



# NEWSLETTER

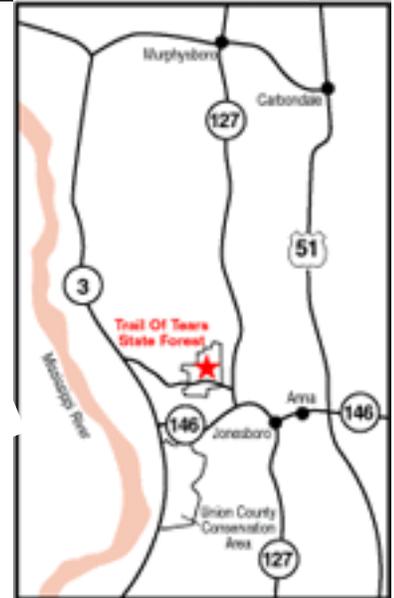
May-June 2021 – Vol. 28 No. 5

Established in 1970

## SIAS Picnic will be August 28<sup>th</sup> at Trail of Tears State Forest

The Annual SIAS picnic will be held on August 28<sup>th</sup> in the main shelter at Trail of Tears State Forest, in Union County. Arrive to help set up and for socializing at 11:30 a.m. with dining at 1 p.m. SIAS will provide the main course grilled. Members are asked to bring a dish to share (no finger foods please) and their own beverages, dinnerware, and utensils. Water is available at the shelter if needed.

The shelter, large with plenty of space and parking, is located on the north side of State Forest Road. It is approx. 4.8 miles east of IL Rt. 3 (Wolf Lake) and approx. 2.6 miles west of IL Rt. 127.



On May 17<sup>th</sup> Governor Pritzker announce that Illinois would follow the CDC's mask guidance for fully vaccinated people: fully vaccinated people can stop wearing a mask and practicing social distancing in most outdoor settings. Individuals who do not have the protection afforded by a Covid-19 vaccination should still wear a mask. (If you are fully vaccinated but still choose to wear a mask, that's ok with us.)

## In Memoriam: Betty Arnold

Although we hadn't seen her for a long while, Betty Arnold was a faithful member into the 2000s and earlier with her husband, Clyde, before his death. Betty, in her 90s, died on Dec. 12, 2020. They started Arnold's Market south of Carbondale to sell apples from their orchards. I remember them erecting wooden platforms on their hilly acreage near Giant City Park. Clyde would put road kill on the platforms to attract the vultures. Meanwhile, Betty made and brought us terrific pies, persimmon pudding, and many fresh apples for our SIAS meetings. How we miss you, Clyde and Betty. — Laraine Wright

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries to Propose Regulatory Revisions to Endangered Species Act

June 4, 2021 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (together the "Services") have released a plan to improve and strengthen implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The set of proposed actions follows President Biden's Executive Order 13990, that directed all federal agencies to review and address agency actions during the last four years that conflict with Biden-Harris administration objectives, such as addressing climate change. As a result of this review, the Services will initiate rulemaking to revise, rescind, or reinstate five ESA regulations finalized by the prior administration. Four are:

- The USFWS will propose to reinstate its "blanket 4(d) rule," that establishes the default of automatically extending protections provided to endangered species to those listed as threatened, unless the Service adopts a species-specific rule.
- The Services will propose to rescind the final rule that defined the term "habitat" for the purposes of critical habitat designation (85 FR 81411; 12/16/ 2020).
- The USFWS will propose to rescind in its entirety (85 FR 82376; 12/17/2020) and revert to implementation of the joint Services regulations for considering exclusions from critical habitat designations.
- The Services will propose revising the final rule (84 FR 45020; 08/27/2019) to reinstate prior language affirming that ESA listing determinations are made "without reference to possible economic or other impacts of such determination," along with other potential revisions also under discussion.

## National Get Outdoors Day June 12<sup>th</sup>

Join local nature enthusiasts and professionals at Giant City State Park to discover all the amazing outdoor opportunities in your backyard and throughout southernmost Illinois. There's hiking, climbing, birdwatching, camping, and foraging for mushrooms!

Visit Giant City State Park between 1-4 p.m. on June 12<sup>th</sup> where there will be informational booths set up outside around the Visitor's Center. Outdoor activities will be offered that day too.

Please call the Visitor's Center at 618.457.4836 for more information.

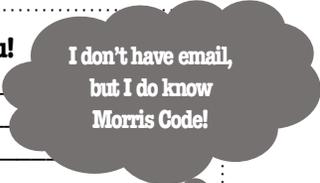
### Informational Booths

- Shawnee National Forest
- Southern Illinois Audubon
- Friends of Crab Orchard NWR
- Friends of Cache River Watershed
- Friends of Giant City
- Illinois Climbers Association
- Gretchen Steele-outdoor activities and opportunities for persons with disabilities
- Hiking with Shawn
- Joe McFarland-Mushrooms
- Josh Vossler-Snake Road
- Green Earth
- Master Naturalists
- Kids activity table

**To Join SIAS or Renew Your Membership, please fill in this form and return it with payment. Thank You!**

Individual Member \$15  
 Family \$25  
 Student Voting Member \$ 5  
 Donation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_



**Mail to: Southern Illinois Audubon Society  
 Attn: Membership  
 P.O. Box 222, Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

**I/We would like to receive our newsletter via email: YES / NO**  
 If you receive your newsletter electronically,  
 contact Laraine W. or Rhonda R. to check your dues status.



**Take a Day Trip to Cape Girardeau – Laraine Wright**

The Cape Girardeau Conservation Nature Center is open again, and a friend and I recently spent a happy hour there and a full day in the town itself. The Nature Center combines a gorgeous building with wooded and sunny walking trails. A plot of native plants just outside the entrance is now attracting butterflies and hummingbirds.

Inside are aquariums and tanks housing fish, snakes, and reptiles native to our region. My favorite is the large alligator snapping turtle, a longtime resident there, well cared for. Much of the exhibits are aimed at children's education, but I am still a child at heart. Open a door in a fake tree trunk to reveal an interior nest, that sort of thing.

The Center is perhaps too top-heavy in displaying the influence of humans in nature (hunting, fishing, camping, the lifestyle of pioneers). A jarring display is the back half of a minivan packed with tents, boots, food, sports equipment, and other suggestions for a weekend in a state park. Don't forget to take a roll of toilet paper and a little shovel.

Admission is free. A small gift shop has great books, cards, toys, and free brochures about the many nature areas in the region. You can also relax inside by the windows to watch birds and other animals at feeders. The see-through beehive is gone, but you can view solitary bees who live in tiny tube boxes outside.

While in Cape Girardeau, consider visiting My Daddy's Cheesecake, a stunning local bakery and diner. Trail of Tears State Park offers a lovely vantage point above the Mississippi River. The Barnes and Noble bookstore is about double the size of the one in Carbondale, and the Schnuck's grocery is large and well-stocked and fun to browse.

Finally, if you have time, take a short drive below Cape on the east side of the river to Thebes, Ill. The old courthouse on the bluff is open again this summer, staffed by volunteers and maintained by a non-profit foundation. New to the property is a restored log cabin from the 1800s.

**Art in the Park** June 19<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 pm, at Giant City State Park. Registration required. Learn how to watercolor paint outdoors with local artist Anne Krippenstapel. Subjects will be reptiles and amphibians. Phone the Visitor's Center at 618.457.4836 for all

**Hike or Bike the Tunnel Hill Trail**  
 Spend some time outside hiking or biking the Tunnel Hill Trail. NOTE: due to flood damage, a portion of the trail, the Karnak Spur to the Cache Wetlands Center, has been closed until further notice. Visit the Tunnel Hill Trail office in Vienna for more details and maps.

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**Welcome New Member:**  
 Ronald Kiser  
 of Murphysboro

**Southern Illinois Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 222  
 Carbondale, IL 62903-0222**

*Affiliate of the Illinois Audubon Society,  
 the Illinois Environmental Council,  
 & the North American Bluebird Society*

