



The Shooting Star Newsletter

**October/
November
2021**

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

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Functional Pollinator Habitat in Log Landings Tuesday, November 16th at 6:30pm Virtual Presentation

The Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society welcome Lauren Pile Knapp, Research Ecologist with the US Forest Service. She will present findings from a study to evaluate and compare methods for establishing pollinator habitat and to evaluate the habitat's impact on pollinating species.

This program is free and open to the public! To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/52bpvwhz>.



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

November is the month of Thanksgiving, so I thought it makes sense to talk a bit about what I am thankful for in relation to native plants and natural ecosystems. When I first moved to southern Illinois way back in 2007, I honestly, was a bit apprehensive at what I was going to find. Not knowing the area, I did know that Illinois had a reputation as a big corn/bean state, so I was worried about availability of public sites to recreate and natural areas to visit. Luckily, I was pleasantly surprised by the abundance of public lands and the diversity of native plants to be found here. I am thankful everyday to live in an area where I can see hundreds of plants anytime I want to just by taking a hike. I am thankful for a state that values natural areas so much that it developed a system to protect them in perpetuity. I am thankful for such a large group of native plant enthusiasts that make up the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society that I can fellowship with and discuss plants and work together with as advocates for native plants and natural ecosystems.

Finally, as I am closing in on the end of my tenure as chapter president, I am thankful for the group of individuals on the board that I have had the privilege to work with over the last two years and I am excited about all of the great things that the chapter will be doing in the future.

We have a couple events yet this fall, including a great presentation in November on some great research on establishing pollinator habitat and we are planning a fun December program that gives everyone an opportunity to show off some of their photos and discoveries from 2021. I hope you are able to attend both of these events!
~ Chris Evans



Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) seed pods opening and releasing seed

Photo courtesy, Chris Evans

"I am thankful everyday to live in an area where I can see hundreds of plants anytime I want to by just by taking a hike. I am thankful for a state that values natural areas so much that it developed a system to protect them in perpetuity."

Feature Plant of the Month

**Spotted Wintergreen,
*Chimaphila maculata***

Listed as state endangered, this species was recently re-discovered in southern Illinois and associated with high quality natural areas. The plant goes by many names, including striped wintergreen, spotted or striped pipsessewa, and striped or spotted prince's cone. Be on the lookout if you're lucky to spot one in rocky or sandy upland woodlands amongst oak or possibly coniferous woodlands. It is labeled as wintergreen due to the evergreen leaves, which occur in pairs or in whorled. They bloom bell-shaped white flowers in late spring to early summer, releasing brown seed capsules. The flowers are cross-pollinated by bumblebees and visited by honeybees.



Photo courtesy, Chris Benda

2021



Southern Chapter

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Calendar of Events

Nov. 16 Lauren Pile Pollinator Habitat in Log Landings Virtual

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale IL at 6:30 pm; TBD = To Be Determined
For more information visit <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/southern-chapter>

Don't forget to check out the INPS YouTube channel, including recorded seminars from guest speakers from around the country! Check it out at <https://bit.ly/2SIHs2B>.

Fall is spider season as orb-weavers spin bigger webs

<https://tinyurl.com/3j262mts>

While they go by many names, especially when one has walked through a web, the creator of those webs is probably an orb weaver spider, from the families *Araneidea* and *Tetragnathidae*. They are the most common builders of spiral-shaped webs.

It can be said that no other “bug” can generate as much fear as spiders do, but fall is a great time to see them in all their glory. Remember, spiders remove numerous pests that we would have to deal with, otherwise. And orb weavers are generally not aggressive spiders. If disturbed they are more likely to drop and run than bite. Of course, if they are in danger of getting squished, all bets are off. So, now is a time to look carefully and marvel at the beauty of the orb weaver spiders and their magnificent webs. [To continue reading the article, visit the link above]



2021 Annual INPS Gathering (Virtual), Online

During the week of September 11-18, 2021, INPS held its first virtual Annual Gathering. There were a mix of virtual and “real life” activities during the week. On September 11, there were presentations from five recent grant recipients about their research that was partially funded by grants from INPS. On Thursday, September 16, we had three keynote presentations. The speaker presentations from the annual gathering are now available on our website. <https://illinoisplants.org/2021-annual-gathering-virtual/>



Local Events & Announcements

ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 2022 GRANTS ANNOUNCED:

RESEARCH GRANT AND SURVEY GRANT



Students, citizen scientists, and conservation groups are invited to consider applying for an INPS **Research Grant** for up to **\$2500** to fund one-year projects. The grant is for research-focused studies on Illinois native plants such as life history, reproductive biology, demography, genetics, comparative site inventories, community ecology; research on threats to native plants and communities, such as invasive species, are acceptable. Laboratory research on native plants, as well as projects focused on **research** relating to education about or restoration of native plants or communities, will be considered. Projects involving student research or trained volunteers will be given special consideration. **All projects must demonstrate how they support the mission of the Illinois Native Plant Society.**

INPS is also pleased to continue its new second grant for 2022: the **Survey Grant**. This grant for up to **\$5000** will fund searches for Illinois Endangered, Threatened or several rare plant species for which current data is inadequate to assess their status and for which field surveys and recovery recommendations are needed. INPS worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to develop a priority list of species for the surveys. Experienced botanical field surveyors, either independent or associated with an institution, are invited to apply for this grant. Partnerships are encouraged.

Full application details and forms for the Research Grant and the Survey Grant will be posted on-line by late November. Check our website at <https://illinoisplants.org/grants/> Applications must be received by January 31, 2022. Awards will be announced by March 31, 2022.

INPS is grateful to be able to continue its grant program in 2022, thanks to contributions from membership fees, generous donations to the Grant Program, proceeds from the Annual Gathering, and also support from the INPS Central Chapter for one grant conducting studies within the Central Illinois counties.

HEALTHY  YARDS

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To learn more visit:

www.healthyyards.org & www.leaveleavesalone.org

Leave Overwintering Habitat for Beneficial Insects This Fall!

University of Illinois Extension, November Newsletter, by Sarah Hughson

<http://hyg.ipm.illinois.edu/article.php?id=1263>

Holding off on some fall clean up in the home landscape can provide essential overwintering habitat for beneficial insects and beloved native species like lacewings, solitary bees and fritillary butterflies! Here are some of the habitats these insects can benefit from:

Leaf litter

Leaf litter can be left as cover in flower beds. It provides good shelter for overwintering beneficial insects. Many species of bumble bees, likely including the endangered rusty patched bumble bee (*Bombus affinis*), overwinter in leaf litter or in the loose soil below. Leaf litter allows insect predators, like spiders, lady beetles and ground beetles, to shelter in locations close to their prey. Leaf litter and can provide food for macro-decomposers like sowbugs.



Fall flower bed with leaf litter, Sarah Hughson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Standing ornamental plants

Allowing some standing perennials and ornamental grasses to remain throughout the winter can provide overwintering sites for native solitary bees. Solitary bees often overwinter inside hollow stalks, canes or other standing plant material, where they are protected from the elements. Some species will even block the opening of a hollow stem with plant debris.

Many local fritillary species overwinter as caterpillars on or near their host plants. Swallowtail butterflies like the eastern black swallowtail butterflies (*Papilio polyxenes*) overwinter as a pupa inside a chrysalis. The chrysalises of these species are anchored to stalks or stems of plants. Both chrysalises and caterpillars are well camouflaged, making them easy to overlook and accidentally clear away with debris.

Other sheltering sites

Many insects like lacewings and lady beetles, prefer to overwinter in small crevices in the landscape, including spaced between bits of bark on trees, in log piles or in small gaps between rocks. The mourning cloak butterfly (*Nymphalis antiopa*) overwinters as an adult butterfly in spaces between the bark on trees, in wood piles or inside your shed.



Black swallowtail chrysalis (*Papilio polyxenes*), Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Areas with loose soil and abandoned rodent holes can also be safe overwintering sites for some species of native bees, including some species of bumble bees.



Become a force for nature and a healthy planet by joining The Nature Conservancy.

Founded in 1951, The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters, and oceans at unprecedented scale, providing food and water sustainably and helping make cities more sustainable. One of our core values is our commitment to diversity. Therefore, we strive for a globally diverse and culturally competent workforce. Working in 72 countries, including all 50 United States, we use a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners. To learn more, visit www.nature.org or follow @nature_press on Twitter. Also, to learn more about the Midwest division visit [Culture and Community](#) and [Benefits](#).

The Women in Fire Fellowship Member participates in wild land fire operations which include ignition, control, mop-up, suppression, monitoring, fire break preparation, and other tasks as assigned. The Fellowship member will also perform duties such as invasive species treatment, timber stand improvement, monitoring, mapping invasive and mapping treatment locations. This is a grant funded, US Forest Service interagency partnership project, funded for up to one year. The purpose of the Fellowship is to prepare the candidate for entry or mid-level fire positions with the USFS or another partner agency. This crew member position is **a full time, year-long role at \$16.75/hr., reporting to a work location in Carterville, IL.**

The Women in Fire Fellowship Member will participate in preparing fire lines, maintaining equipment, post-burn monitoring and other tasks. The Strike Team Member may also perform forestry best management practices. As part of the incumbent's ongoing professional development, she will be responsible for keeping abreast of new burn techniques and equipment to enhance skills and maintain/grow professional fire certification credentials. In addition, they shall work to build and maintain relationships in the professional fire community and in the local community where the Conservancy works. This may include participation in wild land fire suppression activities in partnership with other non-profits, local fire departments, and local, state and federal agencies, either as a TNC employee, or as a volunteer or short-term employee of the partner entity (such as an administratively determined, short term federal employee).

Minimum Qualifications	Preferred Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High school diploma and 6 months of related experience. Must be qualified as a Fire Fighter Type 2 (FFT2), including Introduction to ICS (I-100), Human Factors on the Fire line (L-180), Introduction to Wild land Fire Behavior (S-190), Firefighting Training (S-130), and one training burn serving under the supervision of a qualified FFT2. See http://www.tncfiremanual.org/firefighter.htm Must achieve physical fitness standard as determined by local Fire Program Manager. Experience operating various types of equipment. Must be able to obtain related licenses or certifications as required. (e.g., Herbicide applicator, First Aid, CPR, and driver's license). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 months - 1 year of related experience. Ability and willingness to follow instructions from colleagues.

We offer a competitive salary with great benefits. For a complete position description and to apply visit <http://www.nature.org/careers> and search for **Job ID# 50452**;

The Nature Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our conservation mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of all genders, diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and culture. Recruiting and mentoring staff to create an inclusive organization that reflects our global character is a priority, and we encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law.

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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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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

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☐ 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: _____