

**Shawnee National Forest
2014 Fall Color Report**

September 29 through Oct. 5th



*Autumn Foliage at Garden of the Gods
Near Karbers Ridge, IL - 9/29/2014*



*Sassafras leaves at Garden of the Gods
9/29/2014*

The sassafras has a brilliant palette of orange, yellow and rust red. The tulip poplar, oak, hickory and sycamore trees have more yellow and brown. The sweet gum and maples are showing a touch of yellow and rust red. The sumac bushes are almost a full rust red, and farkleberry has a touch of red. Colors are around 15%. Peak is expected between October 15th and Oct. 20th.

If you're planning a trip, consider the following scenic drives:

1) LaRue-Pine Hills Road is located near Anna/Jonesboro area and is about 35 miles round trip from Jonesboro. The drive consists of a mixture of state, county and forest roads. The main attractions are along the winding LaRue-Pine Hills road, which leads you to the top of bluffs overlooking the Mississippi floodplain and the world-renowned LaRue-Pine Hills/Otter Pond Research Natural Area. This scenic drive also accesses Pine Hills campground, several picnic areas and a variety of local attractions (i.e., antique shops, wineries, and orchards). The general location of this drive is southwest of Carbondale, IL.

2) Ohio River National Scenic Byway transverses three states, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The Illinois portion is approximately 300 miles and ends at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in Cairo, IL. The Scenic Byway reflects the culture and history found along the rolling, hilly landscape of the Ohio River Valley in Illinois. It passes through the eastern portion of the Shawnee National Forest near recreation areas such as the Garden of the Gods, Pounds Hollow, High Knob, Rim Rock, Tower Rock, in addition to Cave in Rock State Park and many small historic river towns.

For more information contact the Shawnee National Forest, (618) 253-7114 or www.fs.usda.gov/shawnee or Southernmost Illinois Tourism Bureau, (800) 248-4373 or <http://southernmostillinois.com/>