

(Photos courtesy Guy Sternberg.)

# utumn is a beautiful time of year in Illinois. The red, purple, orange, yellow, brown and bronze

shades of the leaves reflect the great diversity of tree species in our state. Our fall color season lasts several weeks, normally starting in northern Illinois counties by the third or fourth week in September. Leaves' colors begin to change during the second week in October in central Illinois and by the last two weeks of October in the southern part of the state. The peak of fall color in Illinois normally occurs by mid-October in northern and central Illinois and by late October or early November in the southern third of the state.

# Match each leaf above to its name below

#### common persimmon Diospyros virginiana

Need a hint? It's a tree with fruits the color of this leaf.

#### redbud

Cercis canadensis Need a hint? It's a tree with heart.

### sweetgum

Liquidambar styraciflua Need a hint? It's a woodland star.

#### sassafras

Sassafras albidum

Need a hint? It's a tree with an identity crisis.

## smooth sumac

Rhus glabra

Need a hint? It's a compound leaf.

# **Explore Illinois'** scenic fall beauty

or seasonal updates on fall foliage, call the Illinois Bureau of Tourism at (800) 226-6632, TDD (800) 406-6418 or visit www.enjoyillinois.com. Some popular fall destinations include:

Apple River Canyon SP, JoDaviess County Argyle Lake SP, McDonough County Beall Woods SP, Wabash County Big River SF, Henderson County Ferne Clyffe SP, Johnson County Garden of the Gods, Saline County Giant City SP, Jackson County Hidden Springs SF, Shelby County Jubilee College SP, Peoria County Kickapoo SP, Vermilion County Lowden-Miller SF, Ogle County Mississippi Palisades SP, Carroll County Pere Marquette SP, Jersey County Rock Cut SP, Winnebago County Starved Rock SP, LaSalle County Trail of Trees SF, Union County

#### Learn more

ducators—do you ask your students to make a leaf collection? Do you know the proper way to preserve leaves? Are you confident identifying the leaves submitted? Attend an ENTICE "Identifying Trees and Making Leaf Collections" workshop and you'll work with experts to learn how to identify and preserve tree leaves. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Register at https://www.entice workshops.com for either workshop:

September 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.—Moraine View State Recreation Area, LeRoy

September 26, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.—Morton Arboretum, Lisle

he "Illinois Fall Colors" poster is one in a series of natural resources posters available from the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Education. Great tools for educators and youth group leaders, posters may be ordered at http://dnr. state.il.us/teachkids.