



The Shooting Star

March/April 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>	4-9
<i>Invasive Species Corner</i>	10-11
<i>Contact Us</i>	12

Spring Botanical Hike

Saturday, April 16th, 10am-12pm

Ozark Hills Nature Preserve

Ozark Hills NP Parking Lot

Located in the southern section of the Ozark Natural History Division, this part of Illinois is geologically and botanically unique! Nick Seaton and Travis Neal will lead a hike highlighting the spring wildflowers blanketing the dry-mesic forest floor.

From Jonesboro, take Highway 127 to State Forest Road. Turn west on this road and go 0.5 miles to the entrance to Trail of Tears State Forest. Stay on the road for 1 mile. The preserve is on the south side of the road. For questions, contact Nick Seaton at rtrcwma@gmail.com, (815) 953-6633.

37°29'4.19"N, 89°21'19.20"W

This program is free and open to the public!



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

We've had a whirlwind of weather these past few weeks. Who bumped the settings to freeze thaw!? From ice storms and snow back to rain and 70+ degree days. Looking back to photos just a few weeks ago and you wouldn't have guessed there was snow on the ground. Even with all this confusion in the weather, the plants keep moving along in preparation for spring. I'm glad we spring ahead this month so they have one more hour to grow..

I noticed the maples beginning to flower and the buds beginning to break under the ice. The Harbinger of spring *Erigenia bulbosa* is one of the first tiny flowers to be seen and in my opinion has one of the best color contrasts during the early days of the season. The petals are small and white and have maroon stamen. Spring beauty, *Claytonia virginica* was seen last week for the first time, and soon enough the tiny red flowers of the hazelnuts, *Corylus americana* will begin to bloom. Start looking for the dangling catkins so you know where they'll be when they start to pop. I photographed this last year in mid-March.

Another early blooming species in the buttercup family that comes up around this time is the sharp lobed hepatica, *Hepatica acutiloba*. I saw this blooming in Hardin County last year on March 10th. It has small pink flowers and interesting 3 lobed leaves. The leaves that are fully expanded from last year are browned right now but look closely and you will notice the miniature three lobed leaves for this year expanding while the plant is blooming.

For the sedge heads out there, keep an eye out for *Carex nigromarginata* this spring. The distribution of this species is not well known in southern Illinois. It blooms very early in the season, and the perigynia grow below the leaves. This may be one of the reasons its been overlooked, or it is truly uncommon. The plants have a sprawling almost stepped on look and dark green leaves. I've now seen it in a few different habitats from Union across to Pope County. Over time, we may find that the distribution is much larger if more people are looking for it.

I went on a road trip to Arizona last month and saw lots of new and interesting plants. The desert is a magical place with so many thorned and prickly species growing that we don't see over here in Illinois. There were still parallels to our flora found along the way as I traveled over 1500 miles west. On the trip, I was reminded of the incredible representation of communities and plants that grow in Southern Illinois and how lucky we are to have such representative diversity. Illinois is such a fun place to study botany.

In Missouri, *Gleditsia aquatica* was seen growing in the swamps. In Arkansas, *Asplenium bradleyi* was growing on a rock face, mistletoe, *Phoradendron leucarpum* was in the trees in Oklahoma. Things began to look stranger and stranger the further I drove, but even as this happened our Illinois flora still had representative families on the landscape. Prickly pear, *Opuntia* and cholla *Cylindropuntia*, carpeted the ground out west and everything looked like it could hurt me. In Illinois, *Opuntia humifusa* can be found growing on our upland glades along with adapted species like *Hypericum genitanoides* and Agave, *manfreda virginica*. Its fun to go to places completely unknown and try to see how close you can get to a plants family or genus without using google lens, but just plant characteristics instead.

I hope you all have wonderful spring adventures and see lots of new and interesting species as you go out. Reminder that in April will have a spring wildflower hike at the Ozark Hills Nature Preserve on the 16th. ~Nick Seaton

Feature Plant of the Month

Sharp Lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica acutiloba*

Look for the group of three-lobed basal leaves on your outdoor adventures. The other common name for this plant is called Liverleaf, denoted from the leaf shape and color, and the thought that this plant was once thought to treat liver disease. However, best be aware about consuming this plant, as it is the buttercup family where many hepatica-related relatives can harm your health rather than help. Be on the lookout in the early spring season in undisturbed woodlands. The flower petals (actually sepals) range from white, pink, and purple in color.



Photos courtesy,
Nick Seaton

2022



Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

April 16	Travis Neal & Nick Seaton	Spring Botanical Hike	Ozark Hills Nature Preserve
May TBA	INPS	IL Indigenous Plants Symposium	TBA

Illinois Natural History Survey

Check out the latest and greatest news, bulletins, and publications: <https://inhs.web.illinois.edu/>

What's in a Botanical Name?

Are you waiting for your snowdrops to bloom? Or do you prefer to call them *Galanthus nivalis*? “Nearly every kind of plant has more than one name,” said Julie Janoski, Plant Clinic manager at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle. A plant will have a common name (often several) and a botanical name by which it is known to scientists. With their curlicues of unfamiliar Latin syllables, botanical names can be daunting to ordinary gardeners. Most gardeners communicate with common names. But there are good reasons to have a basic understanding of the more scientific terms.

“A botanical name is useful because it’s precise,” Janoski said. “There is only one botanical name for any particular plant.” Common names, although they may seem familiar and easy, are rife with complications. For example, the same common name can refer to different plants. “Snow-on-the-mountain” may mean the warm-season annual that botanists call *Euphorbia marginata*, or it may refer to the invasive perennial ground cover known to scientists as *Aegopodium podagraria* ‘Variegatum’. Both have green leaves edged with white.

One plant can also have multiple common names. Allegheny serviceberry may be known as smooth shadbush or Juneberry to people from different parts of the country. To any botanist in the world, it’s *Amelanchier laevis*. As people have moved around the globe, they’ve tended to dub plants they come across after familiar plants back home. That’s why so many plants that are not roses have a common name in English that includes “rose”: Lenten rose (*Helleborus orientalis*), moss rose (*Portulaca grandiflora*), rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*). The multitude of unrelated plants that are all called “daisies” is even more confusing.

Read the rest of this article by visiting <https://bit.ly/3ur1XKf>.

Local Events & Announcements

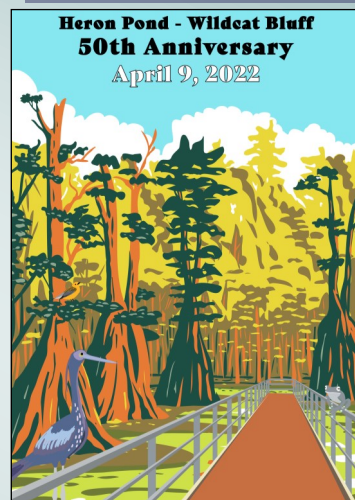
Cache River Wetlands Center

Heron Pond Celebration

Saturday, April 9th,

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Cache River Wetlands, Illinois Nature Preserve Commission, and Friends of the Illinois Nature Preserves are hosting a 50th Anniversary Celebration for the acquisition of Heron Pond. The event will take place at the Barkhausen Wetlands Center and feature talks by notable conservationists that have contributed to the protection and management of Heron Pond, including John Schwegman, Max Hutchison, and Andy West. Also offered will be multiple field tours, recorded talks, and exhibits at the Wetlands Center. For more information and directions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/heron-ponds-50th-anniversary-celebration-tickets-244077822337>



Spring Wildflower Hikes

Giant City State Park
April 2nd, 9th and 15th
10am-Noon



Trillium Trail in Giant City State Park is one of the most diverse spring wildflower trails in Southern Illinois. Join the Park Interpreter as we meander through the spring woods and take a closer look at these petite beauties.

Registration is required. Please call the Giant City Visitor Center at 618-457-4836 for more information or to register.

Trillium Trail is a moderately difficult 2 mile trail with some steep stair climbing.

Visitors are required to observe current guidance from the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding face coverings and social distancing.

Learn how to Evaluate the Natural Quality of the Landscape using FQA

Giant City State Park

Sunday, March 27th
2-3pm

Knowing the vegetation present on your property can guide management and land practices. Join Botanist Chris Benda as he explains the power of using

floristic quality analysis (FQA) to interpret the landscape, including a discussion on coefficient of conservatism values and natural quality indicators.

This is a free indoor presentation with limited seating. Visitors are required to observe current guidance from the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding face coverings and social distancing. Please call 618-457-4836 to register.



Local Events & Announcements

Extension Forestry, Spring Webinar Series

Illinois Extension Forestry team will lead a nine-session Forestry Spring Webinar Series for woodland owners on Wednesdays starting March 30.

The series is free and open to the public and will explore how landowners can manage their trees for better return on investment, improve habitat for wildlife species, learn more about the native ecosystems and restoration potential, and mitigate forest threats such as forest pests, invasive plants, and storm damage.

The Forestry Spring Webinar Series will be 2 to 3 PM CT Wednesdays from March 30 to May 25. Sign up for one session or the whole series. Register for free online at <https://go.illinois.edu/ForestryWebinars2022>.

Webinar Series Sessions

Pruning hardwood trees for future sawlog and veneer potential | April 6

This webinar will provide an overview on hardwood pruning techniques designed to increase high-grade sawlog and veneer log potential. We will discuss basic tree physiology, pruning equipment, do's and don'ts, and corrective pruning / lateral pruning techniques designed to maximize "return on investment" ROI and realize future income potential. [*Jay Hayek*](#)

Ticks of Illinois: Biology, bite prevention, and management | April 6

This presentation will cover the ticks of human health concern in Illinois, disease agents found in ticks by the statewide surveillance program conducted at the University of Illinois' INHS Medical Entomology Lab, best practices for tick bite prevention, and suggestions on land management to reduce tick encounters. [*Holly Tuten*](#)

Ecology and identification of common woodland ferns in Illinois | April 13

Ferns are an integral part of Illinois ecosystems. While ferns can occur in many different habitats, this presentation will focus on ferns found in Illinois woodlands, including their ecology, life history, and how to identify some of the common woodland ferns. [*Chris Evans*](#)

Wetland ecology and restoration | April 20

Once overlooked as wastelands, wetlands provide wildlife habitat as well as numerous benefits to society such as flood control and recreation. Learn about the different types of wetlands in Illinois and efforts to restore these vital habitats to our landscape. [*Jeff Matthews*](#)

The effects of forest management on the relative abundance and nesting success of forest-breeding birds | April 27

This presentation will highlight the results of breeding bird surveys being done in conjunction with forest management (e.g., prescribed fire, thinning, and harvest) at forests in the southern half of Illinois being managed to promote oak retention and regeneration. [*Jeff Hoover*](#)



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Now Hiring

Careers with the Forest Service



Accepting Applications for:

- Natural Resource Technicians
- Recreation Technicians
- Forestry Technicians
- Foresters

Upcoming Job Vacancies:

- Archeology Technicians
- GIS Coordinator
- Realty Specialist
- Public Affairs
- Volunteer Coordinator



For More Information and How to Apply Visit:

Shawnee National Forest

Hoosier National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/main/shawnee/about-forest/jobs www.fs.usda.gov/main/hoosier/about-forest/jobs

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Visiting Scientific Specialist, Field Scientist
Illinois Natural History Survey
Prairie Research Institute
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) investigates and documents the biological resources of Illinois and other areas, and acquires and provides natural history information that can be used to promote the common understanding, conservation, and management of these resources. INHS is part of the Prairie Research Institute (PRI) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, which is centrally located between Chicago, St. Louis, and Indianapolis. Learn more at go.illinois.edu/PRIjobs.

[Why Work at the Prairie Research Institute?](#)
[Highlights of Employee Benefits](#) (PDF)

The University of Illinois is an Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action employer that recruits and hires qualified candidates without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, disability, or veteran status. For more information, visit <http://go.illinois.edu/EOO>.

INHS is seeking to hire up to 6 **Visiting Field Scientists** to plan, monitor, and evaluate the forestry-associated Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) across the state of Illinois, in conjunction with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry Resources. These positions will be located in various sites throughout the state of Illinois.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct, develop, and participate in research and outreach activities of the Survey.
- Provide responsive project management for forest and forestry conservation practices established through USDA NRCS EQIP and FSA CRP.
- Provide technical assistance and project management with the completion of forest management and forest establishment projects and practices of EQIP and CRP.
- Interact with landowners to compile data on best management practices and to gather landowners' perceptions on conservation, forest wildlife, and forest health.
- Conduct initial recons, natural resource inventorying, and supervised plan writing.
- Collect information regarding management practice success and attributes in multiple conservation objectives under EQIP and CRP including healthy forest cover, soil and water conservation, wildlife and native habitats, and quality timber.
- Work with private landowners interested in Federal and State Forest management programs.
- Provide outreach and education to landowners eligible for EQIP and/or CRP opportunities.
- Provide niche skillset in forest conservation planning and forest conservation management to maximize the effectiveness of federal and state funding available through USDA NRCS and FSA.
- Provide planning and management consultation to both public and private sectors in forest management/stewardship, silviculture, reforestation, forest product utilization, watershed management, wildlife habitat management, and fire management.
- Perform other duties as needed to further the mission and goals of the Survey, PRI, and the University of Illinois.
- Keep abreast of developments in this discipline

Required Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in forestry, ecology, or related field. Alternate degree fields may be considered depending on the nature and depth of experience as it relates to this position. Field experience in forestry and/or forest conservation. Valid Driver's License.

Preferred Qualifications:

Experience in forest conservation practices applied to the landscape under EQIP and CRP. S130/190 Basic Wildland Fire Management, ATV operation skills.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

General ecology/biology of forests, grasslands, and wildlife; Biodiversity, plant or tree ID, and forest conservation in agricultural settings. Effective communication, personal relations, collaboration, organizational, teamwork, and leadership skills. Demonstrated ability to perform effectively in a diverse and fast-paced work environment consisting of multiple and changing priorities with stringent deadlines, under minimal supervision. Attention to detail, sound judgment, and strong conflict resolution skills. Proficiency in commonly employed software and databases.

Environmental Demands:

Will require working in adverse field conditions (heat, humidity, biting insects, uneven terrain, etc.), travel (including driving to and from research sites), working irregular hours, and overnights. Overnight travel may be necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of this position. The successful candidate must take proper safety precautions, anticipate unsafe circumstances, and act accordingly to prevent accidents.

Proposed Start Date: Negotiable

Salary: The starting salary for this position is \$45,000 - \$50,000, depending on experience

Appointment Status:

This is a full-time, visiting academic professional, grant-supported, 12-month position subject to the continued availability of funding and programmatic need. The anticipated duration of available funding for this position is currently two years. Position may become a regular, non-visiting position at a later date depending on funding and programmatic need.

To Apply: Please complete your candidate profile at <https://jobs.illinois.edu/> and upload a cover letter, CV/resume, and the contact information for three professional references by **March 31, 2022**. Interviews may be conducted before the closing date; however, no hiring decision will be made until after that date. All requested information must be submitted for your application to be considered.

University of Illinois faculty, staff, and students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you are not able to receive the vaccine for medical or religious reasons, you may seek approval for an exemption in accordance with applicable University processes.

University of Illinois conducts criminal background checks on all job candidates upon acceptance of a contingent offer. Convictions are not a bar to employment. As a qualifying federal contractor, the University of Illinois System [uses E-Verify](#) to verify [employment eligibility](#). The University of Illinois System requires candidates selected for hire to disclose any documented finding of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment and to authorize inquiries to current and former employers regarding findings of sexual misconduct or sexual harassment. For more information, visit [Policy on Consideration of Sexual Misconduct in Prior Employment](#).

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

Winter is wrapping up and so is the treatment window for woody invasives. As temperatures rise and sap begins to flow, basal bark and cut stump treatments decrease in effectiveness. During spring leaf emergence, we recommend you stop these types of treatments and shift your tactics to scouting and control of other invasive plants.

Scouting is an essential part of invasive species management. Scouting includes sizing up your worksites for the coming seasons. Identify invasive plants and check them against native lookalikes, determine the severity of your infestation, then plan what equipment and techniques you'll need. Scouting can also serve to reveal new infestations you may have walked right over. This is crucial because it is always easier to control a young infestation than a mature one. Scouting is also necessary for areas you've already treated. You should follow up on these areas to make sure your treatment worked, and if it didn't, try to find out why. The best part of scouting is that it gives you a great excuse to wander around in the woods!



Garlic mustard rosette

As mentioned above, winter treatments are off the table, but now is the ideal time to target Garlic Mustard. You may notice this squat

herbaceous plant already sporting a healthy green to its reniform leaves. Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* is a hearty biennial that produces a rosette in its first year of growth with a flowering stem up to four feet high in the following spring. It begins growing before many of our native species, making it easy to spot this time of year. Scouting out garlic mustard is important as this invasive weed produces seeds that persist up to seven years in our soil and stifles native competition with its allelopathic properties. Early treatment in March and April can prevent further infestation or cumbersome pulling and bagging later on in the year.



Mature garlic mustard infestation (Photo credit mc-iris.org)

Remember, if you're out there fighting the good fight and it feels like it's too much to handle, you're not alone! The Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST) is a community of land stewards who support each other in just this kind of work. The River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area (RRCWMA) supports FRST and others with materials, education, and training. Find out how we can help you with your invasive plant problems at our websites below! ~Isaiah Tanner

Forest Restoration Support Team: [frstillinois.com](https://www.frstillinois.com)

River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area: [rtrcwma.org](http://www.rtrcwma.org)



Whats in the woods?



Garlic Mustard
Alliaria petiolata

Garlic mustard is an invasive biennial herb growing in Southern Illinois. First year, basal plants are visible in the winter and spring.

**winter and spring
are a great time to
ID and begin control
of garlic mustard**

**plants can be hand
pulled and/or
sprayed with
herbicide**



**more information on ID and
control at
rtrcwma.org**



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: _____