



Success Stories



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Historic Quilt Takes Shape on the Shawnee NF

The Shawnee National Forest and the Massac Quilter's Guild are honoring their Forest's history in a unique way by creating a picture quilt.

On July 18, work began on the roughly 4' x 6' quilt entitled the "Lands Nobody Wanted" after William Shands scholarly history of the Eastern Region National Forests. The initial meeting to develop the picture theme of the quilt was held at the Shawnee Supervisor's Office in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Nine Forest Service employees and Massac Quilter's Guild President Cozette Hebret worked together to develop a design for the "Lands Nobody Wanted" quilt. Mrs. Hebret and the Forest employees sorted through boxes of historic southern Illinois and Forest photos for inspiration.

Julie Robertson, a Youth Conservation Corp student working in the Supervisor's Office this summer, drew a detailed sketch from the rough draft sketched by Rebecca Banker, the Forest Public Affairs Officer.



Volunteers on the Shawnee NF have spent many hours working on the historic quilt.

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Forest Archeologist Mary McCorvie brought in boxes of fabric pieces to add to the samples the other quilters furnished. Everyone 'oohed' and 'ahhed' over shades and patterns of rich browns, bright greens and vibrant blues to use in the quilt.

The quilt will be finished in fall 2003, according to the Forest, and will hang in the lobby of the Forest Supervisor's Office.

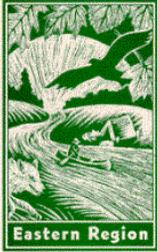
Forest employees and Passport In Time volunteers have completed three quilts during the past two years, including an Underground Railroad sampler quilt and a landscape or picture quilt, and the "Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commemoration" landscape quilt.

All of the quilts depict different aspects of the history of the Shawnee Hills, southern Illinois and the Shawnee National Forest. The quilts are an innovative and exciting way to share the rich local and Forest history with visitors and employees. The completed quilts are already on display on the Forest in the Supervisor's Office.

In another quilt project, entitled "A Colored History: A Landscape Quilt of the Shawnee Hills," we will be trying to capture what the Shawnee National Forest looked like when the Cherokee crossed the Shawnee Hills on the Nunaihi-Dunna-Dlo-lilu-I—the Trail Where They Cried. Or perhaps what Audubon saw in his rambles around the region, or how it looked to travelers on the Underground Railroad as they fled through these lands to freedom from a lifetime of slavery, or perhaps capture what flowers African-American farm wives of Miller Grove use to decorate their homes.

It is plain to see what makes southern Illinois' history so special. However, the area's rich and diverse natural resources—particularly the botanical resources—are what drew people to this area for thousands of years. This area is known for its spring wildflowers, lush greenery in the summer, lovely fall foliage, and a number of very special, rare plants.

These plants, and other more common species, were used by prehistoric Native Americans and black and white settlers alike for folk remedies, as well as dyes, and sources of food. But aside from their utilitarian nature, you first notice their delicate, and often-times ephemeral beauty.



Mark Twain Restores Riverbank

One of the Mark Twain National Forest's wild trout management areas underwent a dramatic improvement this summer.

Mill Creek is located on Forest's Houston/Rolla/Cedar Creek Ranger District. Earlier this year, a 320-foot span of stream bank was showing signs of instability and sloughing off the bank above it.

Working with Missouri's Department of Conservation and ASP Enterprises, a fisheries and watershed improvement plan was developed. Fish America Foundation stepped forward to provide a \$4,000 grant.

The primary purpose of the project was to enhance and protect the wild rainbow trout population. Mill Creek is one of eight self-sustaining wild trout management areas in the state. During the week of July 14, Forest Service employees, contractors and Central Ozarks Private Industry Council, Inc., volunteers shaped and graded; installed 568 Armortec concrete Ajaxs at the toe of the slope; applied native seed for soil stabilization; placed and stapled 240 square yards of turf re-enforcement mat, and placed and stapled 920 square yards of biodegradable coconut blanket.

"We have installed various types of revetments on the forest," said Mark Twain Fisheries Biologist Larry Furniss. "This was the first time we used the one type of concrete block and two types of blankets."

The forest will monitor the site over the next year to see how rain affects the revetment.



The project was funded through the Mill Creek Fisheries and Watershed Improvement Project on the Rolla unit of the Mark Twain NF.

Bradford District Holds Annual Fishing Derby



Young anglers enjoy Derby Day at Twin Lakes Recreation Area, Allegheny NF.

The Bradford District on the Allegheny National Forest held its lucky 13th Annual Kid's Fishing Derby on June 7 at the Twin Lakes Recreation Area. Thanks to help from local partners, more than 160 youngsters between the ages of 2 and 16 enjoyed the opportunity to catch and keep as many as five fish, and compete for cool prizes.

The kids were divided into age groups and competed in such categories as first catch, largest fish, smallest fish, first limit, and largest odd fish.

Rainbow trout was the fish most often reeled in by Derby goers, however an occasional perch, sunfish and golden trout—known locally as "palomino"—were hooked as well.

Among the prizes were new fishing poles, tackle boxes, and vests that were all donated by Hooked on Fishing International and their corporate partner, WalMart. The Bradford WalMart also provided volunteers to assist the young anglers and measure each fish. They also donated a

soft-sided tackle box filled with goodies for each participant that included a cooked hot dog lunch.

The Coca-Cola Corporation donated a new bike for a grand prize drawing, which was a new event for this year. The Island Run Sportsman's Club provided the fish.

The Allegheny provided t-shirts and hats emblazoned with a "Take a Kid Fishing" message. These shirts were given to every kid who caught a fish but didn't win any of the other prizes.

Allegheny employee Joan Yohe provided invaluable assistance to this annual event, and as the inclement weather held off, the spirits were high, and a good time was had by all.



Fire Center Gears Up For Busy Season

Chris Accetturo doesn't bother planning a summer vacation. In fact, she doesn't even give it a second thought.

As the coordinator of the Missouri/Iowa Interagency Coordination Center responsible for dispatching firefighters from both states, Accetturo processes an average of 900 firefighters each summer to fight fires out west.

"This is our busy time," Accetturo said. "We balance getting personnel to where they are needed. Because of different forest conditions, wildfires out west this time of year burn hotter and last longer. They usually need help putting them out."

The help comes from a variety of sources, including the Mark Twain National Forest, where Accetturo's office is located on Fairgrounds Road in Rolla. Personnel from other federal agencies, state agencies, county fire departments and private organizations such as the Iowa Nature Conservancy also participate in forming firefighting teams.

But it is the Chicago native's job to supervise getting manpower, supply and equipment out to wildfire locations and back.

"We sometimes don't know from day to day what we'll need, so we plan ahead and identify early who's available and ready to go," she said.

Firefighters and other support staff usually have 12 to 24 hours to pack up and depart for their assignment. Qualified firefighters pass a physical test and successfully complete training in their area of expertise. They are also required to keep up their certification on an annual basis.

"We don't just send firefighters," Accetturo said. "We have a wide range of specialists who support the firefighters—from cooks to administrative support."

In addition to identifying personnel to fight fires, Accetturo assigned personnel earlier this spring to help with the Columbia shuttle recovery effort.

"That's what we're here for—to get people quickly to where they are needed," she said.



Center Coordinator Chris Accetturo pulls together firefighting teams to send out on western fire assignments.

New Heritage Website Up and Running on the Wayne



The Heritage website team.

During the summer of 2003, Wayne National Forest Archaeologist Ann Cramer, Arch. Tech. Mandy Reese, and two students from Lincoln University—Richard Ndessokia and Christopher Boyer—completed the Payne's Crossing Research website.

This website provides the public with critical genealogical information that will help many researchers study the history and origins of the early African American settlers of Hocking County, Ohio. The genealogical data provided on the website are the results from last year's research that was done in order to prove the theory that this settlement was involved in the Underground Railroad.

Recently, the Program Manager for the Center of Excellence at Lincoln University of Missouri Della Streaty-Wilhoit and the Assistant Program Manager Lianne Hibbert visited the Wayne to learn more about the Underground Railroad project and to observe the progress on the development of the website.

The students are funded through a five-year grant provided by the Forest Service's Civil Rights office partnered with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program (HBCUP). The Heritage Program Manager at the Wayne and the Program Managers at Lincoln University are strategizing a way to continue the Underground Railroad Project when the grant ends in September.



Groundbreaking at the Colbath Homestead



Forest Service employees pose with partners and friends at the groundbreaking ceremony.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held early this summer at the Russell Colbath Homestead on the White Mountain National Forest to kick off the construction of a new timber framed barn, parking lot and restoration of an open field adjacent to the historic site.

The Russell-Colbath Homestead is located on the Kancamagus Scenic Byway (Rt. 112) in Passaconaway, NH, and is the only remaining 19th century homestead in the area. The historic house was purchased by the Forest Service in 1961, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It has been restored to much of its original appearance and is open to the public in the summer when talks about the history of the site are given by a costumed interpreter.

Thomas Russell and his son Amzi built the house in the early 1800s. It was given to Amzi's daughter Ruth when she married Thomas Colbath. Thomas went a-wandering on a fall day in 1891

when he told Ruth after dinner that he would be going out for a "little while" – which turned out to be 42 years.

Legend has it that Ruth placed a lamp in the window to guide him home every night until her death. Thomas did return in 1933. When he was told Ruth had died, he asked about the property and learned that Ruth's nieces and nephews who inherited the site had sold it. He stayed in the area for a short time and then left again.

"The barn will be an opportunity for the Forest Service to tell a story about the Kanc," said Forest Service District Ranger Terry Miller. "What we're embarking on this summer and fall is the result of a lot of hopes and dreams."

The Timber Framers Guild, in cooperation with the Forest Service, is erecting the barn. Wood being used in the construction came from the site. Over three acres of timber from the property were harvested and milled into rough timbers for the barn frame and boards for the roof and siding. Two large tents will be set up for the fitting and preassembly. The site is open to the public during construction and visitors will be able to observe the Guild at work. An old-fashioned barn raising will complete the event on September 12.

Ottawa Volunteers Receive National Volunteer Award

On July 18, Erwin and Sharon (Erv and Sam) Drabek—long-time volunteers on the Ottawa National Forest—received an award from Forest Service national leaders for their outstanding service as volunteers.

Erv and Sam Drabek have been volunteers on the Ottawa National Forest since 1992. They have worked in various Forest programs since then, most notably the Wildlife, Wilderness and Recreation programs. Their contribution to these programs has been invaluable.

Without the hard work and dedication of the Drabeks, the Forest would not have been able to accomplish these tasks to the degree that we have. The work of the Drabeks is leaving a legacy of a healthier Ottawa for generations to come.

In the 30 years since the Forest Service volunteer program started, 1.7 million volunteers have performed work valued at \$696 million on their national forests. In 2002, over 90,678 volunteers contributed almost 3 million hours of work valued at \$38 million to Forest Service programs.

The Ottawa National Forest would like to congratulate the Drabeks on their receipt of this National Award and thank them once again for all of their efforts.



Sam and Erv Drabek with their national volunteer award.



Hoosier ‘Eyesore’ Comes Tumbling Down

“It’s a story about something that we struggled a decade to achieve, and once we ‘broke the code’ and found a solution, the whole thing was done in four-and-a-half hours,” said Brad Lidell, Hoosier National Forest Engineer.

The old water tower on the hill above the Hardin Ridge Recreation Area was considered a landmark by some, an eyesore by others.

“It stood 80 foot tall, and had a capacity of 40,000 gallons of water,” explained Lidell. The tower though, had not been used for years since the recreation area had been put on city water. It was rusting, and posed a potential hazard.

“Once we no longer needed it, we started trying to get rid of it,” said Lidell. “We tried for years. We tried putting it out on bid for someone to buy it for scrap, we even threw in a building and offered that if they tore down the tower, they could have the building and the tower for the scrap value. They took the building and left the tower. We tried again to do the tower and no one would bid.”

Lidell explained, “This year we had a little extra money and started checking into hiring someone to do the job. We found a crew in Michigan that was willing to do the job.”

The crew arrived at the site at 7 a.m. They set up and by 11:30 they were loaded up and gone and the tower was reduced to several bins of recyclable metal. “It was one of the most efficient, amazing operations I’ve ever witnessed,” said Lidell. He explained the crew had 7-8 cutting torches and a forklift and the big tower was dropped in place without a hitch, and was quickly reduced to metal chunks that could be loaded in a bin.

Lidell said the contractors looked like a crew of spacemen with helmets, air tanks, special suits and sparks everywhere. The men working torches told him they could cut through three-inch steel with their torches.

The tower—and a major headache for the forest engineer—are now gone.



The Hoosier water tower was dismantled and sold for scrap.

Hiawatha Clean Up Project Helps Erase Junk Buildup



Paint cans, scrap iron, old tires and even a kitchen sink were collected during the clean up.

In May, approximately 50 volunteers—ranging in age from 5 to 80—gathered at the Raco Work Station on the Hiawatha National Forest’s Sault Ste Marie Ranger District for its sixth annual clean-up day.

During the two-day event, 80 cubic yards of junk was collected.

“There was enough out there to furnish a house,” said Hiawatha Forest Fire Ecologist Don Mikel. “We found everything from toilets to refrigerators to the kitchen sink!” In addition to household items, 150 tires, 80 cans of paint, and scrap iron were hauled out of the woods.

Raymond (Rudy) Johnson, a former logger from Strongs, Michigan, coordinated the event. He was joined by his former logging crew at Easy Logging Company, Sierra Club members, retirees, a Chippewa County commissioner, a Bay Mills Reservation tribal judge, Lake Superior State University staff, high school students, Forest Service

employees, and lots of local partners. Volunteer efforts included much more than trash collection.

Mr. Johnson successfully solicited a local restaurant to donate pizzas, and other local businesses to provide work gloves, drinks and snacks. The county assisted in covering the costs of dumpsters. All metal was separated and recycled. Donations also paid for hats and bumper stickers presented to the volunteer clean-up crews. After spending a weekend cleaning the Forest, the volunteers had a greater awareness about the problems Forests face in managing public lands.

But more importantly, they had the satisfaction of knowing they were making a difference in keeping the Forest clean for future generations.



SCEP Student Visits Shawnee NF



Jabari Bodrick stands beneath the Shawnee's natural bridge.

The Shawnee National Forest welcomed Jabari Bodrick to the forest July 15 on a two-week detail.

Jabari, a public relations student at Florida A&M University, is a Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) participant in the Eastern Region's Regional Office this summer. He worked on the Forest to broaden his overall experience with the Forest Service.

During his detail, Jabari had several opportunities to work in the field. He had barely been introduced to the employees in the Forest Supervisor's Office in Harrisburg, Illinois, before he accompanied Service Branch Chief Cathy Slover and engineer Tony Kirby to the field. They inspected a pedestrian trail bridge at Rim Rock and met with the contractor working on a chip seal project at the Garden of the Gods picnic area.

Jabari's second field excursion was accompanying Forest surveying technician Bobbi Archdale and her crew on a surveying job. They were surveying a low-water crossing on the SNF in Kincaid Lake area near Ava, Illinois. This was Jabari's first experience with GIS and surveying. His work on the west side of the Forest included a visit to the Pomona Natural Bridge.

Another first for Jabari was accompanying Law Enforcement Officer Rebecca Swaney on daily rounds of the east side of the Forest. They visited the Illinois Iron Furnace and the staging area for the 9-Day Trail Ride that began July 26. While at the 9-Day Trail, Jabari conversed with local equestrians and learned a great deal about horses and horse riding.

Jabari's visit to the Shawnee NF gave him a first-hand observation of the diverse people, experiences and actions needed to meet Forest Service goals. He participated daily in caring for the land and serving people.

Cutfoot Sioux Interpretive Trail Dedicated

The Marcell/Deer River District of the Chippewa National Forest hosted a special trail dedication for the members of Company 707 CCC on May 25. This day marked the seventy year anniversary of Company 707 leaving Fort Snelling, Minnesota, by train for the Chippewa and their company home for over nine years.

This took place as the United States struggled to pull itself out of the Great Depression, one job at a time. The members of Company 707 vividly remember those days and want very much to preserve the efforts they made to improve the forests of the nation by providing ways for today's Forest visitors to discover the traces of the past hidden in areas around the Forest.

The creation of the Cutfoot Sioux CCC Camp interpretive trail has been a five-year effort by members of Company 707 and employees of the Marcell/Deer River District. Use of volunteer labor, YCC work crews, borrowed materials and improvised management strategies resulted in the completion of over ½ mile of cleared trails, removal of almost sixty years of forest litter from several abandoned foundation slabs, and the installation of an information kiosk, camp sign, and 29 sign posts located at the locations of many of the building foundation sites for the camp. These posters use actual photographs of the camp from the 1930s and 1940s as provided by many of the members of Company 707. At least sixty people have been involved in the completion of this project at a nominal cost to the Forest Service. It could not have been done without the assistance of Gerald Swanson and Emil Johnson who were instrumental in getting the Forest Service to start this project, and assisted Forestry Technicians Cec Huotari and Keith Matson in keeping the project on track for completion on the Seventieth Anniversary of the founding of Company 707.



The interpretive trail was dedicated May 25 on the Chippewa NF.



Aquatic Education on White Mountain

The White Mountain National Forest participated in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Adopt-a-Salmon" family environmental education program with the Bath Village School in Bath, New Hampshire.

Throughout the 2002-03 school year, multi-agency resource professionals visited the classroom and shared their knowledge of aquatic and terrestrial resources within the Connecticut River watershed with the students. The multi-disciplinary watershed program engages students in science, mathematics, social studies, history and language art studies. Topics included hydrology, habitats, wetlands, ecology, cultural uses, pollution, water quality, and political dynamics involved in managing an anadromous species.

Ammonoosuc/Pemigewasset District Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist Clara Weloth presented a slide program to 86 students from kindergarten through 6th grade explaining the Atlantic salmon life cycle, the National Forest's participation in both the Connecticut and Merrimack River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Programs, and how the Forest Service manages the fisheries and aquatic resources on the White Mountain.

Clara and personnel from New Hampshire Fish and Game Department also provided aquarium supplies and technical assistance with rearing Atlantic salmon eggs in the classroom. Upon hatching, each student released a classroom-reared salmon fry into the Wild Ammonoosuc River.

"Witnessing egg development in the classroom was a very powerful learning experience for the students," Clara said. "By raising and releasing a salmon fry into the Wild Ammonoosuc River, students experienced ownership in their watershed and took a giant step toward developing a lifelong stewardship ethic."

The "Adopt-a-Salmon" program also included a hands-on aquatic field day held during National Fishing Week along the banks of the Wild Ammonoosuc River. The aquatic field day included several learning stations, the Project Learning Tree Salmon Survival Game, a casting contest, and a fishing derby.

The WMNF co-hosted the macroinvertebrate station, where Clara and Visitor Information Specialist Phyllis Bellavance explained the different kinds of pond and river invertebrates and their role in the ecosystem. The local Ammonoosuc Chapter of Trout Unlimited and personnel from other participating agencies hosted the knot tying, fly-tying, fly-casting, and gold panning learning stations.

The WMNF secured a free "Fishing Derby Kit," which was provided by Hooked on Fishing International. With the generous support of national sponsors, the Kids All-American Fishing Derby Program has become the largest nationally sponsored youth/family special event in the United States which is oriented to the local level, to help introduce youth to a life-long skill...fishing.

Under a National Memorandum Of Understanding with the Forest Service, partners supplied materials in the free Fishing Derby Kit, and the Bath Village School fishing derby and casting contest were registered with retail giant Wal-Mart under the nationwide "Kids Casting and Big Fish Contests."



Phyllis Bellavance teaches children how to identify aquatic life in the Wild Ammonoosuc River.

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