



## Trail News

The Forest Service is still in the middle of their revision to the Forest Plan. I see some definite compromise in some decisions and there are parts of the forest such as the trails that are doing better, but then you run into some real problems. One of our favorite trails is Tecumseh Statue to Stone Face. They not only closed the Stone Face Parking Lot but they have taken water away from such areas as Garden of the Gods and Camp Cadiz. For Hikers, this can be very serious. We say this in order to bring attention to the fact the Shawnee needs to be more Recreation and Visitor oriented. If you have a horror story, or an accolade, please write or call me. Such as: During this last summers drought, hikers arrived at the Garden of the Gods water pump to find a sign which said "out of order." It stayed that way for almost two months. It now stands dry with no handle

National Trails Day at Eddyville, did not bring as large a crowd as we normally had. (Actually smaller than the usual small crowd but this event is so worthwhile that we will continue and build on what we have. Brats, potato salad, stories, really go well together

## The ADT

We will be having several people using the American Discovery Trail this year, including a man and woman equestrian. (They are not together) This is going to be a big year for long trail users.

## Society Elections

During National Trails Day, Election of Officers and the Annual Meeting was held. It was hopefully to choose a replacement and allow me to retire, but everyone else is busy as well so with some adjustments we are going to "keep going." The question that was asked of the membership was "Do we want to let the Society Dissolve" and the answer by everyone is a definite no. We will do some adjustments and build a better organization, advocate more trails and connect more people with trails. The Officers for this year will be:

|                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| <b>Chairman</b>   | John O'Dell   |
| <b>Vice Chair</b> | Jeanette Dove |
| <b>Secretary</b>  | Jim Waycuilus |
| <b>Treasurer</b>  | Ed Sterchi    |

The list of the Board of Directors will be placed on the Web site.

*Bounce fabric softener repels mosquitoes, or take a B1 vitamin every day during the season*

## Windshield Trips

We will do some windshield trips in December. This will be stops at Burden Falls, The Indian Stonefort, Indian Point, and some other trail heads. Just watch the web page for a posting.

## Adjustments to the Newsletter

One of the most time consuming tasks of the Society is to put out a newsletter. The writing is not so much, but the printing, organizing, mailing, is at least a two week process with one person doing it. Soooo, from here on, the newsletter will be placed on the web page and we will not try to do the mailing. If there is a large outcry, we can reconsider, but at this point, it makes more sense to do it this way. Hopefully everyone will understand. We would also like to do more spontaneous hikes and we can use the web site for that as well.

## Fall Scheduled Hikes 2005

We had some great hikes this past year. The smiley faces you see on the Illinois Hiking Society web page is a testimony of the enjoyment people have on these hikes. Enclosed is the Fall schedule that will be a lot of fun.

|                                                                                  |                                            |                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| October 15<br>10:00                                                              | One Horse Gap<br>Meet Herod Post Office    | John O'Dell               |
| October 22<br>10:00                                                              | Crest Trail<br>Tecumseh Statue             | Randy Oliver              |
| October 31<br>6:00 PM<br><i>Bring a flashlight should take about three hours</i> | Halloween<br>Taylor Ridge Church Lot       | Max Creek<br>Brian DeNeal |
| November 5<br>10:00                                                              | Jackson Hollow<br>Climbers Parking Lot     | Mark O'Dell               |
| November 12<br>10:00                                                             | Three Arches<br>Back Packer Parking        | Eric Johnson              |
| November 19<br>10:00                                                             | Buffalo on Rock<br>Tunnel Hill Parking Lot | John O'Dell               |

### ***Hunting Season***

|                                                                          |                                                                        |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| December 5<br>10:00<br><i>Trail head sign just south of Panthers Den</i> | Panther's Den<br>Don Monte/Anne Gaylord                                |  |
| December 12<br>10:00                                                     | Garden of the Gods Loop<br>Observation Trail Parking Lot B. Rectenwald |  |

## Three New Hikes

Eric Johnson and I have plotted hikes that we call:

The Three Arches Trail, The Sand Cave to Bell Smith Springs Trail, and the Tecumseh Statue to Stone Face Trail. This is three sheets of paper with the Trail Description on one side and a GPS map on the back. If you would like these three trails, they are \$10 and you can get them by sending a check to the Society Address listed above. If you buy a trail guide, these three new trails will be included. One other trail that looks good is Buffalo on the Rock which is an Indian Painting in a great valley.