

2013 Fall Color Reports

Shawnee National Forest

Illinois



Truly the Heartland of the Midwest, southern Illinois is home to the Shawnee National Forest, a 280,000 acre national forest. Unlike state parks the Shawnee is part of the Forest Service, a federal agency dedicated to “Caring for the Land and Serving People”.

Join us this autumn season to enjoy the Shawnee Hills Alive in Color !!

For information about the remaining 15 national forests found in the Eastern U.S. visit the Forest Service [Eastern Region Fall Color Website](#).

Fall Report Color for November 5th



The Shawnee National Forest is alive with color! One word that might be used to describe the colors right now is vibrant!! If you drive or hike through the Forest today, you should find a quiet place to sit, relax and enjoy the spectacular colors of bright orange, yellow and red. The leaves have also begun to fall, and light winds are catching them and creating a rustle. Spend some time outdoors relaxing and listening to the sounds of nature; enjoy the cool breezes as they whisper through the leaves, and catch busy squirrels collecting acorns and songbirds singing from the treetops. Autumn is simply awesome right now in southern Illinois

Fall Report Color for October 30th



The Shawnee National Forest may be small in acreage, but it’s definitely “large” with color! The fall colors have peaked on the Shawnee National Forest! Sunrises and sunsets are bringing life to the golden yellows of the maple trees and the dogwoods crimson red berries. The sumac has changed from crimson to a deeper purple. Southern Illinois

weather is moderate with cooler night temperatures. While the Shawnee National Forest is brilliant with color, some leaves have begun to fall



Fall Report Color for October 23rd

Located in the southern part of Illinois, the Shawnee Hills are on the verge of entering its peak fall color season. Cool nights and warm daytime temperatures have begun to trigger the hardwood forests to change to various colors of yellow, orange and red. Presently, the variety of maple species and tulip poplar trees are turning bright red and yellow, while the smaller sumac tree are displaying a dark purple to brown. The area's walnut trees have already lost their leaves.

With a forecast for colder temperatures over the weekend forest foliage of the Shawnee National Forest will start to change dramatically in the next week. The estimated peak days are October 26th through November 2nd.

October 2nd, 9th, and 16th: No Fall Color Reports due to government shutdown



Fall Report Color for Sept. 25th:

If you visit the Shawnee National Forest today, you will see the red and purple of the Sumac bushes standing out amongst the green of the Forest.

Other trees have just begun to show their hints of color include the Tulip Poplar, which dot the Forest with their leaves of yellow and orange. You will also see the yellows and reds of the Maple trees turning. The Oak and Sycamore trees are yellow and brown, while the Sassafras tree leaves are reddish purple with a hint of yellow. The change of the foliage has just begun with more to come in the week ahead.



Fall Report Color for Sept. 16th:

The foliage in southern Illinois has just begun to turn! Red is showing up on the tips of maple tree leaves, and a hint of yellow is gracing the leaves of the hardwoods. Daily temperatures are in the mid 80's, lows in the 60's; the crisp, cooler air is aiding in the arrival of fall color to the region.