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Sounds and Stories of the Shawnee Forest

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SOUNDS AND STORIES OF THE SHAWNEE FOREST

by

Kevin E. Boucher

B.S., Southern Illinois University, 1983

A Research Paper

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Master of Science

Department of Mass Communications & Media Arts
in the Graduate School
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
May 2011

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RESEARCH PAPER APPROVAL

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Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree Of
Master of Science Professional Media & Media Management Studies

Department of Mass Communications & Media Arts
in the Graduate School
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
May 2011

Approved by:

Jan Thompson, Chair

Graduate School

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

March 9, 2011

AN ABSTRACT OF THE RESEARCH PAPER OF

Kevin E. Boucher, for the Master of Science degree in Professional Media & Media Management Studies , presented on March 9, 2011, at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

TITLE: SOUNDS AND STORIES OF THE SHAWNEE

MAJOR PROFESSOR: Jan Thompson, Radio-TV Department

My central thesis is that in today's highly technological civilization with its constant bombardment of stimuli - especially sounds - people need to regularly get away to natural areas and surround themselves with the peaceful and soothing sounds of nature. Through my research I have found that humans have had this need to get away to nature for literally, as long as people have been around and there are proven emotional benefits to do doing this.

I intend to show, through a series of radio documentaries, that the many peaceful natural areas and natural sounds found in the woods and fields of southern Illinois have a positive emotional effect on many people. To do this, my radio documentaries will include many natural sounds and interviews with different people describing their beneficial experiences in the woods of southern Illinois. Possible venues for my documentaries include: WSIU public radio on the campus of SIU/Carbondale, other public radio stations in Illinois, WDBX and other community licensed low-power radio stations in Illinois, visitor centers at the various federal and state natural areas, and the University Museum at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale Illinois.

DEDICATION

To Loraine, thank you for giving me the encouragement that I could pursue a graduate degree and enjoy it. To Hannah and David, thanks for your patience.

To Mom and Dad for the wonderful childhood filled with many nature adventures.

Special thanks to my son Tyler, for the many nature adventures we shared together, which helped me to rediscover my childhood and rekindle my love of the natural world. I miss you.

My humble thanks to God, thanks for the inspiration.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

“Reading about nature is fine, but if a person walks in the woods and listens carefully he can learn more than what is in books, for they speak with the voice of God.”

George Washington Carver, 1915.

Radio has the unique ability to connect with the listener on a personal, one-to-one level in a way that it's younger and louder brother –television-cannot. I have often heard the phrase “theatre of the mind” when people talk of radio. This concept is what fascinates me so much about radio; the unique ability of radio that gives the listener the ability to go anywhere his imagination goes, using radio as the catalyst; simply using sound, the listener can create an infinite number of pictures in his mind.

In 1977, well before the advent of omnipresent computers, cell phones and today's online, plugged-in 24-7 lifestyle, Canadian sound researcher and acoustic-ecology pioneer R. Murray Schafer wrote, “Today the world suffers from an overpopulation of sounds; there is so much acoustic information that little of it can emerge with clarity.” (Schafer, 1977, p. 71).

What was true 33 years ago, as of this writing, is even truer today. In today's noisy, multi-tasking online world and the infinite minutiae of electronic signals assaulting us literally 24-hours a day, radio can –and should- be used more to be a welcome retreat for the listener, to be an electronic source of peace and rejuvenation, an escape, a quiet pause of strength to keep us from drowning in a sea of texts, tweets, rings and beeps. In 1973, ecologist Dr. Roderick Nash described wilderness as being, “. . . beautiful, friendly and capable of elevating and delighting the beholder.” (Nash, 1973, p. 4). Nash also

noted “. . .the value of wild country as a sanctuary in which those in need of consolation can find respite from the pressures of civilization.” (Nash, 1973, p. 4).

Additionally, recent scientific studies strongly point to a link between psychological health and exposure to nature. A 2007 study by Dr. Dorothy Matthews, an associate professor of biology, at the Sage Colleges in Troy, New York, discovered a specific microbe, commonly found in soils, which “. . . decreases anxiety and increases serotonin, the ‘happy hormone.’ The same common bacterium has now been found to increase learning ability.” (Organic Gardening, 2010, p. 62).

Therefore, with so much research backing up my claim, I also strongly feel that there is a tremendous need for peace, calm and soothing in today’s hyped-up, amped-up 21st century. The type of peace, calm and soothing that is provided by nature, and that can be successfully recorded, and enhanced by the unique one-on-one qualities of radio. Therefore, I intend to demonstrate, through a 15 minute radio documentary, the value to people of the many natural areas that exist in southern Illinois. In addition, through personal interviews, I intend to bring to light the tremendous emotional benefits visitors receive when they visit these many natural areas in southern Illinois.

CHAPTER 2

METHOD

Much like the legendary nature writers of the last several hundred years, Thoreau, Muir, Emerson and others, have been awed and inspired by nature in various well-known parts of the United States, many people today visit the many natural areas of southern Illinois to be refreshed and inspired. Southern Illinois has an abundance of these natural areas; the Shawnee National Forest and many parks, wildlife areas and other natural areas administered by the Illinois Department of Conservation.

I intend to show, through a series of radio documentaries, that the many peaceful natural areas and natural sounds found in the woods and fields of southern Illinois have a positive emotional effect on many people. To do this, my radio documentary will include recordings of natural sounds – i.e. birds, insects, crickets, streams – recorded in southern Illinois, and interviews done at various state parks and other natural areas, with different people describing their beneficial experiences in the woods of southern Illinois.

Furthermore, I intend to break these positive emotional benefits down into three sub-categories, with each category representing a strong benefit that the visitor receives when visiting the Shawnee National Forest and the other numerous natural areas of southern Illinois. These three categories are: (1) the peaceful memories and stories that are created when visiting a natural area, (2) the combination of peace and excitement that comes with being in the Shawnee National Forest during the yearly spring migration of warblers into southern Illinois, and (3) the excitement and beneficial sense of adventure that comes with experiencing new sounds that are heard in the forests of southern Illinois;

sounds such as owls calling at night, bobcats, coyotes howling at night, and the rare but memorable sound of mountain lions growling. I intend to organize my interviews with people according to the categories as described above.

My finished audio documentary will therefore be a combination of engaging personal accounts of being with nature, woven with the various serene sounds of nature, in order to create a peaceful scene in the listeners' minds.

CHAPTER 3

BACKGROUND

For humans, nature has long been a source of inspiration and rejuvenation. The list of writings which were inspired by and the praises regarding the peace that nature provides is indeed long. John Muir, Rachel Carson, Henry David Thoreau, George Washington Carver, and Ralph Waldo Emerson are just a few of the writers that have been very inspirational to this author. Since I can remember, I was drawn to forests and woods, and the refreshing peace and quiet that they always offer. I can remember how refreshed I felt whenever I returned from a walk in the woods, or from a trip exploring a small creek.

As mentioned earlier, many experts have written on the link between emotional health and the environment around them. In her landmark book, *The Power of Place*, Winifred Gallagher writes:

“Now modern science is confirming that our actions, thoughts and feelings are indeed shaped not just by our genes and neurochemistry, history and relationships, but also by our surroundings.” (Gallagher, 1993, p. 12).

Going farther back, to the 19th century when emerging technologies were taking hold in the larger population centers of pioneer America, many people’s lives and daily habits were getting farther away from the typical frontier physical laborer spirit. With the growth of jobs in the cities, many people were spending more time in office buildings, city streets and public libraries. This was a very significant trend in that it marked the first time that Americans could live, travel and work without daily exposure to wild

country. (Nash, 1973, p. 57). Despite this trend, the roots of wilderness still remained in the American psyche, as Dr. Benjamin Rush, a Philadelphia physician wrote in 1800:

“. . .man is naturally a wild animal, and. . .taken from the woods, he is never happy. . . ’till he returns to them again.” (Rush, 1948, p. 72).

We may not always be consciously be aware of it, but the need to surround ourselves in the natural world is always with us is, as Dr. Nash writes, literally a part of our DNA. In his book, *Wilderness and the American Mind*, Dr. Nash goes one step further and states that as humans our love of and need to regularly surround ourselves in the natural world is because we have literally embedded in our DNA from our ancient past, an unbreakable bond with our “less technological” past that is always with us:

“I found it necessary to probe back beyond 1607 and 1492 to get at the foundations of American attitudes toward wilderness. The first white “Americans,” I gradually came to understand, were Europeans. Their concept of wilderness was several thousand years old by the time of Jamestown or Columbus. . .the deepest roots of the environmental biases I encountered in medieval and ancient Europe ran back still further in time and in the human psyche. . .but rather in the dim recesses of time when the bodies and brains of some precocious primates developed sufficiently to be considered human. . .What happened in the next two or ten million years (the number doesn’t really matter here) left its mark on the thought and behavior of modern man and, for this reason, must be of concern to historians.” (Nash, 1973, p.vii through page viii).

We need to realize that, no matter how far we evolve as humans and no matter how technologically advanced we become, we will never be able to completely erase that wild part of us which – with every day and every new invention – goes farther and farther back into the deep recesses of our brain. We will never completely get rid of that urge to sometimes simply go out and take in the beauty of a tree, smell a honeysuckle bloom, watch and listen to a bird or experience the joy and refreshing rejuvenation of simply being in the woods and observing the many surprises of nature. This need for returning to nature is not like a switch that you simply turn on and off. Nash writes:

“Our relationship to wilderness, I am now convinced, also has extraordinarily ancient roots. . .wilderness was the home of protohumans until they created a civilization- for millions of years in other words. . .our kind has lived in wilderness at least one hundred times longer than it has lived in civilization. Certainly the influence of this immense background of collective experience would not disappear easily or completely.” (Nash, 1973, p. ix).

In addition to the peace and quiet that nature provides, many people also get away to the wilderness to feel a rejuvenating sense of mystery, the slight excitement of the unknown, and the rush of adrenaline that comes with stepping out of one’s comfort zone. In the winter of 1819, Estwick Evans, a New Hampshire attorney who wanted to get away from the everyday humdrum of the civilized, office life, decided to take a four-thousand mile walking tour of the western United States. Why did he intentionally walk into the wilderness in the brutal winter?

“When Estwick Evans declared that he deliberately made his tour in the winter months so he ‘might experience the *pleasure* of suffering, and the *novelty* of danger.’ . . .In the early nineteenth century, for the first time in American history, it was possible to live and even to travel widely without coming into contact with wild country. Increasingly people lived on established farms or in cities where they did not experience the hardships and fears of the wilderness. From the vantage point of comfortable farms, libraries, and city streets, wilderness assumed a far different character than from a pioneer’s clearing. For Estwick Evans and other gentlemen of leisure and learning, wilderness had actually become a novelty which posed an exciting, temporary alternative to civilization.” (Nash, 1973, p. 57).

In southern Illinois recently, people have been experiencing this rush of the unexpected by the gathering reports of mountain lions roaming the Shawnee National Forest. Even though, officially, wildlife experts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and the United States Forest Service deny this, in two personal interviews with people living within the Crab Orchard National Wildlife refuge, it does appear that some mountain lions live in the remote areas of southern Illinois, and it is this element that gives many that same exciting sense of wonder, the “. . . exciting, temporary

alternative to civilization. . .”, and the “. . .novelty of danger. . .” when they spend time in the woods and forests of southern Illinois.

Evan Buffington of Makanda, Illinois, describes one of his sightings with a mix of wariness and excitement,

“Well the first time that I encountered one I was actually in my vehicle. Uh, I was getting ready to a go out, uh, to morel mushroom hunt. Driving through the refuge and I had to slow down because of the mountain lion literally leaped over, across the road, did not hit, jumped one ditch, and did not hit ground until it hit the other ditch. And this would have, what I would consider a full grown mountain lion with a very long tail, sleek head, very muscled, you know, looking head. . .oh I’d say the tail is at least 4 foot long.”

E. Buffington (personal communication, August 7, 2010)

It is generally accepted as fact then, that as our planet grows and life gets more complicated and noisier, it is important for our well-being to get out in nature. During the Industrial Revolution, the need for reconnecting with the natural world was strong, as this passage from Thoreau scholar Eugene Timpe illustrates:

“Perhaps this recantation was symptomatic of the changing times. Britian’s cities were mushrooming into enormous, unplanned agglomerations of slums and factories; and access to the countryside, except expensively by rail, was yearly becoming more difficult. A new interest in the land and nature arose the more people felt cut off from them. There came a great surge towards simple living, the country cottage, the open air.” (Eugene Timpe. pp. 25-26. *Thoreau Abroad: Twelve Bibliographical Essays*. 1971).

CHAPTER 4

METHODOLOGY

Between April 7th, 2010, and September 4th, 2010, a total of 30 personal interviews were conducted. These interviews utilized the Zoom H4N digital audio recorder. These interviews were recorded in the following natural areas: the Cache River Natural Area, Giant City State Park, Lake on the Campus at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Saline County Wildlife Management Area, rural Alto Pass, Crab Orchard Natural Wildlife Refuge, Pyramid State Park, Crab Orchard Lake, Lake Murphysboro State Park.

The information gathered from these interviews showed that the majority of those interviewed spent time in the woods to get away from the daily stresses of their jobs. In addition, almost all of those interviewed said they also enjoyed spending time in the various natural areas of southern Illinois to get away from the various “irritating,” “obnoxious” cell phones, pagers and other computer-related sounds typical of today’s high-tech offices and surrounding themselves with the peaceful natural sounds such as spring warblers, wood thrushes, summer crickets, fall breezes and other natural sounds.

In addition to these personal interviews, recordings were made of natural sounds at the above mentioned sites and were included as additional background to enhance and add more depth to the interviews.

CHAPTER 5

SUMMARY

Through my research one conclusion seems very clear. Even though our society is well passed the Industrial Revolution, with its own unique soundscape, and has passed into the Information Revolution, with its own new soundscape, the need to get away from often overwhelming man-made noises is as strong as it has ever been.

Canadian R. Murray Schafer, widely considered to be the founder of the study of acoustic ecology and the link between the acoustic environment and the human condition, writes, “The industrial revolution introduced a multitude of new sounds with unhappy consequences. . . Today [1977] the world suffers from an overpopulation of sounds; there is so much acoustic information that little of it can emerge with clarity.” (Schafer, 1977, p. 141).

The purpose of this project was to localize this national problem – to point out that this national need for breaks from the daily sound assault is strong here in southern Illinois and that there is an abundance of natural areas available in the area to meet that need. It seems clear that the unique one-on-one qualities of radio and other new media methods of sound art (i.e. podcasts, radio streams, etc.) can be effectively used to transport – via sound – people to other locations to get away from the office drone.

In southern Illinois – and in other parts of the nation to be sure – the sounds of nature stir the emotions and enable us to break out of the computer and cubicle-controlled work environment that has come to dominate in the 21st century. The sounds of nature serve to refresh, calm and even invigorate us.

Through my interviews, it also seems clear that regularly being around natural sounds provides a calming spiritual experience which many people find important. This is not only true today, but last century when George Washington Carver stated, “I love to think of nature as an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.” (Carver, 1930, p.72).

In addition to the benefits that people individually receive when they spend time in a natural setting, the larger goal of my project aims for the broader impact; to use people’s stories and natural sounds to create and enhance existing awareness of nature in order to foster more respect; and in turn, to bring more awareness to the need of preserving the natural wilderness areas. In doing so, we are in essence preserving ourselves.

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APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A/TRANSCRIPT OF DOCUMENTARY PART 1

Kevin Boucher Nature Documentary Part 1 (March 9th, 2011)**Audio/Narration****(Kevin, eq preset NatureDocVO)**

We live in a noisy world. Computers and many other man-made electronic devices provide a daily soundtrack of electronic beeps, chirps, chips chimes and rings. This constant river of sound, this 21st century high-tech soundtrack always flows. , 365 days a year. (SFX: various computer sounds, keyboard typing, faxes, dial tones, various cell phone rings, office laser printers...a general cacophony of electric office sounds)

But noise has always been with us. And as a result, humans have also had the need to periodically get away from this noise, by going to the country and surrounding themselves with the peaceful sounds of nature. (SFX: tape rewinding, various traffic noises, machinery sounds, hammers, compressors. Sounds gradually get softer....soft hiss of air being let out of a pneumatic compressor....sound slowly fades to the sound of an old-fashioned screen door with bell being opened and closed.)

Segment length: :47

(SFX: Light bird sounds, ambient B-roll from Cache River naturefest...establishes for 2 seconds before next VO)

(**VO:** Karen Clausson, who works for the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge in southern Illinois, gets to spend a lot of time enjoying the natural beauty of the area. And for her, the peace of nature is often right around the corner.)

Karen Clausson: And being out in nature doesn't mean you have to go out for a 5-mile hike. Even just going out in your backyard, or just being outside is very rejuvenating, just the fresh air, and the sounds, and it's just all very calming.

Segment length: :20

Audio/Narration (Kevin, eq preset NatureDocVO)

(**SFX:** Ambient summer woods sounds)

(**SFX:** Above bird calls continue for 2 seconds BEFORE next VO begins)

VO: Simply being alone is often the best part about being with nature, here is BJ Easton.

(**SFX:** Ambient woods background from B-roll recorded in April 2010 at Giant City State park)

(**BJ Easton**) I would say mainly solitude. The beauty. . .of the, of the woods, and uh, fields. You can really get in touch with yourself. It's just kind of a spiritual type of a feeling sometimes. Especially when you're alone in the woods, it's just, there's nothing quite like that. **Segment length: 29**

(SFX: Above Ambient woods background from B-roll recorded in April 2010 at Giant City State park) SFX last for 2 seconds before next VO

Audio/Narration

VO: For Dan Overturf, an extremely busy university professor, simply pondering the night sky works wonders. (SFX: Sound of early spring crickets at night, fades to sound of campfire, campfire continues throughout).

Dan Overturf: Okay we may have a lot of malls, we may have a lot of cities, we may have a lot of people packed into population areas. But there's still parts of the world and certainly parts even of this state and certainly out west, where there's still nothing. There is still a lot of nature out there and at the end of one of those motorcycle trips on each end of one of those days I usually would be camping outside, and again kind of getting back to that long ago time when I would do the same thing, uh when I was a teenager which would be just simply, you know, take in the night. You know the...a campfire and you know maybe just an enjoyable evening listening to the sounds.

(SFX: Sound of Owl calling in the night, with soft call of whippoorwill in the back)

Segment length: :53

Audio/Narration

VO: Many people who enjoy southern Illinois' scenic beauty have also had wonderful outdoor experiences in other parts of the country. Listen to Chris Phelp's story of seeing the northern lights for the first time. (**SFX:** Canoe paddle splashing into the water, sounds of canoes being paddled continues throughout)

Chris Phelps:

I think that the most memorable moment in nature I had is my, my brother and I have gone on canoe trips in the boundary waters up in Eely Minnesota up between Mcanna. And I took my uh wife and three daughters up there a few years ago. And one night it was just perfectly still, the lake was like glass and the northern lights were out. And we went out in the canoe, out in the middle of the lake, (**SFX: spring peepers/frogs up and under**) and you got the feeling that you were almost suspended in, in...in mid-air because you could see the reflection of the northern lights in the water, and it was, it...it.....it almost if you looked down in the water you got a sense of vertigo, it was just amazing. You know the girls still talk about that today. **Segment length:**
:55

(**SFX:** soft splashing and bar chimes in the background slowly fade out to next VO)

VO: Back in southern Illinois, hiker Eric Johnson is sitting in a quiet meadow in the Shawnee National Forest near the popular Garden of the Gods area near Harrisburg., and he says it's important to remember that as you follow the hiking trails deeper into the Shawnee, you also, go deeper into our past.

Eric Johnson: Of course one of my favorite trails, starts just right over here behind us that Tecumseh statue. They call it the crest trail – pretty trail - and it's an old trail. Lots of these hills around here have. . .were settled, you know 200 years ago so you can see old road beds from the old wagon roads. (**SFX:** Ambient forest sounds from Saline County Wildlife Management Area up and under throughout) Now it may have been the settlers that were in here in the 1800s, it may have been the Indians that were here, way back. (**SFX:** sound of single person slowly walking on snow.

Segment length: :43

(**SFX:** Birds up for several seconds and slowly fade under for next VO).

(**transition VO to connect Part 1 W/Part2, the bird doc**) **VO:** Long before our ancestors walked through these woods, colorful visitors from Central & South America roamed the forests of southern Illinois..a yearly pilgrimage that continues to this day.

Coming up next...

END OF PART 1 (file name:

DocPt1Pt1MarcRevisions23FINAL

APPENDIX B/TRANSCRIPT OF DOCUMENTARY PART 2

Kevin Boucher Nature Documentary Part 2 (February 19th, 2011)

Final Storyboard for Bird Doc (reflecting changes made after 12/2/2010 meeting with Jan)

AUDIO/NARRATION

(**SFX:** Open with 6 seconds of various bird calls)

(**Kevin VO**) The Shawnee Forest in southern Illinois is located on what's called the Mississippi Flyway, a natural corridor that many birds use on their yearly migrations. Every spring small, brightly colored birds known as warblers use this flyway to make the woods and forests of the Shawnee their summer home. Warblers are a numerous group of small active birds, similar to sparrows, but usually, more brightly colored that eat nothing but bugs. They winter in Central and South America, but starting in early May, warblers by the thousands descend into the Shawnee for the free all-you-can-eat insect buffet and to raise a family. And that's when the Shawnee really comes alive. (**SFX:** assorted spring warbler bird songs up and establishes for several seconds before next VO).

Listen now as Rhonda Rothrock, a passionate bird-lover and Audubon Society member takes us on an early May birdwalk, deep in the Shawnee....(**SFX:** Birds up and under for entire duration of next VO)

(**Rhonda Rothrock**) There's a real dominant one here it's kind of like "reeder, reeder reeder. . .reeder reeder", that's a tufted Titmouse. (**SFX:** Carolina Wren song up

and under). Now that was a little bit different that “cheery cheery cheery”, that was a Car-----that’s a Carolina Wren. (SFX: sound of Acadian Flycatcher comes up and establishes) And over here there’s the sound it’s kind of like “peetzup, peetzup”...(SFX: birds continue, crows and morning doves are heard plainly). But he stopped, but that’s an Acadian Flycatcher, obviously we heard the crow and then the morning dove going “whoo, whoo whoo who”,

(SFX: Tennessee Warbler song establishes then goes lower for next VO).

That’s the Tennessee, “ Chick-a-see-see chick a-tenessee, see, see, tenessee see, see”

(Kevin VO) Many bird lovers in the country have to travel dozens sometimes hundreds of miles to see and hear this spring spectacle of warblers, but here in southern Illinois, thanks to the Mississippi flyway, this yearly show is in our own backyard. (SFX: warbler calls and songs continue throughout rest of segment) Just how lucky are we? (Rhonda) We’re very lucky to be where we are. . .we really are, it’s, it’s, it’s a major migratory path and really, right beyond the Mississippi River and beyond like Missouri that row of . . .states, the habitat changes. It’s a it’s a....there’s habitat that they can pass along on that corridor as they’re coming up you know they, they. . .they can come to southern Illinois and like I said they can tank up and then the ones that are moving farther north can continue up ‘cause then they ‘gotta jump over the corn and soybean desert known as middle Illinois. (SFX: calls of spring birds rise in volume and establish for several seconds before next VO). (Kevin VO) Rhonda is not only passionate about her hobby, she regularly gets paid by the Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab at SIU Carbondale, to count birds. (SFX: calls of spring birds rise in volume and establish for

several seconds). Now let's re-join Rhonda back in the Shawnee and search for more of these tiny brightly colored songbirds which, for many, are the symbol of spring rebirth in southern Illinois.

(**SFX:** calls of spring birds rise in volume and establish for several seconds).

(**Rhonda VO**) The one we're hearing over here is more related to an open area is a Yellow-Breasted Chat. . .(**SFX:** Chat song increases and Rhonda does an imitation of the bird by whistling the Chat's call). (**Rhonda VO**) That's the Chat.

(**SFX:** various other bird songs continue, after several seconds the song of the Wood Thrush rises to prominence and establishes for several seconds before the next VO) (**Rhonda VO**) OH!!!! That "creep creep creep" that's a Great Crested Flycatcher but in the back there's this one of my favorite birds. . .which my-(**SFX:** Wood Thrush rises up for several seconds) (**Rhonda VO**) It's a Wood Thrush "Ee-oh-lay..."

(**SFX:** Wood Thrush sings for **3 seconds** before next VO)

(**SFX:** sound of car keys jingling and opening car door...sound of a car pulling out of a gravel driveway and driving off)

(**Kevin VO**) Now let's go 70 miles to the east, near the popular Garden of the Gods area near Harrisburg, and listen to hiker John O'Dell talk about the Wood Thrush, his favorite springtime treasure. (**SFX:** car parking, person getting out and walking on gravel and then on leaves) (**John O'Dell VO**) In the late spring you can hear some special birds, the Wood Thrush is one that I really love (**SFX:** Wood Thrush sings for **3 seconds** before next VO, song of the Wood Thrush continues throughout the remainder of John O'Dell) (**John O'Dell VO**) I know that it migrates all the way down to the

Amazon and comes back every year and it's just such a beautiful, beautiful, uh song.

(SFX: Wood Thrush rises in volume and slowly fades down and under for next VO)

(John O'Dell VO) It stops me every time that I hear it. (SFX: Wood Thrush rises in volume and slowly fades down and under for next VO) (John O'Dell VO) It's worth a trip in the woods just for that. (SFX: Wood Thrush rises in volume and slowly fades down and under for next VO)

(Kevin VO) The melodies of spring warblers, just one of the many soothing sounds heard in the Shawnee National Forest. (SFX: various other birds slowly fade, crickets and whippoorwill slowly fade up at end).

APPENDIX C/TRANSCRIPT OF DOCUMENTARY PART 3

Kevin Boucher Nature Documentary Part 3 (February 19th, 2011)**Audio/Narration****(Kevin VO)**

Many people spend time with nature for the peace and quiet it provides. While others get away to the wilderness to feel a rejuvenating sense of mystery, the excitement of the unknown. . . and the rush of adrenaline that comes with stepping out of one's comfort zone. Environmental author Dr. Roderick Nash writes that even in the 1800s, the industrial revolution in a young America was taking people away from daily contact with nature, and as a result, Nash writes, wilderness had actually become a novelty which posed an exciting temporary alternative to civilization.

And in today's online driven society that need for an exciting alternative to civilization is stronger than ever.

In southern Illinois recently, people have been experiencing this rush of the unexpected by the mounting reports of mountain lions roaming the woods.....an unexpected garden visitor greeted Chris one day when she arrived at her home in rural

Alto Pas. . . . **length of this segment: 1:15**

(Chris Collin VO)

It was in the fall and I had just come home from work and I came out the back door and I was standing on my patio. Uh, I had heard some cougar stories long ago but I never expected to see one and I never even thought about one being in the area, but uh, I

was surprised it was a shock to me but it was beautiful, uh, huge animal, very tall really long tail nice face with the lines on his face and a, beautiful animal.

Length of this segment :40

(Chris Collins interview continued)

And then it walked back to right exactly where it had been laying before it walked to the other

end of the garden, it backed up to a bush and “ptchhhh” it spritzed the bush then it just wandered

off very slowly, sauntered into the wilderness over there, there’s cliffs over there there’s a lot

of big trees You can’t even ride a 4-wheeler back there, it’s real rocky and it just walked over

there. . .it was gone.

length of this segment: :30

Interview/Evan Buffington

(Kevin VO) Evan, a mushroom hunter has seen mountain lions half-a-dozen times near the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, and one surprise encounter really spooked him.....**(Evan VO)** Well probably the most nervous one that uh you know scared me a little bit was I was actually walking in the woods morel mushroom hunting, I looked to, what would be my right and saw a mountain lion broadside staring right at me. . .and he didn’t move he was just looking straight at me..so I proceeded to take off to go towards my car, uh, get out of the woods and go to my car that was my first instinct.

Believe it or not as I left, uh, when I started moving that's when he or she - I couldn't tell if it was a male or a female - very slowly it didn't run off it just slowly walked into the woods.... **(Kevin VO)** While seeing a mountain lion is something Evan will never forget hearing one, is overwhelming...

length of this segment: 1:09

Interview/Evan Buffington (continued)

(Evan) Uh, what scared me the most I was stopped...I was in the center of a valley. And all I heard....all of a sudden I heard a roar. It wasn't a bobcat roar, it was a mountain lion roar. And I just have no doubt in my mind, that's what it was. That it was....it was like a warning or something that it could see me. . .maybe I was too close to one of its dens, but I know what I heard, and it was much different sounding that, say, a bobcat. And it just bellowed that roar out too loud, so, you know....and I mean it just echoed through that valley and I said Okay, it's time to leave....**(Evan laughs out)**

length of this segment: :49

(Kevin VO)

IF, mountain lions live in southern Illinois they are very elusive. And actually hearing one is rarer still. While gathering Field recordings for this project, I never could capture that primal mountain lion roar that Evan described....However, I did record many other wonderful sounds of animals. . .animals that have roamed southern Illinois for a

very long time. . . .sounds that are available out there in nature almost any time..giving
comfort, peace

and exhilaration. . . .in our acoustically-overloaded, man-made world..... **time to**

here :38

END. Total time of Part three: 5:08

File name: "DocPt3FINALWithGuitarStingFeb92011"

APPENDIX D/PERMISSION LETTER

From: gregory kunkel <gmkunk@optonline.net>

To: kbouch@siu.edu

Date: Sun, Jan 2, 2011 at 7:57 AM

Subject RE: Graduate student in Radio/Television seeking permission to use some of your birdcalls for my thesis

Mr. Boucher

I give permission to use the below recordings in your thesis as long as you give citations and do not use them commercially.

Greg Kunkel

Hi Mr. Kunkel,

My name is Kevin E. Boucher, a Graduate Student in the College of Mass Communications & Media Arts at Southern Illinois University here in Carbondale Illinois.

I am in the process of editing my final thesis project which is an audio documentary showcasing the many wonderful bird sounds that can be heard during the spring migration here in and around the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois.

Even though I have gathered a lot of good bird calls myself using my Zoom H4N recorder with twin Samsung C02 stereo microphones, there are several birds that I am just not able to get a decent recording of because I never could get close enough to the birds for their songs to rise above the ambient forest background. These birds are (1) the Carolina Wren and (2) the beautiful Wood Thrush, which brings me to the reason I am contacting you.

Would you be willing to give me permission to use your recordings of the **Carolina Wren** and the **Wood Thrush** in my audio documentary? Obviously this is **NOT**, and never will be, a commercial endeavor and I will never use your calls to make money. Of course if you do grant me permission to use these I would give them the appropriate citation.

The Chair of my Thesis committee says that I am well on my way to finalizing my project and, I am expecting to graduate in May 2011.

I have attached a small mp3 file of a portion of my audio project so you can get an idea of the structure of my thesis.

Thank you very much for your time and I eagerly look forward to hearing from you. Don't hesitate to call me on my cell phone to discuss this further.

Kevin Boucher/Graduate Student
College of Mass Communications & Media Arts
Department of Radio/Television
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois

Work Phone: (618) 453-4343

Interviewee Release/Taping Consent Form for “Sounds & Stories of the Shawnee Forest”.

Final audio project of Southern Illinois University/Carbondale College of Mass Communications and Media Arts Graduate Student Kevin E. Boucher (1934 Logan Street Murphysboro Illinois 62966. (618) 453-4343)

Faculty Chair: Jan Thompson/M.G.S/Associate Professor Department of Radio/Television (Southern Illinois University/Carbondale. Room 1048 Communications Building, 1100 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, Illinois (618) 453-4308

This audio documentary will explore the positive emotional benefits humans receive when they get away from man-made noise and routinely spend time surrounded by the many natural sounds which can be found in the many State Parks, Federal Wildlife Areas and other wilderness areas of southern Illinois. I plan to record people as they visit various State Parks and other natural areas. I plan to keep the recordings on SDHC flash drives, external hard drives and CDs at my personal residence.

I, the interviewee, understand that I have been chosen to be interviewed because I have expressed a desire to spend time in a natural setting. I also understand that my interview will be taped and that the recordings will be kept at Kevin Boucher’s personal residence. I have been informed that this interview will last approximately 15 minutes. I also understand that I will be interviewed by name.

I hereby authorize Southern Illinois University (SIU) the right to:

Record on tape or digital audio media, my name, likeness, image, voice and/or performance.

Please PRINT neatly

Name/Title_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Telephone_____Email_____

Signature_____Date_____

“This project has been reviewed and approved by the SIUC Human Subjects Committee. Questions concerning your rights as a participant in this research may be addressed to the Committee Chairperson, Office of Research Development and Administration, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill 62901-4709. Phone (618) 453-4533. E-mail: siuhsc@siu.edu”

(last revised Thursday 6/24/2010)

VITA

Graduate School
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Bachelor of Science, Radio & Television, December 1983

Research Paper Title:

SOUNDS AND STORIES OF THE SHAWNEE FOREST

Major Professor: Janice Thompson