

# **“Suitable Only for Tree Crops”**

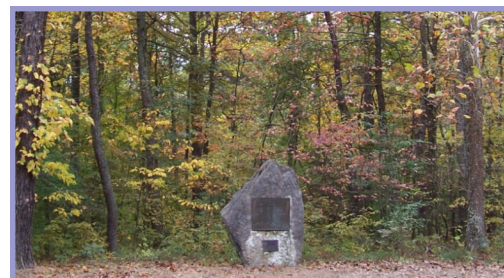
## **—History of the Shawnee National Forest**

Please join the Shawnee National Forest at  
this free, public event!

**Presentation by**  
**Mary McCorvie,**  
Shawnee NF Heritage Program Leader



Early American settlers did not think of the southern Illinois wilderness as a place for solitude and meditation as it is sometimes referred to today, but instead as a worthy adversary to be conquered by ax and plow. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, much of the land in southern Illinois was cleared for farming and industry. This practice led to severe erosion of the landscape and exhaustion of the natural fertility of the soil, until much of the area was considered a wasteland “suitable only for tree crops.” Learn about southern Illinois’s early settlers and their use of the land. Discover how the Weeks Act was instrumental in the formation and restoration of the Shawnee National Forest.



**This presentation will be given twice:**

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**7-8pm**

John C. Guyon Auditorium,  
Morris Library  
SIUC, Carbondale, IL

**October 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**7-8pm**

Shawnee National Forest  
Headquarters  
50 Hwy 145 South, Harrisburg, IL