



Southern Illinois Audubon Society

September 2016 – Vol. 23, No. 6

NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 222
Carbondale, IL 62903-0222

Established in 1970

What is the Shawnee Parkway Project?



Mark this important presentation on your calendar. It will be on Friday, Sept. 23rd at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First United Methodist Church 214 W. Main St., Carbondale.

Ms. Carrie Nelson, Program Development Engineer for the Illinois Dept. of Transportation, will present this informational “stakeholder’s meeting” on the proposed Shawnee Parkway road project. This presentation will provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the Feasibility Study stage of the proposed Shawnee Parkway project as well as ask questions about the project and voice their opinion. You can find out:

Where would this proposed road be constructed and what type of roadway is being planned? What does “the study area” mean and where is it? What is a stakeholder? Why is this road needed? How is the Shawnee Parkway study being funded? Who will benefit from the road? What is the cost to the local economy? How will it impact the Shawnee National Forest? What is the Context Sensitive Solutions approach to this study and why is it being used? Will IDOT offer more such meetings where the public can be kept up-to-date on the project?

SIAS has taken a stance against this proposed project and urges all members and friends, especially those residents of Union and Alexander Counties, to attend in unity. The project threatens the economics of southernmost IL, the stability of the Clear Creek watershed, and all that we love about the Shawnee National Forest.

–Rhonda R.

SIAS Meetings Calendar for 2016

The previously schedule Sept. speaker Mark Glenshaw, on Forest Park Owls: Hunting and Feeding, had to postpone his program. We are in contact with Mr. Glenshaw to rescheduled for a later date.

Oct. 28th: Cathie Hutcheson – Chile, A three-week excursion

Dec. 2nd: Nov./Dec. combined meeting, program to be announced

Jan. 27th: Annual meeting with potluck, program & silent auction

SIAS Is Looking to Fill Our Hospitality Chair Position

Karen Kaufman has been our wonderful Hospitality Chair since March of 2012. Karen has decided to pass the position on to someone else. SIAS so greatly appreciates her service to the society these 4.5 years. Her shoes will be hard to fill. Anyone willing to take on the challenge please speak to a Board member at our next meeting or contact one of us via our contact info at the end of the newsletter.

Harvest Season-a Letter from the Editor

This newsletter is obviously shorter than average. It’s not that there are fewer bird reports to share or fewer environmental topics to discuss or no conservation achievements to tout. It is because of harvest season.

A glance at any native wildflower plantings will reveal that many forbs are still blooming but numerous others are making seed. *Liatris* (blazing star), *Baptisia alba* (white baptisia), all the many milkweeds, *Penstemon digitalis* (foxglove beardstongue), and purple coneflowers are just some of the beauties with seed now ready to harvest. That has kept me busy both in our field collecting seed heads and in our shop gleaning the seed. It’s not necessarily hard or tedious work but does take time and effort. At day’s end I joyfully view the bins full of the fruits of our labors.

Then I sit down at my computer to work on the newsletter, only to find I’m too exhausted to think of anything but watermelon or ice cream. Focus comes when I realize September has five Fridays and I’m already into the month’s third week. With just a couple days to make the mail deadline, there is no option other than a one double-sided page.

So I’ll end this story by encouraging everyone to stop and view the roadside native wildflowers still in bloom, before they too go to seed. The blue lobelia and purple ironweed are a lovely contrast to the yellow prairie dock and the various goldenrods.

Next month I hope to be back on schedule and will again be as long-winded as ever. –Rhonda R.

Standing in Solidarity Against Dakota Oil Pipeline

The Standing Rock Sioux tribe is fight to stop the Dakota Access Oil Pipeline and preserve its land and culture. The pipeline will desecrate sacred lands essential to the Sioux Nation’s history, culture and identity and threaten the water supply of the Standing Rock Indian Reservation.

This issue might seem half a continent away but this pipeline would barrel east through several states ending somewhere near Patoka, Illinois.

If you have an opportunity, please speak out against the pipeline or sign the petition at: http://action.biologicaldiversity.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=17495

Upcoming Events & Activities

Oct. 1 > Family Birdwatching Course

Part of the ongoing *Becoming an Outdoor Family* program series. Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center, 9 a.m. Call 618.997.3344 for details.

Oct. 4 > Giant City Rocks

Giant City State Park is known for its rocks. Join Geologist Joe Devera from 1-4 p.m. as he leads a hike on the Giant City Nature Trail. Learn what kinds of rocks are in the park and how they were formed. Register ahead and get more details by phoning 618.457.4836

Oct. 14> Calling All Owls at the Cache

Illinois owls serve a very important purpose. Swoop on in to learn all about owls, and then head out into the cool dark night to listen for their eerie calls. After the indoor program at Cache River Wetlands Center from 7-8 p.m., there will be a guided owl prowl at Heron Pond from 8-10 p.m. For more info, call the Wetlands Center at 618.657.2064

Oct. 15 > Nature Photography Course

Part of the ongoing *Becoming an Outdoor Family* program series. Crab Orchard NWR Visitor Center, 11 a.m. Call 618.997.3344 for details.

Oct. 16 > Crab Orchard Refuge Tour

Take a self-guided tour through the closed parts of the Crab Orchard NWR, 1-4 p.m. Call 618.997.3344 for details.

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Oct. 15 & 16 > Shawnee NF Wildflower Walks

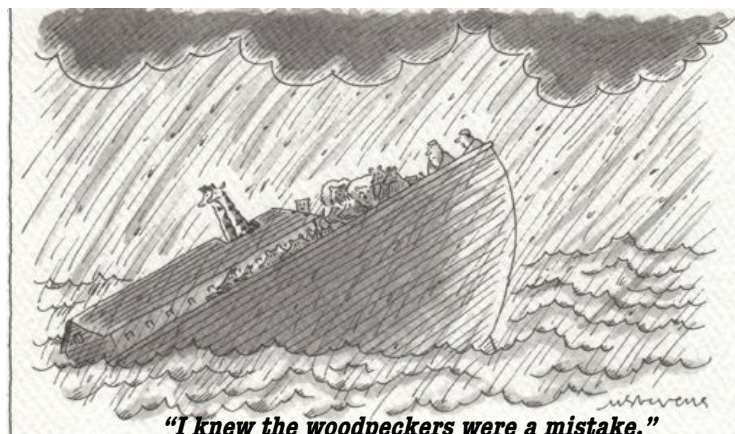
Saturday the 15th Provo Cemetery Barrens walk. Meet at the U.S. Post office in Tamms @ 10 a.m.

Sunday the 16th Gum Springs/Hoggs Bluff/Split Rock. Meet at the Ozark General Store on Hwy 45 in Ozark @ 1 p.m.

Learn how to identify common plants and flowers. Botanist Chris Benda will provide handouts about plant identification terminology, field guides, web resources and information on invasive species. Please come dressed for the weather and bring water. Both hikes will last up to 4 hours. Reservations are encouraged, as hikes will be limited to first 20 participants. Contact Chris Benda at botanizer@gmail.com

January > Eco-Trek to Panama!

Join Professor Nelda Hinckley on this Central America adventure to learn about the Natural History of Panama, Jan. 5-13, 2017. Experience the Canopy Lodge where you'll awake to bird song, live among the birds at Canopy Tower, a repurposed radar tower, where you'll have a 360 degree view of the forest and a view of the Panama Canal. For complete details, including tour cost, contact Nelda at 618.549.7335 ext. 8820, 618.549.5588, or neldahinckley@jalc.edu



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Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,
the Illinois Environmental Council,
& the North American Bluebird Society

