Land Acknowledgement and the Shawnee
by Jane Cogie, Chair, Shawnee Group Sierra Club

To raise awareness of the important, often invisible histories of indigenous peoples, the Sierra Club has encouraged members to acknowledge those who lived on the land before us. As a project, “land acknowledgement,” also known as territory acknowledgement, aims to show respect for these peoples as well as the value they place on their land and waters. We must recognize this now more than ever. Focusing on the Shawnee made sense to me, given our local place names, including the name of our local Sierra Club group.

The Algonquian word “sawanwa,” “People of the South,” gave the Shawnee their name. Initially, they were associated with the Eastern Woodlands and the Ohio River Valley. Comprised of five distinct bands, each with its own name, they formed a confederacy whose members, according to historian Stephen Warren, were widely known for their skills as negotiators and diplomats. The Shawnee moved across a wide geographic range, trading with both the French and the English, colonial powers competing for dominance in the Ohio River Valley. Under such circumstances, maintaining independence through trade and diplomacy alone could prove to be a challenge. It is not surprising to learn that in 1743, a band of Shawnee formed a settlement, still today called Shawnee Town, at the confluence of the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. Now extracted from their position at the fault line between two colonizing powers, this Shawnee band was situated at a more congenial crossroad of two rivers that served as a highway to other places and other life-sustaining resources. A few decades later, another Shawnee band established itself in the land just above what is now Cape Girardeau, again alongside another river, the Mississippi. What we now call the Shawnee National Forest had settlements at either end of two distinct bands of Shawnee.

Some Shawnee members ultimately moved to Kansas and then Oklahoma, as did members of other tribes, as treaties that had been negotiated in good faith were unexpectedly abrogated. While it’s common knowledge that treaties were (and continue to be) broken, it had not been clear to me previous to preparing this research on land acknowledgement how complete the disregard for legal agreements was.

It would be hard not to recognize in the few key laws and treaties noted below, the ongoing uncertainty and disruption they caused for the culture and way of life of indigenous (Continued on Page 2)
peoples:

- Historian Howard Zinn in *A People’s History of the United States* confirms the disastrous consequences that indigenous peoples faced with treaties: By the 1960s, the U.S. had “signed more than 400 treaties with Indians and violated every single one of them” (526).

- In *The Prairie People* (1998), historian James A. Clifton details how mid-18th Century treaties were designed to break up the large land reserves set aside for resettled Native Americans—with colonists now aware of the Indian reserves’ rich resources. These later treaties “set aside a fraction of the lands on each of the reserves … to those persons recognized as attached to the Indian community, whether or not they were of Indian ancestry. Those who wished it had citizenship made available to them immediately” (349-350). Many tribe members refused this offer of “citizenship,” and moved to another region.

- The Dawes Allotment Act of 1887 gave the U.S. President power to subdivide larger Native American lands into “allotments for Native American heads of families and individuals.” This act forced Native Americans to "assume a capitalist and proprietary relationship with property" that did not previously exist. As a result of the Dawes Act’s changed definition of ownership, native peoples lost two-thirds of the land under their control before 1887.

In his book-length study, *The Worlds the Shawnee Made* (2014), Warren acknowledges that certain actions and decisions within the history of the Shawnee can never be fully known. He recognizes the skills and actions that allowed the Shawnee to remain “dynamic” and independent even as he understands their lives were necessarily kept “contingent” by maneuvers by the French and English (20-21). With the rich and varied movements of the Shawnees across territories as described, Warren points out that any attempt to “place a limit on [the Shawnee] identity” and the identity of other native American tribes would be to “simplify the daily rhythms” of their lives.

What purposes can these exercises in considering land acknowledgements serve? They can never, of course, make up for injustices committed. Yet there is power in admitting wrongs—and in openly recognizing the strengths of indigenous peoples and their histories. Land acknowledgements can also remind us of the importance of water and uses of it to sustain life, a point the Shawnee members in our region allow us to see. Not everyone has recognized the priority that water and other natural resources deserve and indeed require if they are to endure. The Pond Creek Mine permit application, to dump millions of gallons of toxic waste into the Big Muddy River, comes to mind. Our vision gained from land acknowledgements can motivate us to take the trouble to comment to the Illinois EPA on this and other permits—and to start important conversations with others as of yet unaware of the level of pollution our current standards allow. By taking such steps and continuing to learn from indigenous peoples, we can gain insights and connections greatly helpful to forwarding the Sierra Club’s mission, for its members not only to explore and enjoy nature but also to protect it, with the help of the rich and continuing heritage of indigenous peoples.
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 19, 2019
EVENT: Documentary film screening—*Albatross*
5:30 pm: Reception—refreshments & student / community groups tabling
6:15 pm: *Albatross* screening
7:50 pm: Discussion led by Kevin Rohling & others
Location: Guyon Auditorium in SIU-Carbondale Morris Library
Shawnee Group Event Co-sponsors: S.E.N.S.E. (Students Engaging Nature, Sustainability, & Environmentalism), Shawnee Illinois Audubon Society, Keep Carbondale Beautiful

Thursday, October 10, 2019 Program, 7 pm
Title: An Ecological Trip to Antarctica During Its Summer Season
Presenter: John Schwegman, Conservation Biologist
Location: Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street
5 pm Dinner: location TBA

Thursday, November 14, 2019 Program, 7 pm
Title: Snake Road: A Photographic Record
Presenter: Joshua Vossler, SIU Associate Professor, Library Affairs
Location: Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main Street
5 pm Dinner: Location TBA

✅ VOTE!
Look for the Illinois Chapter mailing this fall. Shawnee Group Sierra Club ExCom candidate bios and ballots will be listed in this brochure, *The Prairie State Update*.

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 if you are interested in helping in any way.

Concerned about fracking?
Contact Barb McKasson at babitaji@aol.com if you are interested to help. Bills to support in Springfield, include HB282 (fracking transparency bill) and HB1562 (People’s Property Protection Act, concerning subsurface trespass), so do contact your legislators. However, Barb can alert you of many action, outreach and planning opportunities that come up.

FYI, to receive more timely alerts from the Illinois Chapter of the Sierra Club, sign up online at their state website:
https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/SPageNavigator/Chapter/il_newsletter_signup.html?jsessionid=84420F4C94A5A8CD264E1E3C3F131E25.app205a

Call for articles and photographs for Shawnee Trails! The next issue will be published in May. Please send your Word, PDF or JPG files to sabrina@midwest.net by Monday, November 4th.
FALL 2019 SHAWNEE GROUP SIERRA CLUB OUTINGS

Panthers Den Hike – Sunday, September 15, 2019
Meet by the Murdale sign in the Murdale Shopping Center parking lot in Carbondale before 9:30 a.m., or at Panthers Den trailhead before 10 a.m. This will be a moderate hike of about 4 miles. Bring water, a hiking staff, and wear appropriate hiking shoes. Contact Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 to go on the hike.

Panther Hollow Research Natural Area Hike -- Sunday, October 20, 2019
This hike will take us to the Panther Hollow research natural area, located on the far east side of the Shawnee National Forest. We’ll bushwhack for about 4 miles through rugged terrain containing sandstone rock formations, shelter bluffs and streams. Wear appropriate hiking shoes and bring water. You must call Kevin Rohling at 618-694-8150 to go on the hike. Meet at the Marion Rural King at 10:30 a.m. to drive to the site. To carpool from Carbondale, call Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 and meet at 10 a.m. at Murdale Shopping Center by the Murdale sign.

Ferne Clyffe Hike – Sunday, November 3, 2019
We will hike scenic Ferne Clyffe state park. This will be a moderate hike of 4 miles. Meet at the Ferne Clyffe Lake parking lot before 10 a.m. Wear appropriate hiking shoes and bring water. You must call Bob Mulcahy at 618-942-6342 to go on the hike. If you are interested in carpooling from the Murdale sign at Murdale Shopping Center in Carbondale, call Steve Eberhart at 618-967-8690 and meet before 9:15 a.m.

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

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

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

Piasa Palisades Group Outings Chair:
Carol Klinger, 618-288-5506, 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
http://sierraclub.org/missouri/eastern-missouri

Future Outings TBA:
Updates listed on our or Illinois Chapter websites:
http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/shawnee
https://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/events-calendar
Other short notice outings and events may be announced on our Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubShawnee

Visit the Trail of Tears to learn about the Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the Cherokee removal, winter of 1838-1839, through southern Illinois:
Camp Ground Cemetery
Bridges Tavern
USFS account
Museum of the Cherokee Indian
Southern Illinois during Prehistory --by John A. Schwegenman, archaeologist

With its diverse natural resources and access to two large inland river ways, people have been drawn to southern Illinois for over 10,000 years. While no written records indicate the struggle these early populations endured, the study of their remains by current day archaeologists has shed light on this human legacy of struggle and survival. While by definition prehistoric peoples have left no written records for present day people to learn about their struggle; modern archaeologists have pieced together their story by meticulously interpreting the artifacts, living spaces, and other remains resulting from these early life ways. Through decades of research, archaeological researchers have created a prehistoric cultural sequence which forms a framework that is useful for creating a narrative. A major cultural sequence developed for the region includes the following cultural periods: Paleoindian (circa 10,000 to 8000 BC), Early Archaic (8000 to 6000 BC), Middle Archaic (6000 to 3000 BC), Late Archaic (3000 to 1000 BC), Early Woodland (1000 to 200 BC), Middle Woodland (200 BC to AD 400/500), Late Woodland (AD 400 to 900/1000), Mississippian (AD 900 to 1700). These temporal divisions are marked by stylistic differences in artifacts and correspond to major technological innovations and/or important shifts in adaptation patterns.

The human occupation of southern Illinois began near the end of the last Ice Age as people from Asia entered North America across the Bering land bridge which connected the two continents is known today as Alaska. As the small family groups followed large game into the area the landscape would have been very different from what we see today. Large glaciers covered much of the state to the north and the vegetation consisted of conifers and grasslands that would have been adapted to the cold and dry conditions. Evidence of these groups, which archaeologist assign to the Paleoindian period (circa 10,000 to 8000 BC), is only indicated by the presence if distinct, fluted, projectile points (e.g. Clovis and Folsom points) that once were mounted on spears which the small highly mobile family groups would have used to hunt large game. Evidence of the type of game present at that time has been recovered from near the salt springs at Equality in Saline County, Illinois. Bones from these and similar sites indicate that at this time such large Ice Age herbivores as mammoths, mastodons, horses, and moose/elk roamed the area.

Near the end of the Paleoindian period there was accelerating environmental change. Pollen records indicate that by 11,000 BC the spruce and jack pine forests in the area were gradually replaced by mesic, open canopy forests dominated by oak, ash, and other deciduous trees. At this time the region also experienced a decrease in the diversity of mammals, including significantly the large herbivores, so that by roughly 9500 BC essentially the same animals inhabited the area that did at the time of European settlement. These environmental shifts forced human populations to shift toward a broad-spectrum hunter-gatherer economy which is characteristic of the following Archaic period.

With the die off of the large highly mobile Ice Age herbivores, the proceeding Early Archaic groups (8000 to 6000 BC) began to shift toward a broad-spectrum hunter-gatherer economy based on regionally available food sources. These groups appear to have been organized into small highly mobile groups most likely consisting of related kin and their spouses. While occupation locations during this time have yielded little botanical or faunal material, groups apparently utilized a mobile foraging strategy to exploit the early Holocene plant and animal resources in broad environmental settings including upland locations not utilized by later hunter-gathers. These subsistence strategies involved base camps that were strategically situated with respect to subsistence resources along with smaller extractive camps situated near seasonally available food sources. The consumption of hickory nut and acorn gained increased importance with indirect evidence of this shift including the occurrence of a limited number of processing implements such as nutting stones, manos, and the metates. Faunal subsistence included locally abundant species from both terrestrial (e.g. deer, squirrel, and raccoon) and aquatic (e.g. turtles and fish) ecosystems. Artifacts distinctive of this time consisted largely of side-notched, corner-notched, and basal-notched projectile points including: Hardin Barbed, Kirk Corner Notched, Kirk Stemmed, Thebes, Pine Tree Corner Notched, MacCorkle Stemmed, and LaCroy Bifurcated Stem.

Because of additional environmental shifts, the following Middle Archaic period (6000 to 3000 BC) was also a time of cultural change for hunter-gatherer groups living in the lower Ohio River valley. During the first half of this period, populations were still organized into small, highly mobile groups of hunter-gatherers similar to the previous Early Archaic inhabitants. Later, by ca. 5,400 BC, many Middle Archaic groups were adapting to the drier and warmer conditions resulting from what climate scientist refer to as the Hypsithermal. These adaptations lead to decreased group mobility, the reorganization of settlement and subsistence strategies, use of formal mortuary areas, elaboration of interregional exchange networks, and increased importance of cultivated plants. Sites increasingly seem to concentrate along waterways and lowland areas over time. In addition, these sites were larger and with features (e.g. hearths and earth ovens), deep middens (i.e. trash dumps), high tool type diversity, and burials. These attributes suggest some locations were occupied on a long-term basis. Projectile points associated with these assemblages include (Continued on Page 6)
Hopewell Interaction Sphere is represented by the Wilson Mound Group and Hubele village burial mounds, an emerging pattern of social status differentiation, and a remarkable expansion of interregional exchange. Prominently marked by the appearance of large village and ceremonial sites containing geometric earthworks and conical mounds exemplified by the Hopewell of southern Ohio and the Havana of the lower Illinois River valley. Hopewell is most known for its large, fortified civic/ceremonial centers constructed along major rivers valleys.

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The Late Archaic period (3000 to 1000 BC) was a time of increased population that coincided generally with the end of the Hypsithermal. The regional climate moderated, rainfall increased, and vegetation patterns in the lower Ohio River valley are thought to have become similar to modern conditions. In direct response to climate change, biotic resource distribution became more equitably distributed, allowing Late Archaic groups to expand their settlements to upland areas away from major river valleys. During this period there were not only more sites and artifacts, but also a somewhat increased use of the uplands relative to that of the previous Middle Archaic period. Longer term occupation sites, where multiple tasks were carried out, may have served as camps for hunting parties that exploited both upland and floodplain resources. These changes are consistent with a larger population that experienced greater pressure to use all parts of their immediate environment more thoroughly. Late Archaic artifact assemblages in the lower Ohio River valley are characterized by a variety of straight stemmed projectile point types including Pickwick-Ledbetter, Adena, and Saratoga.

In the archaeological record, the Early Woodland period (1000 to 200 BC) is distinguished from the preceding cultures by the introduction of pottery. Pottery first appears in the upper Ohio Valley around 1000 BC, whereas in the lower Ohio valley, pottery does not appear until around 500 BC. Early Woodland settlement patterns resemble those of the Late Archaic settlement system with large camps generally located on the floodplains of major streams and possess thick middens with numerous cultural features. Hunting and gathering augmented by some gardening appear to represent the basic means of subsistence during this time. Evidence exists that gardening increased in importance; native starchy seeds such as maygrass, knotweed, goosefoot, marshelder, sunflower, squash, and gourds were added to the traditional hunting/gathering economy. In general, the beginning of the Woodland tradition marks the beginning of a trend toward increased sedentism, intensified horticultural activity, expanding regional exchange networks, and the elaboration of ceremonial activities and mortuary practices. Special ritual sites were segregated from habitation sites during this time and restricted to ceremonial activities and burial of the dead.

The developmental trends characteristic of the Woodland tradition are most strongly expressed in many regions of the Midwest by the Middle Woodland (200 BC to AD 400/500) Hopewellian Interaction Sphere. The Hopewellian culture is exemplified by the Hopewell of southern Ohio and the Havana of the lower Illinois River valley. Hopewell is most prominently marked by the appearance of large village and ceremonial sites containing geometric earthworks and conical burial mounds, an emerging pattern of social status differentiation, and a remarkable expansion of interregional exchange. Besides distinctive pottery, artifacts distinct of this time include such expanding stem types as Snyders and Affinis Snyders, Lowe Flared base, Steuben Stemmed, and Chesser Notched. In southern Illinois, a large regional center of the Hopewell Interaction Sphere is represented by the Wilson Mound Group and Hubele village sites located on the Wabash River in eastern White County and the Rutherford mound overlooking the confluence of the Saline and Ohio Rivers in eastern Hardin County, Illinois.

The beginning of the Late Woodland period (AD 400 to 900/1000) was marked by a reduction in interregional trade, a decrease in the complexity of ceremonial activities and mortuary practices, and a reduction in the elaborateness that marked the earlier period. A traditional view has been that the Late Woodland was a time of de-evolution in the cultural development across the Midwest and Southeast. However, important and dynamic cultural and organizational changes were taking place that set the stage for the development of the highly complex Mississippian period in these areas. Changes are noted during this period in ceramic technology, the development of an agricultural economy, and the introduction of the bow and arrow. Sites from this period include the numerous stone forts which can be found situated on defensive ridge tops throughout southern Illinois. The most easily accessible of these sites is the Giant City Stone Fort; a location listed on the National Register of Historic Places within Giant City State Park.

It was during the Mississippian period (AD 900 to 1700) that the prehistoric cultures in the Southeast and middle Mississippi River valley reached their peak of socio-political complexity. The period is marked by the development of complex chiefly societies characterized by hereditary authority and social ranking. The Mississippian period is best known for its large, fortified civic/ceremonial centers constructed along major rivers valleys.
Large, earthen, substructure mounds were constructed on which the houses/temples of the elite were built. Extensive exchange routes were established along which exotic, nonlocal materials were widely exchanged. An agricultural economy became firmly established with maize, beans, squash, and pumpkin being grown to augment traditional hunting and gathering. Typifying the Mississippian period is shell-tempered pottery, small triangular projectiles, a wide diversity of ceramic forms, and square to rectangular houses (many with subterranean floors). The Kinkaid mound group in southern Illinois and the Angel site in southern Indiana are examples of major Mississippian ceremonial centers located along the lower Ohio River. In addition, many rock art sites in southern Illinois, such as at Fountain Bluff and on top of Mill Stone Bluff, are interpreted as being Mississippian in age and provide a glimpse of how these locations were sacred.

The long prehistoric period in eastern North America reflects a general trend toward increasing cultural complexity, beginning with small, egalitarian band's that later developed into more sedentary and complex societies. The subsistence activities of the earliest New World societies focused on hunting and gathering wild plant and animal foods. However, by late prehistoric times, agricultural economies based on three major New World crops – corn, beans, and squash – were characteristic of many societies in the Eastern United States. Increases in the size and density of the human population and a trend toward increased sedentism were also evident and reach their highest levels during the late prehistoric times.

An account on Shawnee at the Vinyard Indian Settlement, by Barney Bush, will appear in the next Shawnee Trails.
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: crusso1957@yahoo.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.

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

2020 Sierra Club Calendars for Sale!

Contact Barb McKasson, 618-529-4824, babitaji@aol.com, or buy at the monthly membership meetings.