



The Shooting Star

February 2022

Newsletter

"Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities in Illinois."

Inside this issue:

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Feature Plant of The Month</i>	2
<i>Events Calendar</i>	3
<i>Local Events & Announcements</i>	4-7
<i>Invasive Species Corner</i>	8
<i>Contact Us</i>	9

Winter Tree Identification Hike

Sunday, February 20th at 2pm

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center

354 State IL-145N, Simpson

Bark, buds, and twigs!

Get to know our native trees in their dormant state with Chris Evans, U of I Extension Forester. Chris will lead a hike through the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center and teach participants the essentials to identify trees in the winter. To register, please e-mail Chris at cwevans@illinois.edu or call (618) 695-3383.



This program is free and open to the public!

For an orientation, check out Chris's winter tree ID basics presentation on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GrnfwGpp0k>.



If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Send your email address to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list. Also please "like" our page on facebook at www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants.



Message from the Southern Chapter President

Hey everyone! Happy winter and welcome to 2022!

Welcome to the new members who renewed or just joined for the first time. I hope to see you all at our upcoming events! We had a big turnover this past cycle and added lots of new faces to the board. I would like to welcome and thank each of the new and past board members for agreeing to serve. Lots of great ideas have come up for future programs which is one of the benefits of bringing on so many new people and hearing what they find interesting.

We all love plants, but why we do is what differs. Sometimes it's for technical reasons that require words others don't know. Other times, it's just because the colors of a flower have a beautiful combination.... cough *Spigelia* cough

I think winter is a great time to get into the woods. The cold fresh air is invigorating and there are lots of plants to identify. The thought that everything is dead and unidentifiable doesn't appreciate the challenge. This is just when other characteristics of plants are being highlighted and so it's an opportunity to hone our skills. I like going on fern outings to identify as many as I can on a hike. Some are evergreen and quickly identifiable throughout the year, others are deciduous and more difficult, but it can be done. This usually includes seeing large rock faces and mosses as a bonus.

Tree bark is also a great way to open your eyes to the woods during the winter. There is something exciting about walking in the woods and knowing what's around you. The difference between an oaks bark compared to a hickories, or a dogwoods to a redbuds. This past month I went looking for the rock chestnut oak (*Quercus montana*) in the Ozark Hills natural division. This species is in the white oak group and has very exaggerated characteristics. The leaves look similar to a chinquapin's but with rounded lobes. The bark is deeply furrowed and has a pink coloration between the furrows. They begin to stand out from far away once you recognize the pattern of these furrows.

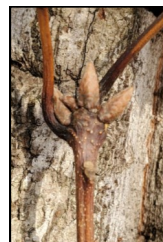
This is my first message as the president of the Southern Chapter. I'm really excited to take on this role and responsibility. From attending plant society meetings as a student at SIU over 10 years ago to joining the board and now to be writing to you now is a wonderful progression and brings to mind the saying "standing on the shoulders of giants".

Talk to you all next month and be on the lookout for programming announcements! ~Nick Seaton



Feature Plant of the Month **Rock Chestnut Oak, *Quercus montana***

This unique oak species is common in the Appalachians, but only found in the wild in a few places in the Shawnee National Forest. It's part of the white oak group, but has deeply fissured bark in similarity of some of the red oaks. Look for the pinkish hue deep in the fissures. It grows in dry upland areas and rocky soils (chert and limestone, lending to the common name. It is also referred to as basket oak, chestnut oak, and rock oak. The leaves are similar to chinquapin oak with obovate, coarsely toothed leaves. It is considered a state threatened species, so count yourself lucky if you encounter one!



2022



Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

Feb. 20	Chris Evans	Winter Tree ID Hike	Dixon Springs AG Center
March 15	Nick Seaton	Ferns of Southern Illinois	Virtual
April 16	Travis Neal, Nick Seaton	Spring Botanical Hike	Ozark Hills Nature Preserve
May TBA	INPS	IL Indigenous Plants Symposium	TBA

Tree ID YouTube Tips <https://bit.ly/3s0NVxI>

Purdue Hardwood Extension Specialist Lenny Farelee has produced over 80 short tree ID video tips and tricks.

EVENT IN PROGRESS



Illinois Botanists Big Year

JAN 1, 2022 - DEC 31, 2022

a project of the Illinois Native Plant Society

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/illinois-botanists-big-year-2022>

Find the most plant species in Illinois in 2022 and rejoice in your victory!

1. Must be a plant,
 2. Observed in Illinois,
 3. Observed in 2022, and
 4. Research grade
- ⇒ [HELP IDENTIFY](#)

[Read More >](#)

PROJECT MEMBERS
ONLY

[Project Journal](#)

Remembering INPS support and member, Paula Havlick

<https://tinyurl.com/5ekcj6nr>

Paula was a 1973 graduate of Rantoul Township High School. She earned a master's degree in oral interpretation from the University of Illinois in 1979. Paula served as a University of Illinois Alumni Relations officer and was affiliated with the University Master Naturalist Program. Paula served as membership director for the Friends of the Cache River Watershed and edited the organization's quarterly newsletter.

Don't forget to renew your INPS annual membership! You can do so by visiting <https://illinoisplants.org/online-membership-form/>.

Local Events & Announcements

Plant Identification Classes

Golden Hills is working with Dr. Tom Rosburg on a series of Iowa plant identification & conservation virtual classes for winter-spring 2022. All will be on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:00pm. Each class has a \$10 registration fee and pre-registration is required. Registration for each event closes at midnight the day before, or when registration is full. Registered participants will receive Zoom information on the day of the event via email.

February 3 - Plant Family Identification

February 10 - Common Fabaceae (pea family) Identification

February 24 - Plant Evolution & Diversity

March 3 - Salix (willow) Identification

March 10 - Designing Seed Mixes

March 24 - Common Rosaceae (rose) Identification

March 31 - Cirsium (thistle) Identification

April 7 - Weeds & Invasive Species Identification

<https://www.goldenhillsrccd.org/plantid.html>



Prairies are making headlines, but what exactly are they?

Almost as soon as it was dubbed the Prairie State, Illinois began to lose the very features that inspired the nickname.

In short order, millions of acres of prairie that had gone undisturbed since the retreat of the last glaciers were transformed into some of the most productive farmland in the U.S. or churned to make room for cities and ultimately suburban sprawl. In the process, prairie, which once [covered 60% of Illinois](#) was all but erased. What's left is measured in decimal points. Among conservationists' most oft-cited stats, only .01 of 1% of high-quality original prairie remains. Indeed, so little prairie still exists in Illinois, most residents of the state have never encountered this rare landscape. "I don't think people have a chance to see and understand prairies," said Kelly Mikenas, assistant professor of biology and director of the environmental studies program at Elmhurst University. "There aren't that many opportunities to go and visit prairies."

Whereas the word forest immediately conjures up specific images — people know what trees look like — prairie draws a blank or, worse, the brain serves up uninformed guesses, like faulty search engine results or autocorrect failures.

Unmowed field? Not a prairie. Rural America? Not a prairie. Garden plot filled with native plants? Not a prairie. Swaths of roadside weeds? Not a prairie.

To continue reading this article, visit <https://tinyurl.com/53djt4et>.

Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner Program

The Southern Illinois Beginning Forest Landowner program is a year-long exploration of basic forest and natural resource management and planning that starts in spring 2022. You'll learn best practices from Extension forestry staff and partners during instructional sessions and hands-on field days and connect with experienced forest landowners. To find out more, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n7ytz35>.



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Local Events & Announcements

Backyard Maple Syrup Production Workshop

Event Date(s): February 19, 2022

Event Time: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Event Fee: \$0.00

Location: Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, Simpson, IL

County: Pope

<https://extension.illinois.edu/events/2022-02-19-backyard-maple-syrup-production-workshop>



Are you interested in learning about making your own maple syrup? If so, come to the sixth annual Backyard Maple Syrup Production Workshop at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. Maple sap collection and syrup production is easy, relatively inexpensive to start, and is a great late winter project that can be fun for the entire family. Sugar maples, the species typically thought of for sap collection, are abundant in southern Illinois but other species of maple can also be tapped to make this tasty syrup.

This all-outdoor program will cover tree identification, equipment needs, tree tapping, sap collection, boiling, and finishing maple syrup. Participants will see firsthand the processes involved in making maple syrup. We will have a demonstration of a syrup evaporator and an optional tour of a sugarbush forest, managed for maple syrup production and utilizing a pipeline system of sap collection.

The University of Illinois Extension will provide an indoor maple syrup program for kids (Masks will be required indoors).

The workshop will be held on Saturday, February 19th, 2022 from 10 am-11:30 am at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, located at 354 State Highway 145 N, Simpson, IL 62985. This program is free and open to the public.

Register by calling the Ag Center at 618-695-3383 or emailing cwevans@illinois.edu by February 18th

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Dixon Springs at 618-695-3383.

For more information, please contact:

Chris Evans - cwevans@illinois.edu , 618-695-3383

Missouri Natural Areas Newsletter

Feel free to check out other neat natural areas news from our neighbor state by visiting <https://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places/natural-areas/natural-areas-newsletter>.



Local Events & Announcements

Hike at Little Grand Canyon, Bootleg Trail

Saturday, February 6, 9:30am

Join us for a 4.5 mile hike for a beautiful view of the bluffs and canyon.

Please wear appropriate shoes and bring water. Meet at the upper parking lot. To attend, call Jon Womack at 815-263-9625.



Southern Illinois: A Convergence of Landscapes

Thursday, February 10, 7—8 pm

We all know southern Illinois is a special place. Please join us on Zoom to learn about the convergence of physiographic regions that make this corner of our world unique. Our presenter for this program will be Tharran Hobson, the Southern Illinois Program Director for The Nature Conservancy, current Prairie State Conservation Coalition Board Member, and past president of the Friends of the Illinois River. To register, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/ykvhzfvc>. For more information, contact Jane Cogie at jane.cogie@gmail.com or call at 618-713-7024.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) invites graduate students (pursuing a master's or doctoral degree) to [apply](#) to the 2022 **Conservation Connect Fellowship Program**.

Conservation Connect fellowships aim to build experience, knowledge, and skills within the next generation of collaborative and conservation leaders to support each other and advance the field. We are striving to build a cohort of emerging leaders, connecting graduate students who will go on to do important work with communities and public lands in the future!

Fellows will match the knowledge they are acquiring through their academic work with practical, hands-on experience and contribute directly to collaborative stewardship of our National Forests.

Here's what graduate students will gain through a Conservation Connect fellowship:

- Applied experience with conservation programs and projects through a practicum project. For example, depending on the project, fellows may work with diverse stakeholders, support and facilitate collaborative efforts, coordinate and implement projects, conduct research to improve conservation programs, and develop training curricula and strategic communications.
 - Mentoring from skilled conservation professionals at the NFF and other nonprofit host organizations.
 - Training in collaborative conservation, facilitation practice, the roles of the National Environmental Policy Act and U.S. Forest Service, and other topics.
 - Real-world understanding of forest and public lands management.
 - An expanded personal and professional network.
- Fellowships include a summer 2022 and academic year 2022-23 practicum, which may be at a specific location or virtual depending on the project.

**The NFF will accept applications through
February 18, 2022.**



Local Events & Announcements

We're Hiring! Join the staff of the Environmental Education Association of Illinois as our NEW Program Coordinator!

Title: EEAI Program Coordinator

Who We Are: The Environmental Education Association of Illinois (EEAI) is an independent, member-supported, not-for-profit (501(c) 3) statewide organization. Since 1972, EEAI has worked towards a mission to maintain a vital network that supports and advances environmental education throughout the state.



To facilitate this mission, EEAI is Illinois' administrator for Project Learning Tree® (nationally administered by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative); Project WILD® (nationally administered by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies); North American Association for Environmental Education's Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education; Earth Force and RISE Challenge Illinois environmental education programs. The Environmental Education Association of Illinois is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage people who are Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQ+ people, transgender and gender nonconforming people, and people with disabilities to apply.

What You Will Do:

- Coordinate EEAI Professional Development Programs (70%):
 - Recruit, train and supervise a growing team of statewide facilitators.
 - Conduct both in-person and virtual trainings in alignment with state/national education standards on any of the above-mentioned programs or other relevant environmental or educational topics.
 - Develop, maintain and host online courses through EEAI's course platform Moodle.
 - Create and disseminate quarterly EEAI Facilitator Newsletters to inform and inspire EEAI facilitators.
 - Coordinate deposits, disbursements, invoices and orders of program-related materials.
 - Create and submit activity reports required by all national program offices.
- Serve on regional, statewide and national committees to establish/maintain relationships with partnering affiliates and committees (5%).
- Submit program-related newsletter articles and reports for board meetings and the quarterly EEAI Update member newsletter (5%).
- Attend local, regional and/or national conferences to present, exhibit and network on behalf of EEAI (10%).
- Assist the EEAI Executive Director with other professional development events and projects as needed (10%).

Payment of Services: This is a 20 hours/week, non-benefits eligible, part-time role with potential for expanded hours in the future. The number of hours available will be reviewed annually. Hourly pay is \$16-\$19 per hour, based on experience. \$25/month is provided as a stipend for internet and phone use. Office, equipment and location are the responsibility of the employee.

Application Procedure: Send a cover letter and resume which includes the contact information of three professional references familiar with your work in environmental education to EEAssociationIllinois@gmail.com. Identify your submission with the subject line "EEAI Program Coordinator".

Application deadline: February 13, 2022. Estimated Start Date: February 28, 2022.

For further information about the position, please contact Abbie Enlund at ExecutiveDirectorEEAI@gmail.com

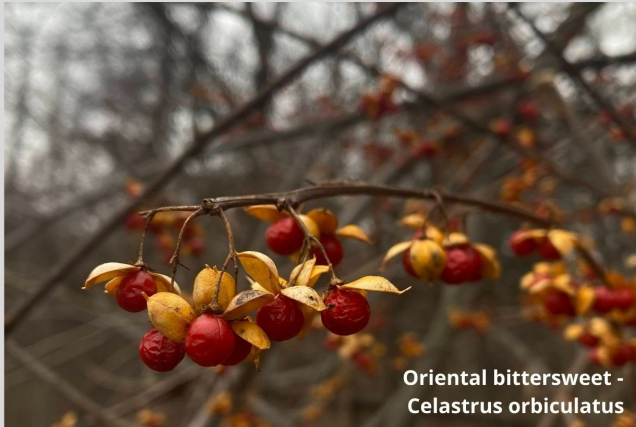
<https://tinyurl.com/e8yw9y2j>

Invasive Species Corner

Please look at the following resources for the latest in Invasive Species news.

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>
<https://www.frstillinois.com>
www.sipba.org

Whats in the woods?



Oriental bittersweet -
Celastrus orbiculatus

Oriental bittersweet is an invasive vine growing in Southern Illinois. Plants are visible in the winter with split yellow skin and scarlet arils.

Winter is a great time to ID and control oriental bittersweet

Plants can tolerate many habitats from field edges to woodlands!



more information on ID and control at
rtrcwma.org



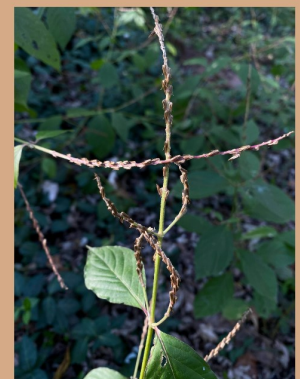
Invasive Species Action Alert Japanese chaff flower

Achyranthes japonica
(*Amaranthaceae*)

Chaff Flower is an invasive plant that is spreading quickly across the Southern Illinois region and neighboring states



Seeds are easily dispersed on the fur of animals and clothing
Avoid infested areas to prevent further spread



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
P.O. Box 271
Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com
www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Nick Seaton
VP: Jean Sellar
Secretary: Ingrid Felsl
Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Chris Evans
At-large: Kurt Neubig
At-large: Jen Harris
At-large: Rhonda Rothrock
Newsletter: Jennifer Behnken

Know someone who would like to receive our newsletter? Please have them send their email address to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our distribution list!



Join us!

- ☐ New Member ☐ Address Change only
☐ Renewal ☐ Additional Donation

Name _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____ Membership Year _____
Email _____

Please make checks payable to: Illinois Native Plant Society, Attn: Dr. Nancy Garwood
Life Science II—Mailcode 6509 Southern Illinois University 1125 Lincoln Dr. Carbondale, IL 62901

Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$15.00
☐ Individual.....\$25.00
☐ Family.....\$35.00
☐ Institutional (nonvoting).....\$20.00
☐ Supporting.....\$50.00
☐ Patron.....\$100.00
☐ Business.....\$125.00
☐ Life.....\$500.00
☐ *Iliamna* (life).....\$1,000.00
☐ *Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
☐ *Erigenia* (life).....\$3,000.00

The Harbinger Newsletter is sent electronically by email.

☐ Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

Erigenia, our scientific journal, is now available digitally as well as in print.

Please indicate your preference for receiving the journal.

☐ Email only ☐ Postal Mail only ☐ Both

Chapter Affiliation

- ☐ Central (Springfield) ☐ Northeast (Chicago)
☐ Forest Glen (Westville) ☐ Quad Cities (Rock Island)
☐ Grand Prairie (Bloomington) ☐ Southern (Carbondale)
☐ Kankakee Torrent ☐ Other/Uncertain _____

I would like to help with:

- ☐ Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level)
☐ Leading Field Trips & Tours
☐ Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars

- ☐ Giving Workshops &/or Seminars
☐ Public Speaking
☐ Fund Raising
☐ Website Assistance/Management

- ☐ Public Media/Communications
☐ Writing/Submitting articles
☐ Photography
☐ Other: _____

My area of expertise: _____