

WEEKEND IN THE WOODS

YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION

The Sierra Club's Piasa Palisades Group cordially invites members, prospective members, families and friends to a weekend retreat in the woods.

When: 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 1, through noon Sunday, Oct. 3, 2021. Stay one night or two, or just come Saturday evening for the group meal and campfire.



Where: Beautiful Pere Marquette State Park, seven miles west of Grafton. We've reserved Camp

Quatoga for the weekend.

CAMP FACILITIES

Quatoga was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. It's rustic, wooded and isolated from the rest of the park, high on the Mississippi River bluffs.

Lodging: Single-room, enclosed cabins with screened and shuttered windows, electric lights and steel bunk beds with mattresses. Bring sleeping bags or sheets, blankets and pillows.

There also are unit lodges that can house families, groups and single men or women who want to share. If you have health problems or other special needs, please let us know.

Dining hall: A large dining hall will serve as our headquarters. It has tables, benches and a kitchen with a refrigerator, freezer, walk-in cooler, a great old gas range, toaster, coffee pot, dishes, silverware, cooking utensils, pots and pans.

Bath house: Yes, the bath house is a modern, concrete-block facility with electricity, flush toilets, sinks, mirrors and private showers with hot water.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

You can take advantage of Sierra Club activities, explore the park on your own or just hang out around camp. It's your choice!

Scavenger hunt: Experience the delightful sights, sounds, smells and feel of the outdoors with a scavenger hunt around camp all weekend. An activity for the young and young at heart. Pick up instructions in the dining hall. Organized by Carol Klinger.

St. Louis raptors talk: Have you been curious about the birds of prey in your own

backyard? Rachael Heaton of TreeHouse Wildlife Center will give a presentation at 8 p.m. Friday in the dining hall about their natural history and how to identify them. You can even see some of her feathered friends up close! If the weather is right, she'll lead an "owl prow!" through the camp afterward to listen for wild owls.

Great River Road bike ride: Meet at 8:30 a.m. Saturday in the dining hall and convoy to the Piasa Creek Public Access boat ramp, near the intersection of Hazelnut Lane and Illinois 100. Ride on a paved trail to Alton and back (an easy 10 miles). Bring your own bicycle. If you don't have one, a loaner may be available. Let us know in advance if you need a bike. Led by Craig Heaton.

McAdams Peak hike: A 1.7-mile loop on the Goat Cliff and Ravine trails that could be extended by popular demand. Hike along the best cliffs in the park with a 350-foot gradual rise. Meet at 9 a.m. in the dining hall and convoy to the park visitors center lot. Led by Dave Holloway.

Forest bathing (the un-hike): Venture into the woods and immerse yourself in all its wonder. Invented by the Japanese, this activity is known for several health benefits. Great for people who can't endure long hikes. Meet at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at the dining hall. Led by Carol Klinger.

Silver Lake paddle: Meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the park visitors center lot. Convoy to the access point, crossing the Illinois River on the Brussels Ferry and continuing to the boat ramp with canoes in tow. Suitable for all skill levels. Canoes, paddles and life jackets provided. Let us know in advance if you would prefer a kayak or if you want to bring your own boat and gear. Led by Craig Heaton and Chris Krusa.

St. Andrew Ridge hike: Meet at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in the dining hall and convoy a short distance. Walk through old fields and into an older secondary growth forest. This unconventional park trail gives you a feel for the land's original use and allows you to experience woods undisturbed for a century. It's largely flat but irregular in places and not typically mowed. Led by Rich Keating. He recommends good field shoes, water bottles, walking sticks (if you like them) and tick repellent or Permethrin-treated clothes.

Wild bird hike: Rachael Heaton will lead a sunrise birding hike on Sunday. Meet at Pere

Marquette lodge at 7 a.m. then proceed to the trail (to be determined). This will be a relaxed hike with frequent stops to enjoy the sounds of nature and identify bird species in the wild. Bring water bottles and binoculars if you have them.

MEALS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Meals: Just like home. You supply and make your own breakfasts, lunches and Friday evening meal (and wash your own dishes).

Saturday evening meal: Eat at 5:30 p.m. Volunteers will prepare garden vegetable mostaccioli with meat sauce on the side (vegan option available). Served with salad, garlic bread and homemade pie. Soft drinks provided. Bring other beverages if desired.

Saturday campfire: Gather around a campfire in front of the dining hall for music and socializing after dark. Feel free to bring guitars, drums, harmonicas and other instruments.

Games and stuff: Bringing kids or grandkids? Check out our family activity table, complete with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, puzzles and more. What happens if it rains? Weekend in the Woods bingo!

OTHER INFORMATION

Bring: Bicycles, cameras, books, binoculars, day packs, rain gear, water bottles and flashlights.

Don't bring: Guns, radios or pets. Tent camping is prohibited.

Cost: \$7 per person per night for the cabins and \$12 per person for the Saturday evening meal (\$6 for children ages 6-12; 5 and under free).

Be advised: We will be following all COVID-related state and local regulations. Please don't participate if you are feeling sick or if you've been exposed to someone who has tested positive.

To register: Print out the registration form and mail it with payment to 440 W. Union St., Edwardsville, IL 62025. Make checks payable to Piasa Palisades Group of Sierra Club. Deadline is Sept. 17.

Questions: Call Teri Maddox at 618-656-8132 or send an e-mail to palisadesviews@gmail.com.

WEEKEND IN THE WOODS REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

NUMBER OF CABIN CAMPERS:

Friday	Saturday	Total	Cost
_____	_____	_____	X \$7 = _____

SATURDAY EVENING MEAL:

Number of people

Mostaccioli, salad, dessert
(indicate if vegan) _____ X \$12 = _____

Children ages 6-12 _____ X \$6 = _____

GRAND TOTAL: _____

Mail with payment by Friday, Sept. 17, to Weekend in the Woods, 440 W.
Union St., Edwardsville, IL 62025. Make checks payable to Piasa
Palisades Group of Sierra Club. *A map can be sent on request.