance at 1:15. Moderate hike of 3.6 miles. We will see views of the hike through the canyon. Bring water and a hiking staff and wear appropriate hiking shoes. The leader is Steve Eberhart. Call Steve at 618-967-8690 to go on the hike.



*Little Grand Canyon, Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2014*

### **Hike at Panther's Den Sunday, April 17, 2016**

Meet by the sign at Murdale shopping center in Carbondale before 11 am or at Panther's Den at noon. Moderate hike of about 4 miles. Bring water and a hiking staff and wear appropriate hiking shoes. We will see cliff walls and a canyon. Call Bob Mulcahy, the leader, at 618-942-6342 to sign up for the hike.



*Panther's Den, Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2010*

### **Ozark Hills Nature Preserve wildflower walk with botanist Chris Benda Sunday, April 24, 2016**

Meet by the Murdale Shopping Center sign in Carbondale by 12:15 to carpool to the White Barn at Trail of Tears State Forest, or meet at the White Barn by 1:00 pm. The trail is very short, less than one mile, but there are a ton of interesting plants to see, especially spring wildflowers. The trail starts in a mesic upland forest and continues to a dry-mesic forest. Then we follow a fire trail and go back down through the woods. There is a lot of diversity in this small area. As far as plants to find, they are too rare to list, so you'll just have to come out and see for yourself! Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. You **MUST REGISTER** – limited to 15 participants in this sensitive high quality area. In order to go on this hike, you **must** sign up first by calling Barb at 618-529-4824, by Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> to **register** for the outing. Leave a voice mail if no one answers.

#### **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 website:

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

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

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

**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 9th**.

#### **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.

## **Shawnee Parkway Threatens Shawnee National Forest, Important Wetlands and More! Please Act Now!**

*By Barbara McKasson*

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has invited the public to review and [comment](#) on the draft [Purpose and Need Statement](#) for the [Shawnee Parkway](#) Study. The study is being conducted to evaluate the need for a new east/west transportation “improvement” from the intersection of Illinois Route 3/146 and Interstate 57 in Alexander, Pulaski and Union Counties in southernmost Illinois.

Sierra Club is opposed to the Shawnee Parkway, a proposed multi-lane, high-speed highway to facilitate the trucking industry through a portion of southernmost Illinois. The negative impacts to the environment far outweigh any perceived advantages. The 350-square-mile study area includes several important natural resource areas that provide important habitat for federally listed species and migratory birds including migratory waterbirds, neotropical migrants and various raptors.

Nationally recognized Important Bird Areas include Horseshoe Lake State and Fish Wildlife Area, the Thebes-area Mississippi Kite Complex, and Union County State Fish and Wildlife Area. Cypress Creek NWR is globally recognized as an Important Bird area and the Cache River and Cypress Creek Wetlands Area RAMSAR site is located within the study area. Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites within the study area include Brown Barrens’ Nature Preserve, Berryville Shale Glade Nature Preserve, and McClure Shale Nature Preserve. Additionally, the federally endangered Indiana bat has been documented throughout southernmost Illinois, with known hibernacula within the study area.

The biologically rich and diverse environment and natural beauty of the entire study area makes it an important place for high-quality outdoor recreation experiences such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, canoeing, hiking, camping, nature photography and much more.

Impacts from a multi-lane, high-speed, heavy trafficked highway on outdoor recreation enjoyment include noise and air pollution, intrusions on rural viewsheds, and damage to the ecosystem recreationists have come to visit.

### **What you Can Do:**

1. Sign the Illinois Chapter Sierra Club online [petition](#) at <<http://illinois2.sierraclub.org>>
2. If you want to do more, write your own comment letter. Send [Comments](#) to: [www.shawneeparkway.org](http://www.shawneeparkway.org)  
Go to “Contact Us” on the top bar and click on “Send Us a Comment” OR mail your comments to:

Jeffrey Keirn  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways, Region 5, District 9  
PO Box 100  
Carbondale, Illinois 62903-0100

Ideas for what to include in your comment letter can be found on the Illinois Chapter website on the explanation and the petition statement. Best to personalize your letter too. The comment period is open at least until May, but the sooner you comment, the more influence you will have. Do it while you are thinking about it!



## Chicken Factory Farm at Cedar Lake

by Petra Poppe

Construction of a 25,000 chicken facility close to Cedar Lake began in October 2015. The facility is for laying hens; the chickens that live past egg production are generally trucked away and killed for meat. The chicken facility is on the north side of Cedar Lake. Traveling toward Cove Hollow from Carbondale, look for a large white building on the south side of Dutch Ridge Road before the intersection of Grammer Road.

Cedar Lake is a beautiful and unique area in the Shawnee National Forest that is rich in biological diversity. The lake is a water reservoir for the City of Carbondale, as well as a recreational area including fishing, boating, wildlife habitat, and Poplar Camp family beach where many children swim.

An [article published in The Southern on 12/23/2015](#) addressed the concerns of the factory to Carbondale's water supply. Concerns regarding the effect of waste disposal on the water supply are a major issue. Studies of factory farms have found contamination to the watershed can likely be a threat during heavy rain. It is disconcerting that these studies were not taken into account prior to the granting of the building permit of a facility next to Cedar Lake.

A summary of considerations relating to the impact of Cedar Lake and community include:

1. Contamination of water supply from livestock facility within Cedar Lake watershed
2. Conflict of interest in building a factory farm next to a recreational area with high quality water used for drinking, swimming, fishing, wildlife, and boating
3. Potential proliferation of livestock facilities, with precedence of development up to 50-100 thousand chickens
4. Local residents having to breathe fouled air and adverse effects on wildlife dependent on clean water
5. Increased traffic of heavy trucks on rural roads with weight limits
6. Factory farm adjacent to Shawnee Nation Forest
7. Deterioration of a rural community and negative effect on property value
8. Inhumane treatment of animals. Caged hens live in a space the size of a piece of paper. Cage free is not the same as humane

The construction permit for the factory farm was granted by the [Illinois Department of Agriculture](#) in Springfield. Only a few people owning adjacent property were notified prior to the construction.

Many people in southern Illinois are proud of the Shawnee Forest and want to protect the integrity of natural forests as well as be humane toward animals. There is currently no protocol that allows the public to be informed or give input prior to the development of factory farms that have a multifaceted impact on our water, air, land, aesthetics, and human and animal welfare. All of this makes it ever more important for local citizens



*New chicken farm building uphill of northwest edge of Cedar Lake. Sabrina Hardenbergh, 2016*

to have a say in what goes on in our community.

Sierra Club has not taken an official position on this particular factory farm, but in general opposes concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). Contact Petra or Barb for questions or comments at [petra711@outlook.com](mailto:petra711@outlook.com) or [babitaji@aol.com](mailto:babitaji@aol.com). Also [sign a petition](#) against the mega-chicken farm.

## Oppose Proposed Bobcat Hunting Rules by March Deadline

The [Illinois Department of Natural Resources](#) (IDNR) has recently proposed changes to the Illinois Administrative Code that would allow for [hunting](#) and [trapping](#) of bobcats in our state. These Rules [17-550](#) and [17-570](#) are the result of the statute that passed last year – over our objections. The **public comment period** for the **Rules** ends **March 11, 2016**.

Bobcats were listed as a threatened species in Illinois from 1977 to 1999. When the bobcat was removed from the list, there was no follow up management, recovery or sustainability plan written or implemented. The IDNR has done little to determine the current status of bobcats in the state and less to determine the true sustainability of allowing this important and recently threatened species to be hunted.

Though species can be delisted from the threatened and endangered species list upon reaching a certain level of recovery, instituting regulations allowing harvest before the species has repopulated its available habitat range is premature and likely to reverse any progress bobcats have made.

The Illinois Wildlife Code requires that the harvest of bobcats in the state shall be non-detrimental. Without additional science to show that hunting and trapping bobcats can be non-detrimental, these proposed rules should NOT be supported. This species needs to remain protected to prevent it from being added to the threatened list again.

### What You Can Do

To add your name to the [petition](#) opposing these Rules go to:

<https://sierraclubillinois.wordpress.com/2016/02/10/2057/>

To do more, we highly encourage you to write your own comments and mail them to: **Daniel Nelson, Legal Counsel, Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271**



**BOBCAT SEASON**

A new law authorizing DNR to administer a bobcat season takes effect January 1, 2016. Consequently, bobcat hunting and trapping will remain closed during the upcoming 2015-2016 hunting and trapping seasons. In the months leading up to the 2016-2017 hunting seasons, IDNR will first draft rules to implement a bobcat season and seek Federal export authority for pelts. Pelts of bobcats will be tagged in accordance with federal regulations. The statute allows for a limit of one bobcat per person per season. To participate, the hunter or trapper must obtain a \$5 permit. During the first season, the Department will issue 500 bobcat harvest permits. The season will be set between Nov. 1 and Feb. 15. Administrative rules will be forthcoming, and hunters should watch for an announcement when proposed rules are posted for public comment. Recovery of Illinois' bobcat population is a conservation success story. Sportsmen and women should be proud of their role in funding and participating in the bobcat recovery in Illinois. It is due to your support of conservation programs that a bobcat hunting and trapping season has been made possible.

### **Bobcat Protected**

IDNR will draft rules to implement a bobcat season beginning in the 2016-2017 season, until that time it is unlawful to take a bobcat at any time.

### 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; [statereptribryant@gmail.com](mailto:statereptribryant@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Senate Dist. 55 Senator Dale Righter: 217-235-6033 or 217-782-6674

Senate Dist. 58 - Senator Dave Luechtefeld: 618-243-9014; 217-782-8137; [sendavel@midwest.net](mailto:sendavel@midwest.net)

Senate Dist. 59 - Senator Gary Forby: 618-439-2504; 217-782-5509; [www.senatorforby.com](http://www.senatorforby.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

Senator Dick Durbin: 618-351-1122; 202-224-2152; [durbin.senate.gov](http://durbin.senate.gov)

Senator Mark Kirk: 202-224-2854; 312-886-3506; [kirk.senate.gov](http://kirk.senate.gov)

Representative Mike Bost: 618-457-5787; 202-225-5661; [bost.house.gov](http://bost.house.gov)

Representative John Shimkus: 618-252-8271; 202-225-5271; [shimkus.house.gov](http://shimkus.house.gov)

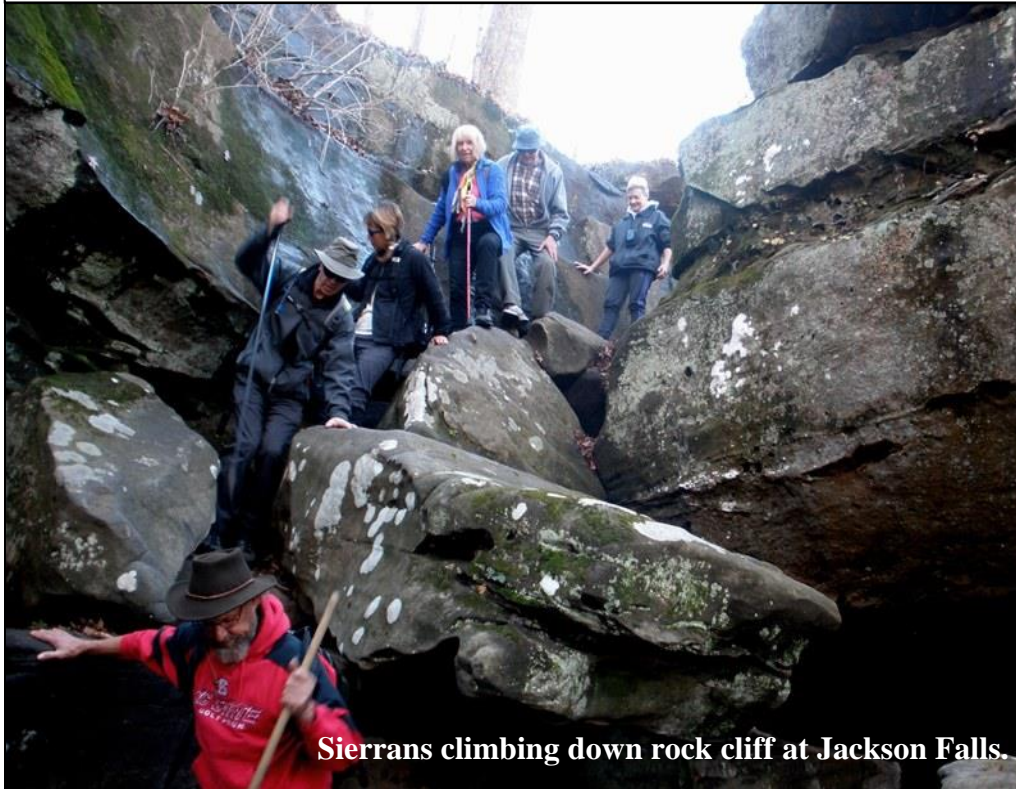
## Has Your Email Address Changed?

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:

[jane.cogie@gmail.com](mailto:jane.cogie@gmail.com)

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

<http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee> Visit the website also for information on upcoming local programs and outings as well as state and national Sierra Club issues.



Sierrans climbing down rock cliff at Jackson Falls.



Sierrans among rocks at Jackson Falls.

### **Leadership Opportunities** **Run for the Board!**

We need a few good women and men.

Join the board of directors (the executive committee, also known as the ExCom) in overseeing the Shawnee Group's strategic direction and economic health.

Board members meet monthly for about 2 hours.

Board terms are for two years.

We are always interested in potential candidates.

### **We also need:**

#### **Hospitality team members**

Provide refreshments for one monthly meeting each year (second Thursday).

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 Program Chair Ruth Kelley at (618) 684-2196

or [rth\\_kelley@yahoo.com](mailto:rth_kelley@yahoo.com).