

**PRESS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Free Admission and Lots of Fun for Those Under Twelve!**

April 24, Carbondale – The first Shawnee Energy Festival being held at GreenRetreat in Murphysboro on May 2 & 3 has lots of fun in store for the youngsters. While parents can learn valuable ways to save money and conserve resources, a kids tent full of activities, art projects, and storytelling will engage children of all ages.

Hands-on demonstrations will include the Science Center’s Dinosaur Dig, an Emriver Em2 riverbed model from Little River Research & Design, and also Southern Sustainability’s Energy Bike. The Em2 is a fun way for kids to witness, manipulate, and understand riverbed processes like flow patterns and erosion. The Energy Bike allows folks to hop on a stationary bike and “pedal for power” – comparing the difference in how much energy it takes to light a conventional light bulb versus compact fluorescents.

Carbondale Community Arts will be at the Fest on Saturday with lots of fun art projects to offer, and members of the Beautify Southern Illinois Student Alliance will provide facepainting. Also Saturday afternoon, the Magic Storyteller will weave some wonderful tales with ecological themes. On Sunday afternoon, the PBS KIDS Raising Readers Literacy Van will be at the Fest, and there might be a character appearance from one of PBS’ popular kids shows!

Two special activities will allow kids and their parents to create items to take home! Pat York, recreation program manager for Shawnee National Forest, will show how to make musical instruments from natural items while also explaining about music and different cultures in “Rhythm, Harmony and Nature.” And John Root will show how to construct a solar oven from recycled cardboard and other materials.

Festival activities include workshops and presentations on a variety of energy and environmental topics, solar-powered bandstand, great food, a wellness center, and tours of GreenRetreat. For more information, visit [www.ShawneeEnergyFest.org](http://www.ShawneeEnergyFest.org) and [www.GreenRetreat.org](http://www.GreenRetreat.org)

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