

VOLUNTEER VIBE

Shawnee National Forest



Fall 2013

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SAFETY CORNER...

1. Remember to call in to Kelly (618-559-8648) when beginning and ending your volunteer service for the day. Safety is the #1 priority of the volunteer program.
2. Always check weather conditions before the trip. Be prepared and pack a survival kit to be carried by each person. Kits should include but should not be limited to the following: survival blanket, water proof matches, extra water, and food and a basic first aid kit.
3. Watch out for the warning signs of hypothermia. Symptoms begin with feeling cold, experiencing pain in extremities and shivering as the body tries to raise its temperature.
4. Remember when volunteering that it is extremely important to wear proper PPE (personal protective equipment) at all times. Hardhats are a must, and gloves go a long way to protect hands. Sturdy shoes and long pants should be worn. Dressing in layers will keep you warm and can also be easily removed if necessary.



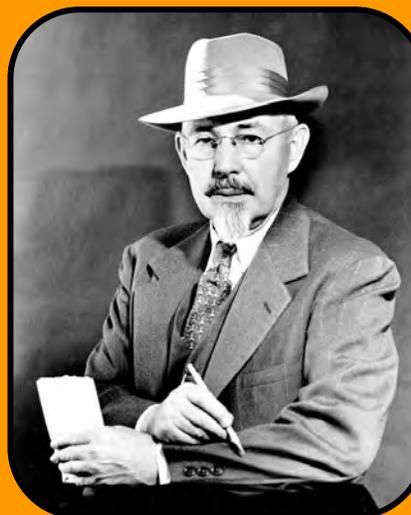
By: Gillum Ferguson

For two days in September, the spirit of the late L. O. Trigg walked again in the Shawnee National Forest that he helped to bring about. "Colonel" Trigg was the publisher of the *Eldorado Daily Journal* and the *Ozark News*, and, before his death in 1949, and a tireless booster for Southern Illinois. Once a year, from 1931 to 1949 Trigg guided influential people on three-day tours of the region's scenic and historic places.

On September 28 and 29, 2013, a mix of Forest Service personnel and community volunteers honored the Colonel's memory and observed National Public Lands Day by escorting twenty-one participants by bus to such local attractions as High Knob, Rim Rock, Cave-in-Rock, Illinois Iron Furnace,

Elizabethtown's historic Rose Hotel, the Blockhouse Cemetery, the Horseshoe Upheaval, Glen O. Jones Lake, the Knights of the Golden Circle, and the sites of Potts Tavern and the ill-fated depression-era College in the Hills. Knowledgeable guides were on hand to provide information and background at each of the locations visited.

A special guest was Colonel Trigg's granddaughter, Janet Davis, of Eldorado, Illinois, who recounted memories of her grandfather to members of the group, as they lunched on southern Illinois barbecue at the breathtaking viewpoint called High Knob. Other highlights included a costumed reception on the



Col. L.O. Trigg

veranda of the Rose Hotel hosted by the Hardin County Historical Society, a fish dinner at the retreat of prominent local businessman Chris Schimp on Rock Creek, and an overnight campout, complete with bonfire, on the beach at Pound's Hollow Recreation Area.

The event was jointly sponsored by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Friends of the Shawnee Forest. Mary McCorvie, Heritage Programs Manager for the USFS, coordinated the program, along with Susie Vacek of Carbondale, representing the Friends. Other USFS personnel assisting in the event were Heather Carey and Kelly Pearson. More hardworking hands behind and on the scene were AmeriCorps VISTAs (Volunteer in Service to America) and SIUC interns. Among the local volunteers assisting in making the revived Ozark Tour a success were Dr. Mark Wagner, Mark Motsinger, Charles Hammond, John O'Dell, Gillum Ferguson, and Chris Schimp.

NPLD Garden of the Gods Invasive Species Inventory and Mapping Project

On September 28, 2013, a group of enthusiastic volunteers met to celebrate our national public lands and to take inventory of invasive species along Indian Point Trail at Garden of the Gods.

The invasive species inventory was organized by the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), the U.S. Forest Service—Shawnee National Forest and Beautify Southern Illinois. All total, twenty-four volunteers came out to help. The group represented diverse backgrounds from all over

the region with volunteers from Southern Illinois University Carbondale groups (Beautify Southern Illinois, Department of Plant Biology, and Department of Forestry), Unity Point School, Golconda Job Corps, University of Illinois Master Naturalists and Ozark Koala Ecosystem Services. The group was trained to identify four invasive species: autumn olive, garlic mustard, Japanese stiltgrass, and multiflora rose – and learned how these non-native invasive species

impact native species and change the environment. For example, garlic mustard invades the forest understory and produces long-lasting chemicals that prevent native plants from growing and does not provide food for many animals; this negatively impacts the food web and harms the biodiversity of the ecosystem. Volunteers were given GPS units and then set out to hike the scenic trail, recording the occurrences of all the invasive species observed. Additionally, volunteers pulled the Japanese stiltgrass at the trailhead just in time to prevent it from producing seed this year. The GPS coordinates collected by the group will be used to create a map, which will guide future invasive species management at Indian Point Trail, with the assistance and dedication of trail-adopters, Golconda Job Corps.

A big THANK YOU goes out to everyone involved!



**Two of the invasive species inventoried: Japanese stiltgrass (left) and garlic mustard(right).
Photo credit: Chris Evans.**

Do YOU have an article to submit to the VIBE?

If so, we would love to see it! Although some articles are written by your humble editor, they have more meaning when they come from volunteers themselves.

So, don't be shy! - Let us know about your volunteer or recreation experience in our Shawnee National Forest. Please send your article or ideas to: shawneevolunteercorps@yahoo.com



Remembering "Uncle" Bob Tyson...

Words by: Kelly Pearson



The Shawnee Volunteer Corps lost a good friend, Bob Tyson, in early July. Bob had been a volunteer with the Shawnee National Forest since 2003. In 2005, Bob became one of the first members of the Shawnee Volunteer Corps. Bob was the adopter for the Cove Hollow Trailhead at Dutch Ridge, responsible for recruiting many members of the Sierra Club to adopt various trailheads on the Forest. He also attended many service days in the fall and spring and was a strong advocate for stewardship service.

Bob was active in his church, served as the Outings Chairperson for the Shawnee Group Sierra Club, was a tutor for seniors and was also a fairly well know local musician. He spent many hours hiking on the Shawnee and was always willing to share some of his favorite places with others. I think it would be fair to say that Bob hiked every trail on the Forest at least once. I have a folder full of notes from Bob from his hikes across the Shawnee. He and his wife Kay vacationed at many national parks and national forests each year, and he always made the effort to inquire about volunteer opportunities at these areas. Upon his return from vacation, he would come in and share with me what he had learned.

For those of you who knew Bob Tyson, I know you will miss him, as will I. Unfortunately, for those of you who did not know "Uncle" Bob, you missed an opportunity to meet a

local legend and good friend.

McLeod: The McLeod, with its large hoe like blade on one side and tined blade on the other, is a common forest fire and trail building tool. It was originally intended for raking fire lines with the teeth and for cutting branches and sod with the sharpened hoe edge. When it comes to trail construction, the McLeod is useful for removing slough and berm from a trail along with tamping or compacting tread. It can also be used to



shape a trail's back slope. Because of its shape, the McLeod is an awkward tool to transport and store. For safety, carry it with the tines pointing toward the ground, ideally with a sheath over the cutting edge.

Look Out Southern Illinois!

November:

1st: Start winter bird feeders.

2nd: Turn clocks back an hour before bed.

3rd: Daylight Saving Time ends.



7th: White-tail Deer rutting begins.

25th: Winter raptors becoming more visible (harriers, hawks, eagles).

December:

10th: Short eared owls foraging at sunset, look for them in grassy fields.



16th: Breeding season of Fox Squirrel peaking.

22th: Winter Solstice, shortest day and longest night of the year.

LNT Highlight: Principle #7 Be Considerate of Other Visitors

With the beauty of the fall leaves blanketing the Shawnee National Forest with an array of colors, many outdoor enthusiasts are enticed to visit.

REMEMBER:

- **Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.**
- **Many cultures consider their ancestral lands sacred. Be a respectful visitor.**
- **Be courteous. Yield to others you encounter.**
- **Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.**





The Friends of the Shawnee National Forest (FSNF) has been working throughout 2013 to support the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) efforts, as well as to engage the communities throughout southern Illinois, to promote stewardship and environmental education through programming and special events. Focus areas for the Friends include increasing awareness through youth targeted programs as well as offering free public education lectures and promoting interest in cultivating relationships among the FSNF and other organizations within area communities. Through such efforts, the FSNF plan to grow and strengthen the network of outdoor programming providers to educate and connect the residents of Illinois with the Shawnee National Forest.

In 2013, the Friends have developed, in connection with the USFS, a public archeological lecture series and an interactive youth workshop centered on understanding and connecting to ways of life from the past. FSNF also hosted a series of responsible, outdoor self-reliance workshops to a local residential education summer camp. In September, the Friends teamed up with the USFS to support National Public Lands Day efforts in reviving the historic L.O. Trigg Ozark Tours. The FSNF have also been asked to partner with a local environmental center to co-develop a new outdoor education summer camp for 2014 for regional adolescents. The Friends currently lead a monthly on-site education day for local adolescents throughout the Shawnee National Forest as well. Programs discuss water quality, interpretive hiking, historic archeology and natural resource uses. Ultimately, the greatest efforts are focused on children's programs to build a greater understanding, appreciation and intellectual development related to the Forest and other natural resources as each endeavor is designed to create a path to lifelong learning about the natural environment.

Establishing and developing partnerships with other organizations throughout Illinois has been, and will continue to be, a communications program where resources can be pooled and collaborated. The FSNF will grow through new and existing programs, coupled with professional connections, to reach a larger audience seeking those services offered via the Friends with an overall goal to establish an inclusive network of communication where stewardship and community engagement are the targets.

In the past, the Friends organization has had the opportunity to work with AmeriCorps VISTAs to create programs and build community involvement through conferences, direct programming, social media, and membership drives. 2013 was no exception. At present, the FSNF have two VISTAs working to increase community outreach, support for local businesses and development of community interest programs.

Meet the Vibe Editor:

Hello! My name is Coryn Hill, and I have been given the opportunity to join the Shawnee Volunteer Corps team as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator. Starting my internship in August allowed me to jump right into the action by developing fun and educational events and programs while working alongside hardworking professionals. On the trails, I have learned first hand the amount of effort and dedication volunteers, like me, put forth to maintain forest and Wilderness areas everyday. In December of this year, I will be graduating Southern Illinois University

Carbondale (SIUC) with my Bachelors degree in Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Management. Through SIUC, I have earned my Wilderness First Responder certification and have also become a Leave No Trace Master Educator. Before my college career, I lived in Northern Illinois in a village called Fox Lake where I grew up with 2 older brothers and 3 older sisters. Because of my family and friends, I have had the utmost support that fuels my drive of sharing my passion for outdoors with others. My time here with the U.S. Forest Service has been a remarkable experience, opening my eyes wider in a great career field and intensifying my excitement to see what life has to offer after graduation.



YOUNG TREKKERS

BY: ANNE TOWNSEND

During the month of September, every Thursday at 4p.m., about 16 children and 6 adults came out to the Lincoln Memorial Picnic Area to join Linda Hauser, Interpretive Specialist, and her intern from Southern Illinois University, Anne Townsend, to be part of the first ever Young Trekker programs. During the first week, these young explorers learned about general water principles along with using dip nets to discover the pond located in the park. From there, they soared around learning about pollinators and their importance to the world. In the program's third week, participants enjoyed playing a wide variety of Native American games and made natural nature shakers out of gourds. The final Young Trekker program was centered on why the tree's leaves change color in the fall. To conclude the lesson on the fall leaves changing, attendees transformed plain white bandanas into bandanas with fun fall colors. After a month of fun, hands on learning,



Who knew the journey of one water drop could be so crazy?!

these young students have indeed transformed themselves into
**JUNIOR
NATURALISTS.**



Young trekkers crafting natural nature shakers

Become a Master Naturalist in Southern Illinois!

The mission of the University of Illinois Extension Program is to provide science-based educational opportunities that connect people with nature and help them become engaged environmental stewards. The program educates and trains adult volunteers so they are better equipped to share natural resource information with others in their communities; and to assist with environmental conservation and restoration activities.

Please register by January 30, 2014. Classes begin Feb. 2014.

To register and for more information visit:

www.web.extension.illinois.edu/ajmpu/mn



November Service Days

Panther Den

Garden of the Gods

Sun. 10th

Sat. 16th

Sun. 17th

Don't miss your opportunity to volunteer with us!
No experience necessary!

Use traditional hand tools to build and maintain
Wilderness areas around the Shawnee National Forest!

Must Wear:

- Long Pants
- Sturdy Shoes

Please Bring:

- Water Bottle
- Lunch

Pre-Register

Phone: 618-833-8576

E-Mail: shawneevolunteercorps@yahoo.com



Shawnee Volunteer Corps



1972 - 2012



Volunteers in the National Forests Act

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