



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

May 2018

Newsletter

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

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Sedge Identification Workshop

Saturday & Sunday, June 2nd & 3rd

Saturday: Giant City State Park

Sunday: Rothrock Prairie, Hickory Ridge Rd.

In this workshop, you will learn how to identify over 20 species of common sedges native in the southern Illinois region. This workshop will be held outdoors and will focus on field characteristics for identifying sedges.

The cost of this workshop is \$25. Saturday lunch will be provided (a variety of options will be available). Instructor Justin Thomas is an eminent botanist from the Institute for Botanical Training and the co-founder and Science Director of NatureCITE. He is an expert in the complicated grass genus *Dichanthelium* and an accomplished connoisseur of sedges. He will bring his expertise to southern Illinois for this workshop.



Carex torta

Photo courtesy, Chris Benda



Carex meadii

Photo courtesy, Chris Benda



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Well spring has sprung for real this time and last weekend was a great one for viewing spring ephemeral wildflowers in southern Illinois! I have been fortunate to have been able to see and photograph most of the spring wildflowers of our area and it's been delightful. I hope you have been enjoying spring as well.

As far as events, the 7th annual indigenous plants symposium was a big success!! The speakers were excellent, there were many new vendors, and lots of native plants were sold. Read more on page 4. Also, unfortunately we had to cancel the May outing because of a scheduling conflict with the field trip leader. We hope to visit the site at a later date.

The next event is the sedge identification workshop to be held on June 2nd and 3rd in the Carbondale area. Registration is now available on our website at <https://ill-inps.org/sedge-identification-workshop/>.

The cost is \$25 for the two-day workshop and includes lunch on Saturday. Justin Thomas of the Institute of Botanical Training and Science Director of NatureCITE will instruct the workshop. Justin is an excellent teacher and is very knowledgeable about this complex group of plants. See the information on the cover page and register as soon as you can. It's been 7 years since we had a workshop on sedges and it's a topic always in demand.

In July, we will return to our regular monthly programming at the Carbondale Township Hall with a presentation about milkweed (*Asclepias spp.*) by John Schwegman, retired botanist and prominent conservation leader.

I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events! ~ Christopher David Benda

"Unfortunately we had to cancel the May outing because of a scheduling conflict with the field leader. We hope to visit the site at a later date."



Photo courtesy, Jennifer Behnken

<i>Feature Plant of the Month</i>	Goldenseal, <i>Hydrastis canadensis</i>
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One of the neatest looking wildflowers in southern Illinois is Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), of the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae). Once placed on the Illinois endangered species list because of overcollecting for the medicinal trade, this species has rebounded dramatically. Huge patches can now be seen at a number of high quality natural areas and relatively undisturbed mesic to dry-mesic upland forests.

Immature plants will have only a single leaf, but once reproductively mature, two leaves will be produced and a flower will appear at the base of the leaf. The flowers lack petals and have a ring of many white stamens. Later in the year, a single red berry with 10-30 seeds will be produced. Like most plants in the Ranunculaceae, this species is toxic and should not be consumed and there is little evidence to suggest any healing properties.

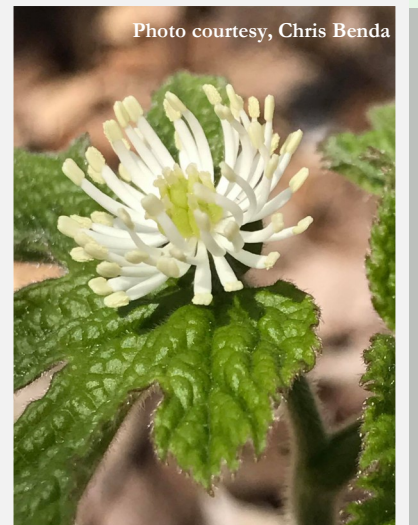


Photo courtesy, Chris Benda

2018



Southern Chapter

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www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

June 2-3	Justin Thomas	Sedge Workshop	Giant City SP, 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>

Illinois Native Plant Society Annual Gathering

June 8-10, 2018 at Governors State University, University Park, IL

For more information and to register, visit <https://ill-inps.org/2018-annual-gathering/>.

Registration closes June 1, sign up today!

INPS 2018 Research Grants Awarded: To read about which proposals were selected
for innovate plant research in Illinois, visit <https://ill-inps.org/2018-research-grants-awarded/>.
Applications for 2019 grants will be released in the fall.



Summary of Past Events



April Program, Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium, John A. Logan College

This year's indigenous plants symposium was a big success! There were a lot of new faces in attendance this year, including participants and vendors. The three-day event kicked off with a hike at Jackson Hollow Ecological Area where we viewed spring ephemerals and saw rare plants like French's shooting star and filmy fern.

Saturday's conference kicked off with a keynote address by Dr. Gerould Wilhelm that was an introspective look at how he became a botanist in Illinois. Many great presentations about various aspects of the natural areas of the Shawnee National Forest were



presented and overall participation was good. Additionally over 80% of the plants at the native plant sale were sold and we were thankful to partner with Green Earth again this year to put native plants in the hands of people who want them.

The event concluded with a hike on Sunday at Giant City State Park along the Trillium trail. Many spring wildflowers were observed despite the cold weather. It was a great weekend and thanks to all who helped make it a success.



Photos courtesy, Chris Benda

Local Events

Sierra Club Native Plant Sale

Saturday, May 5th, 10 am—2 pm

Town Square Pavilion in Carbondale

(just west of the railroad tracks, corner of Jackson St. & Illinois Ave.)

Many varieties from Southernwood Gardens in Alto Pass and Missouri Wildflowers will be here. Pre-orders are welcome to save your favorites and bypass shipping fees. See mowildflowers.net or call Southernwood at 618-833-2769 and mention delivery at the Sierra Club Native Plant Sale on May 5th. For more information, contact Barb McKasson at 618-529-4824 or e-mail at babitaji@aol.com.



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ILLINOIS CHAPTER

Giant City State Park

ENTICE/Monarch Mania

Saturday, May 12th & 19th, 9 am– 3 pm

The program is part of the Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education and targets at formal and formal non-educators, mainly grades pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. This event will provide information about the life history and conservation status of the monarch butterfly. For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.enticeworkshops.com>.



Cache River Wetlands Center

Nature Number Patterns

Saturday, May 5th, 10 am—12 pm

In nature, there are growing patterns that are a mathematical mystery. Fibonacci numbers! Explore this patterns, which show up in the most unexpected places: in the center of a sunflowers, the skin of a pineapple, and a pinecone. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.



Mysterious Stone Fortifications of Southern Illinois

Saturday, May 21st, 10 am

There is a lot of history in southern Illinois, but one of the region's claims to fame is its stone forts. Other adjacent states have them as well, but not as many. Mark Motsinger will share his fascination with these pre-Columbian stone walls. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

Explore Cave Creek Glade

Saturday, May 19th, 10 am—12 pm

Join botanist Erin Medvecz for a wildflower walk at Cave Creek Glade. Learn how to identify spring blooming plants by their flowers and later season bloomers by their leaves. Hike the short but steep trail top the top of the glade to see a spectacular display of purple coneflowers in bloom. Meet at the parking lot near the glade, off State Highway 45. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.

Local Events & Announcements

Illinois Pollinator Week, June 18-24, “Bee” a Pollinator Champion! (<https://dupagemonarchs.com/>)

Growing Healthy Trees Workshop

Saturday, May 5th, 10 am—2 pm, Riverside Park, Murphysboro

There is no cost for participants and a light meal is provided.

Be sure to dress for outdoor activities! To register, visit

<http://www.treesforever.org/MurphysboroWorkshop>.



How much is your log worth? The short answer is probably not as much as you had hoped, but you’re not here for the short answer, so I’ll give you the long one. To continue reading, visit <https://bit.ly/2rd2Kxs>.

House Bill 5293 is currently being considered by the Illinois General Assembly. This bill seeks to make changes to the Endangered Species Board, alter public notice requirements when a species is added to the Endangered Species list and remove the requirement to obtain 'incidental takings' permits from the state in the event of species and/or habitat destruction. You can read the full text of the bill at <https://bit.ly/2raRKRy>.

Eastern Cottonwood Earns Illinois Big Tree Champion

About Bald Hill Prairie Preserve:

- *The 160 acre site has been known as Bald Hill since early settlement in 1838.
- *At 925 feet above sea level, Bald Hill is the second highest point in Ogle County.
- *The preserve’s steep hillsides rise a dramatic 192 feet from the lowest to highest points.
- *Rare prairie plants and birds have been found on the site that include state endangered woolly milkweed along with two state endangered raptors, the short-eared owl and Northern harrier.
- *Bald Hill also has the biggest tree of any species in the state of Illinois, a huge eastern cottonwood. This new Illinois Big Tree Champion is estimated to be 200 years old.

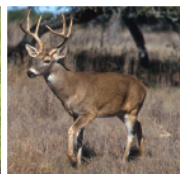
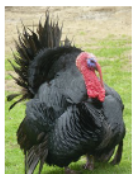
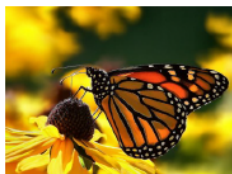


Featuring Chloe Sweet from the Arbor Day Foundation
Photo courtesy, Chicago Sun Times.

Bald Hill Prairie Preserve is located in Rockvale Township at 5502 North Silver Creek Road, Mt. Morris. The big tree and the scenic views are amazing.



For more information, contact the Byron Forest Preserve District at 815 234-8535 extension 200 or visit their website at www.byronforestpreserve.com. To read a recent new article on this dignified status, visit <https://bit.ly/2r9rBn0>.



University of Illinois Extension

Save the Date

Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop

**Join us for sessions presented by experts in
their fields on topics such as:**

**Oak Regeneration
Pollinator Habitats
Invasive Species ID & Control**

**Native Plant Species
Prescribed Fire 101
And more!**

Shawnee Community College – Ullin, IL
Saturday, September 22, 2018
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

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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.

Dicamba Drift Puts Natural Areas at Risk, Environmental Groups Warn

“IDNR and the IL Nature Preserves Commission are aware of damage from dicamba drift in at least four parks or nature preserves protected by the state.”

After drift from the herbicide dicamba harmed millions of acres of soybeans in 2017, environmental groups are worried that it could damage sensitive ecological areas, particularly habitats for monarch butterflies. There's too much that no one is watching,” said Kim Erndt-Pitcher, a habitat and agriculture programs specialist at Prairie Rivers Network, a nonprofit advocacy group for clean water in Illinois. Erndt-Pitcher said that as dicamba drifted and harmed an estimated 600,000 acres of soybeans in Illinois in 2017, it's likely that much of the habitat for endangered species and monarch butterflies was also damaged. To continue reading this story, visit <https://bit.ly/2FeSLRD>.



THURSDAY · 24 MAY 2018 · 9:30AM-4PM



SAVE the DATE
ILLINOIS INVASIVE SPECIES SYMPOSIUM



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION · CHAMPAIGN, IL

Registration is now open for the 2018 Illinois Invasive Species Symposium! There is a great lineup of presentations this year that captures the wide variety of invasive species work underway in Illinois.

For a full agenda and to register (fee is \$15 which includes lunch), visit

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=16111>

Volunteer Workday Schedule for May

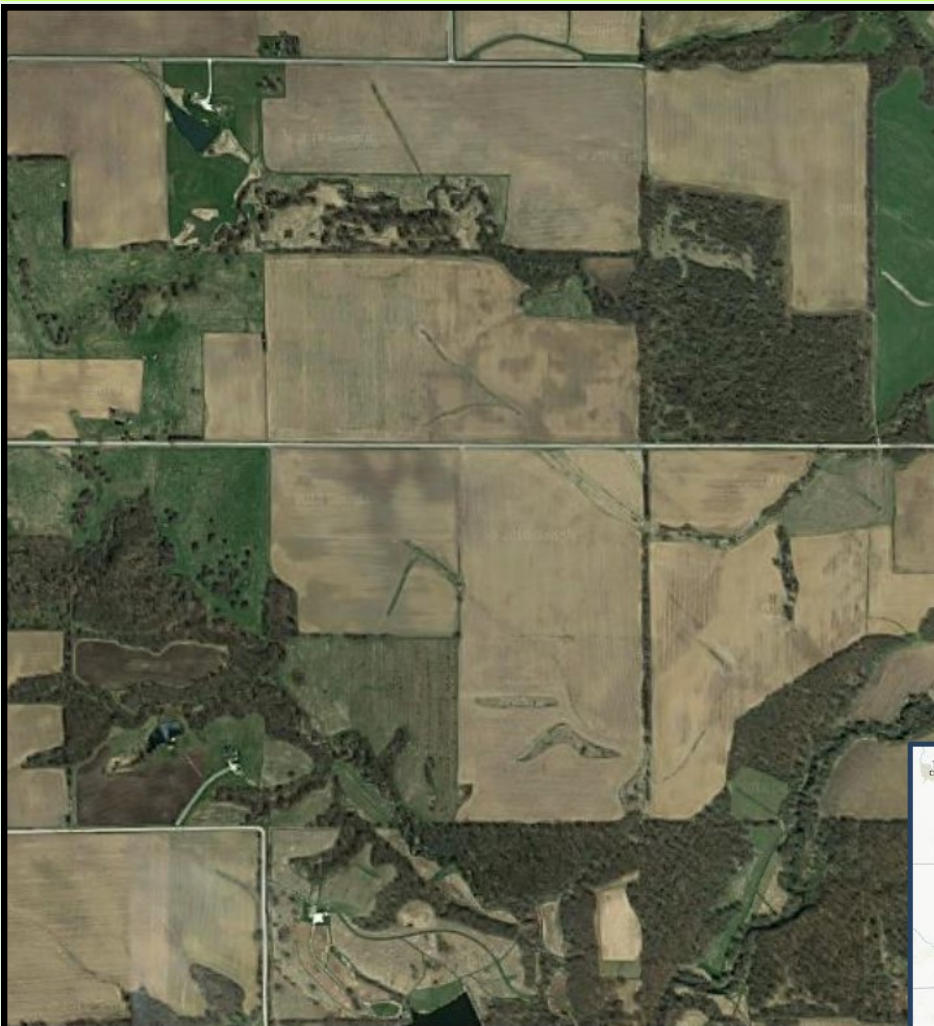
Saturday, May 5th, 9am-noon, FRST Invasive Species Workday at Cathy Poshard's- 125 Cline Lane, Vienna, IL, 62995

From Route 146, turn south at McDonalds on Old Metropolis Road. Go approx. 4.2 miles to Berea Church Road and take the right. Cline Lane will be the first lane on the left, Cathy's place is the first driveway on the left. We'll be working on woody invasive species like bush honeysuckle and autumn olive.

Sunday, May 20th, 9am-noon, FRST Invasive Species Workday at Nancy Nowak's- 71 Lilac Lane, Carbondale, IL, 62903

From Route 51, head west on Pleasant Hill Road for approx. 1.5 miles to Union Hill Road. Turn left (south) and follow Union Hill for another ~1.5 miles to Union Grove Road. From this point, the road will fork several times. Be sure to stay on Union Grove until you reach Lilac Lane. We'll be working on woody invasive species like bush honeysuckle and autumn olive

Water, tools, bug spray and snacks are provided. Please bring a water bottle to fill from our cooler. Long sleeves, pants, and closed-toe footwear are strongly recommended. RSVPs are greatly appreciated but not required. For more information, contact Nathan Speagle at volunteerfrst@gmail.com.



The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is responsible for preserving and protecting the state's natural resources for present and future generations.

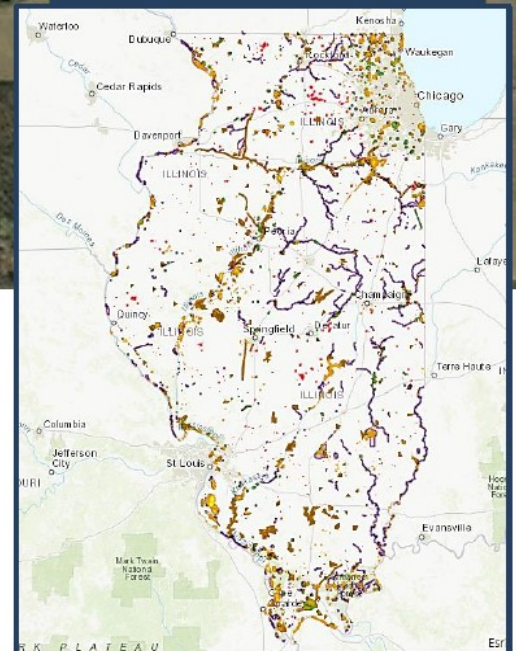
By bringing awareness to the importance of these resources in Illinois, IDNR strives to strengthen the partnership between all stewards and stakeholders within the natural resources and agricultural communities.

CHEMICAL DRIFT MAPPING TOOL

AVAILABLE TO ASSIST LANDOWNERS, PRODUCERS AND
APPLICATORS WITH PRE-APPLICATION PLANNING

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/Pages/Chemical-Drift-Awareness-Areas.aspx>

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has developed an online mapping tool identifying the location of the state's natural areas, threatened and endangered species, and other sensitive areas to assist landowners, producers, and applicators with pre-application planning of herbicides and pesticides, to help prevent and manage off-target drift.



*For questions on this mapping tool,
please contact
DNR.webmaptool@illinois.gov.*



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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