



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

March 2018

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>INPS Indigenous Plants Symposium</i>	4
<i>Summary of Past Events</i>	5
<i>Local Events</i>	6
<i>Seed Collection for Monarchs</i>	7-8
<i>Invasive Species Corner</i>	9
<i>Contact Us</i>	10

Tracing the Phenology and Breeding System of the Venus' Looking Glass Through Space and Time

*Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m.
Carbondale Township Hall
216 E. Monroe St. Carbondale, IL*



Join us as Dr. Weber describes her research, both in the field and in herbaria, tracing the phenological and reproductive stages within *Tridans perfoliata*, an annual in the bellflower family that occurs naturally from Argentina to Canada. These plants produce both chasmogamous (cross-pollination) and cleistogamous (self-pollination) flower, though what causes the latter to develop has been unknown!

Dr. Jenn Weber has been an assistant professor in the biology department of Southeast Missouri State University since 2016 with previous work as a post-doctoral teaching and research fellow at Fordham University.



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Well another month has passed and they seem to fly by. An unfortunate aspect to aging is that months seem to fly by like days. But I hope that is because we are living rich and full lives!

Spring is definitely on its way. I've seen Harbinger-of-Spring bloom and the elms and maples are flowering in my yard as I write this. I look at the daffodils with slight disdain, as I prefer native plants, but at the end of the day I remind myself that flowers are flowers and beauty is wonderful.

The INPS board is anxiously awaiting the next Indigenous Plant Symposium on April 13-15.

Registration is up on our website and all the details are planned. We have a great lineup of speakers as well as two guided hikes. Don't forget about the native plant sale that is always held in conjunction with the symposium. Green Earth manages the sale with plants provided by Southernwood Gardens and the sale will be out front,

registration to the symposium is not necessary to purchase plants.

Our next meeting will feature Dr. Jenn Weber of Southeast Missouri State University who will be discussing her research with *Triodanis perfoliata*, Venus' Looking Glass. The program is on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall. We will be meeting in the parking lot of the township hall before the talk at 5:00 and go to dinner at a restaurant nearby. All are welcome to join us for dinner.

Other than that, things are good with the chapter and I hope they are good with you as well. I hope to see you at one of our events soon. ~Christopher David Benda

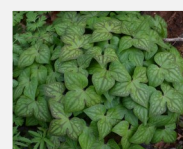
"Don't forget about the native plant sale that is always held in conjunction with the [Indigenous Plant] Symposium"



Feature Plant of the Month

Sharp-Lobed Hepatica, *Hepatica acutiloba*

You may also find this species under the scientific name *Hepatica nobilis* var. *acuta*. Look for the cluster of three-lobed basal leaves, shaped in the form of a liver, hence its other common name, Liverleaf. They also turn a liver-color brown in the dormant season and were once thought to be used to treat liver disease. Ironically, this species is in the Buttercup family, a group of plants that are largely toxic! While uncommon in southern Illinois, search for this beauty early in the spring season in undisturbed woodlands. The showy purple flowers are actually sepals, a (usually green) part of the flower that protect the flower bud.



Photos courtesy,
Chris Benda

2018



Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

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www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

Mar. 20	Dr. Jenn Weber	Tracing the Phenology and Breeding System of Venus Looking Through Space and Time	CTH
Apr. 13-15	Various (keynote Dr. Gerould Wilhelm)	Indigenous Plant Symposium	John A. Logan
May 11	Chris Benda	Pleasant Valley Hill Prairies EA	Eddyville
June 2-3	Justin Thomas	Sedge Workshop	SIU, field sites
June 8-10	Various	INPS Annual Gathering	Kankakee Chapter
July 17	John E. Schwegman	Milkweeds of Illinois	CTH
Aug. 21	Erin Medvecz	Effects of Sericea Lespedeza on Native Plant Communities	CTH
Sept. 18	Chris Benda	Flora of the Illinois Coastal Plain	CTH
Oct. 14	Scratch Brewery	Hike and Brewery Tour	Ava, IL
Nov. 20	David Barfknecht	Community Changes in Southern Illinois Acid Seeps	CTH
Dec. TBD	INPS	Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony	The Haven

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>

<http://ill-inps.org/2018-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium/>



ILLINOIS INDIGENOUS PLANT SYMPOSIUM

Shawnee Natural Areas:

HOTSPOTS OF BIODIVERSITY

April 13-15, 2018

John A. Logan College
Carterville, Illinois

Keynote Speaker: Gerould Wilhelm

Guided Hikes

Friday at Jackson Hollow-
Shawnee National Forest
Sunday at Trillium Trail-
Giant City State Park

Native Plant Sale on Saturday

For more information visit: ill-inps.org/2018-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium/



Cost: \$25 per person by March 31, 2018, \$30 afterwards

Registration Deadline is April 10, 2018

Cancellations will be accepted until Friday, March 16, 2018

The symposium is made possible by the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society in collaboration with John A. Logan College, US Forest Service at the Shawnee National Forest, Southern Illinois University Department of Plant Biology, Green Earth, and University of Illinois Extension.



Summary of Past Events

February Program, Cadaver Botany Hike & Potluck by Chris Benda



Last month a few INPS members braved the icy roads and drove out to me and my wife's residence in Makanda for a potluck lunch and cadaver botany hike. The weather was a bit unfavorable and this event was cancelled last year because of ice so I joked with people that if you ever need a snow day, just ask me to schedule an event and it will likely happen!

I made a big batch of spicy chicken noodle soup (and a non-spicy alternative) which everyone seemed to enjoy. Other people brought venison chili, salad, casserole, and brownies, which meant we had a well-rounded lunch. Some delightful banter permeated the dining room (which is every room, since we have a tiny house!) and a warm fire in the woodstove made for a comfortable atmosphere.



After lunch, we went outside, but honestly the cold temperatures and icy trails made for a shorter hike than I expected. But we did look at the nice clump of rusty black haw that grows along the road in front of our house. They have very distinct rusty, valvate buds on twigs with opposite leaf scars. Next we looked at the catkins of aromatic sumac. These are where the flowers will soon be produced. Aromatic sumac also has a leaf scar that encircles the bud so we took turns looking at this distinct feature.

We continued up the wide trail that begins across the road from my house so look for more goodies. Lots of ash saplings are growing in the woods, along with sugar maple, ironwood, and elm. The prevalence of young individuals of all of these species (as well as beech) indicates an absence of fire, a condition that is common across southern Illinois. Fire suppression can be a good thing when your house is nestled in the woods, but safe management of the woods through the careful application of prescribed fire is certainly possible and is critical to ensuring a healthy oak-hickory forest, which is the main upland forest type in southern Illinois.

Stepping off the soapbox, we looked at a spot in the woods that produces a lot of "frost flowers" in the winter. Although this phenomenon can occur on several plant species, here they occur on wild oregano. I told the group how I never realized how common wild oregano was in this spot until one cold morning a couple winters ago when the "frost flowers" were everywhere. It was a delightful sight.

We also looked at a nice population of puttyroot orchids. They have distinct striated leaves that are present in the winter. Natives used to crush the root into a paste that they would use as putty to repair broken pottery. The leaves are very common across various forest types in southern Illinois, but the flowers are difficult to see because they blend in with the green foliage when they bloom in late April/early May.

At this point, we were getting cold and remembered there were desserts waiting for us in the warm and cozy cottage so we walked back and had our fill. It was a nice afternoon. If an INPS member has a piece of property we can explore next year and would like to host the potluck, please let me know. It would be nice to continue doing this in different locations every year.



Local Events

Giant City State Park

Buds and Bark Tree I.D.

Saturday, March 24th, 1 pm– 12 pm

Spring is upon us and it's the perfect time to identify trees by their buds and bark! It may sound daunting, but with some easy tips from Community Forester, Jennifer Behnken, and NRCS Soil Conservationist, Margaret Anderson, identification will be a snap. Please register by calling 618-457-4836.



Cache River Wetlands Center

Butterflies and the Plants They Need

Saturday March 31st, 1 pm—3 pm

Butterflies are a fascination to adults and children alike. Join Master Naturalist Anne Parmley to learn more about these beautiful insects and the types of plant that will encourage them to reside in your landscape. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.



Missouri Department of Conservation, Cape Girardeau Nature Center

Native Plant Seminar

Saturday, March 10th 8 am—2:30 pm

Workshops will include information on naturescaping best practices, propagating native plants, creating a wildlife habitat, and the importance of pollinators. Visit one of the many vendors, including native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees from the Missouri Wildflowers Nursery and Forrest Keeling.



Milkweeds and Their Pollinators, by John Schwegman

Monday, March 26th at 7:00 p.m.

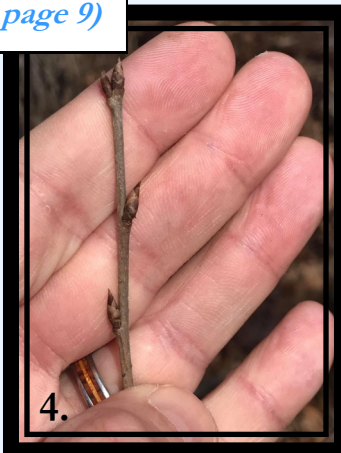
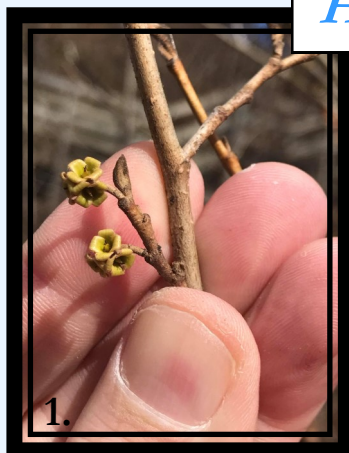
216 East Monroe St., Carbondale, IL

For more information, call Ruth Kelly at (618) 684-2196 or e-mail at rh_kelley@yahoo.com.



Photos courtesy, Chris Benda

Hedge your Bets, or Buds! (answers on page 9)

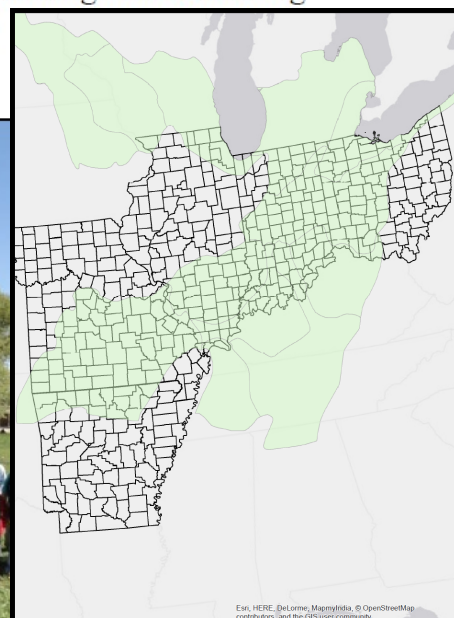


Seed Collecting for Monarchs!

The Pollinator Partnership and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have joined forces to launch the Monarch Wings Across the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Project and we need your help! The Project is seed collecting throughout the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Arkansas and Missouri.

We are looking for enthusiastic seed collecting volunteers in all 5 states to help identify and collect milkweed and other common nectar plants.

As a seed collecting volunteer you will be provided with training and be making valuable contributions to supporting migrating monarchs.



No seed collecting experience is required but basic plant knowledge is preferred.

Nick George is leading up the effort in southern Illinois. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact him at nicholas_george@fws.gov.

**POLLINATOR
PARTNERSHIP**

Pollinator Partnership
423 Washington Street 5th FL San Francisco CA 94111 • 415-362-1137 • www.pollinator.org

Seed Collection for Monarchs, Plant Species

Botanical Name	Common Name	Wetland Status	Light Requirements
<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexander	FAC	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Bluejacket	FACU/FAC	Full sun - Partial shade
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Foxglove beardtongue	FAC	Full sun - Partial shade
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed	FACU	Full sun
<i>Asclepias verticillata</i>	Whorled milkweed	FACU	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	pinnate prairie coneflower	UPL	Full sun - Partial shade
<i>Pycnanthemum tenuifolium</i>	Narrowleaf mountainmint	FAC/FACW	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Heliopsis helianthoides</i>	Ox eye Sunflower	FACU	Full sun
<i>Asclepias incarnata</i>	Swamp milkweed	OBL	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	Black eyed susan	FACU	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Chamaecrista fasciculata</i>	Partridge pea	FACU	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Verbena urticifolia</i>	White vervain	FAC	Full sun - Partial shade
<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	Wild bergamot	FACU/UPL	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common boneset	OBL/FACW	Full sun - shade
<i>Coreopsis tripteris</i>	Tall coreopsis	FAC	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Symphyotrichum pilosum</i>	Frost Aster	FACU/FAC	Full sun
<i>Vernonia altissima (Vernonia gigantea)</i>	Giant ironweed	FAC	Full sun - shade
<i>Eupatorium serotinum</i>	Late boneset	FAC	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	FACW	Full sun - Partial Shade
<i>Symphyotrichum laeve</i>	Smooth blue aster	FACU	Full sun

Common Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Golden Alexander				X	X	X						
Bluejacket				X	X	X	X					
Foxglove beardtongue					X	X	X					
Common milkweed						X	X	X				
Whorled milkweed						X	X	X	X			
pinnate prairie coneflower						X	X	X	X			
Narrowleaf mountainmint						X	X	X	X			
Ox eye Sunflower						X	X	X	X			
Swamp milkweed						X	X	X	X			
Black eyed susan						X	X	X	X			
Partridge pea						X	X	X	X			
White vervain						X	X	X	X	X		
Wild bergamot							X	X	X			
Common boneset							X	X	X			
Tall coreopsis							X	X	X	X		
Frost Aster							X	X	X	X		
Giant ironweed							X	X	X	X		
Late boneset							X	X	X	X		
New England aster								X	X	X		
Smooth blue aster								X	X	X		

Invasive Species Corner

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/rtrcwma>

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



Photo courtesy,
David Zava



American vs. Oriental Bittersweet Sales

Gardeners hoping to celebrate the beauty of American bittersweet -- a native vine that produces orange berries in the fall and is used for wreaths -- may be unwittingly buying an invasive bittersweet instead. That's because many Midwestern retailers are selling oriental bittersweet with labels misidentifying it as the native plant, researchers report. These sales are occurring in stores and online. To read more of this article, visit <http://bit.ly/2H2UFSS>.

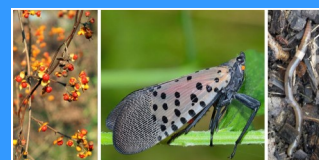




Distinguishing bittersweets

Fruit capsule color		
Fruit position		
	American	Oriental

Reminder: Abstract submissions for presentations for the Illinois Invasive Species Symposium are due April 9th. E-mail submissions to cwevans@illinois.edu Symposium is Thursday, May 24, 2018



Green Earth Inc., Volunteer Work Day
Saturday, March 24th
Pyles Fork Preserve



Join us for our Spring Clean Up of Pyles Fork Preserve and Creek in Partnership with Keep Carbondale Beautiful. A lot of litter accumulates within the preserve and creek throughout the year and this is one of two annual events to clean out as much as we can before it washes further downstream into the Big Muddy and eventually the Mississippi River. If the water flow is low enough we will have a few sets of chest waders for creek cleanup. Please bring your own if you have a pair and don't mind jumping in! Volunteers should meet at the Attucks Park Pavilion (400 North Wall Street) for sign in and brief instructions.

Volunteer workdays are family-friendly and open to everyone, no special skills are necessary. Tools, gloves, bug spray, snacks, and water will be provided. Bring your own water bottle to refill from our cooler. Long sleeves, pants and sturdy closed-toe shoes are recommended for working within the woodland.

Bud Answers from Page 6 : 1. Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis virginiana* 2. Basswood, *Tilia americana* 3. Bladdernut, *Staphylea trifoliata* 4. Muscledwood, *Carpinus caroliniana*

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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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Chapter Affiliation

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Glen (Westville) | <input type="checkbox"/> Quad Cities (Rock Island) |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Irene Cull (Peoria) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Uncertain _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kankakee Torrent | |

I would like to help with:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level) | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving Workshops &/or Seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Media/Communications |
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