



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

September 2018

Newsletter

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

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Flora of the Illinois Coastal Plain
Tuesday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m.
Carbondale Township Hall
216 E. Monroe St. Carbondale, IL

Extreme southern Illinois is the northern extension of the Coastal Plain Natural Division, a plant community comprised of various type of bottomland forests and swamps. Many plant species occur at the northern edge of their range here, including bald cypress and water tupelo. The presence of this natural community type in Illinois adds hundreds of species to the state's flora. Join botanist and INPS Southern Chapter President, Chris Benda, as he presents a slideshow of rare and unusual plants present in this area.

In addition to his presidential role with INPS Southern Chapter, Chris Benda is a freelance botanist and teaches the Flora of Southern Illinois at Southern Illinois University.



© Christopher David Benda



This program is free and open to the public!



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Months go by like days this time of year or so it seems for me. I've been out looking for rare plants and at the same time been refining my plant identification skills. Many exciting plant finds have been made and if you're curious about that, ask me next time I see you!

I hope you have been enjoying reading the INPS state newsletter, *The Harbinger*, as well as the Southern chapter newsletter, *The Shooting Star*. It takes a lot of effort to produce quality content and programs for our members and we are gearing up for another full year of programming in 2019! Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a program. Also, we are still looking for a treasurer so let us know if there is someone you would like to nominate.

We thank chapter secretary Erin Medvecz for her presentation last month regarding her research on the effects of the invasive plant *Lespedeza cuneata* on grassland communities. Please read the summary of her talk on page 4.

This month I will be speaking about the Flora of the Southern Illinois Coastal Plain on September 18th. For details see the flyer on the front page.

We look forward to the event at Scratch Brewery next month so stay tuned for details in the next newsletter! I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events this year!

~ Christopher David Benda

"Many exciting plant finds have been made and if you're curious about that, ask me next time I see you!"

"Let us know if you have a suggestion for [an INPS] program [for the Calendar of Events] in 2019."

"We are still looking for a treasurer...let us know if there is someone you would like to nominate."

Feature Plant of the Month

**Royal Fern,
*Osmunda regalis***

It is hard to miss this majestic fern, as it is large and almost shrub-like in clumps 2-3 feet tall. While it requires a moist environment like most ferns, it does tolerate more lighted conditions. It is similar to cinnamon and interrupted ferns; they all have the same pattern of venation. The leaf blade is 2-pinnate, and the leaflets are oblong to lance-like in shape. Young leaves and petioles are hairy, but will become glabrous (smooth). The spores are located on tassel-like fronds. It is found in high quality natural habitats and a variety of habitats, including sandy savannas, moist sandy woodlands and sandy thickets, swamps, marshes, stream banks, rocky bluffs, sandy/gravelly seeps, and semi-shaded sandstone bluffs. This fern spreads slowly, but under the right conditions, it can live up to 100 years!



Photo courtesy,
Jennifer Behnken

2018



Southern Chapter

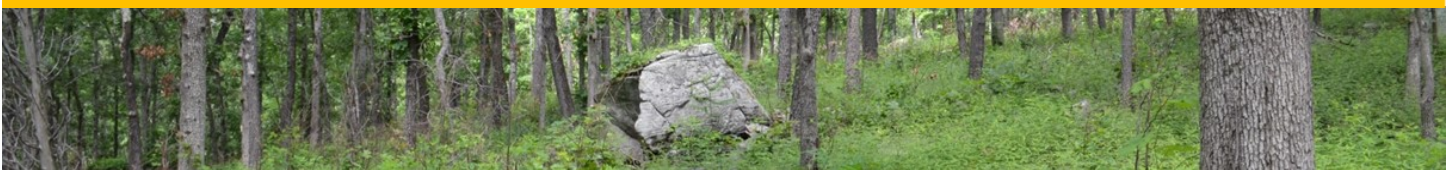
P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

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Calendar of Events

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>

Pollinator Habitat Conservation

Helping Birds, Bees, and Butterflies

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

Trees Forever wants to talk to you about how you can use native plants to feed and shelter pollinators.

Each year, we recruit 20 pollinator habitat demonstration sites in Iowa and Illinois (10 in each state) to showcase proper site selection and preparation, appropriate plant species composition, and on-going maintenance requirements for the establishment of sustainable pollinator-friendly habitat.

If you would like to nominate your yard, farm, a city lot, a parcel you own, school or nature center to participate in the Trees Forever Pollinator Habitat Conservation program, download the application to the right. For questions on completing the application, email Debbie Fluegel at dfluegel@treesforever.org or call her at 319-373-0650, Ext. 263.

We also are always happy to talk to your service club, city council, garden group, or class about why pollinators are important and how you can help them. Go to the <http://www.treesforever.org/Staff> to locate the field coordinator near you to schedule a presentation. Application deadline is September 30.





Summary of Past Events



August Program, Effects of Sericea Lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata) on Native Plant Communities, by Erin Medvecz

Our August program focused on a topic with which many native plant enthusiasts are all too familiar: invasive species. Rather than focusing on how to control yet another invasive species, our speaker, Extension Educator Erin Medvecz with the University of Illinois Extension, shared her findings from her Master's research on how one invasive plant in particular is interacting with our native plant communities here in southern Illinois.

Sericea lespedeza is one of many non-native invasive species that was intentionally introduced in the U.S. for erosion control, forage, and reclamation of degraded land. Little did we know that it would become a widespread problem in the southeastern U.S., including southern Illinois. This plant is difficult to control (**seeds remain viable in the soil for over 20 years!**) and has become widely established.

Erin focused her research on understanding how grasslands infested by sericea are changing – what plants are occurring in areas sericea has invaded compared to areas where it has not? She also explored how sericea interacts with native plants – is it altering soil nitrogen content and microbial communities belowground or just exerting competitive shading aboveground? She explored these questions through field surveys and a greenhouse experiment.

Her field surveys across 15 infested grasslands in southern Illinois found that regionally, grasses and legumes occurred in higher abundances where sericea was not growing, suggesting that these functional groups are better able to resist invasion by sericea. When assessed individually, half the surveyed sites differed in community plant composition based on the presence or absence of sericea, and its abundance. Thus, the effects of sericea on native plant community composition are site specific.

In a greenhouse experiment, higher abundances of fungi were found in soil that had been “conditioned” by sericea by growing the invasive in the soil for an extended period of time. Soil effects on native plant growth, however, were minimal. Competition with the invasive sericea reduced the biomass of grasses, forbs, and legumes, and it reduced the root length and height of forbs and legumes.

The most interesting result from the greenhouse study was looking at the performance of sericea between forbs, grasses, and legumes. Sericea performed the best (across 8 different measurements) when competing with forbs and the worst when competing with legumes. This suggests that legumes compete strongly with one another, and a grassland with a high abundance of legumes may be more resistant to sericea invasion.

Altogether, Erin's research concluded that grasses and legumes should be promoted in southern Illinois grasslands to provide them with some invasion resistance to sericea lespedeza.



“...legumes compete strongly with one another, and grassland with a high abundance of legumes may be more resistant to sericea invasion.”

Local Events & Announcements

Plant Blindness

**Giant City State Park
Sunday, September 9th
2-3pm**

All life as we know it literally owes its survival to plants, yet only a handful of people know how to identify them or can explain the importance of their roles in nature. This inability to see the plants that surround us is termed “plant blindness.”



This presentation, given by Illinois Botanist, Christopher David Benda, will challenge your perceptions about plants and teach you ways to inform others about their value to humans and nature. No Registration required. Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center.

For more information please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836.



Historic Native Gardens Tour, presenter Terry Foster

Sunday, September 23rd, 2-4 pm, John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL

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



Cache River Wetlands Center

Monarch Phenomenon

Saturday, September 22nd, 10 am—2 pm

The magnificent monarch butterfly migrates up to 2,500 miles from North America to central Mexico for the winter. Monarch Watch Association has been tagging and monitoring migrating monarchs since 1992. Join us for a program from 10-11am to learn the monarch's natural history, and then spend the rest of the day capturing, tagging, and releasing butterflies. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.



Diagnosing Emerald Ash Borer in the Field

Natural Resource/Extension Professionals Workshop – September 6th, 10am-11am
Ferne Clyffe State Park, Goreville, IL



Emerald ash borer (EAB) is already impacting southern Illinois forests, but it isn't always easy confirming that dead/dying ash trees are due to EAB. This free, one-hour field workshop will allow natural resource professionals and Extension personnel to see the signs and symptoms used to identify infestations, view related damage, get hands-on experience identifying emerald ash borer in the field, and discuss management options.



Please RSVP for the event by emailing Chris Evans at cwevans@illinois.edu

University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences— United States Department of Agriculture—Local Extension Councils Cooperating provides equal opportunities in programming and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact the University at 618-695-3383.

Hike with a Naturalist

Giant City State Park

Every Saturday in September and October

1-2:30pm



Come for an up-close look at Giant City State Park like you've never seen before. These 1-2 mile moderately difficult hikes will offer a detailed look at plants, animals, rocks and history of this amazing park. No registration is required and participants are asked to meet at the Giant City Visitors Center. For more information please call 618-457-4836.



*Nature Fest kicks off on
Friday evening at 8:30pm
with a “Night of the Living Cache”
hike at Limekiln Springs, led by
**Michael Jeffords and
Susan Post.***

**A full day of fun
on Saturday –
and it's all FREE!**

ULLIN ILLINOIS Cache River Days

Nature Fest at Cache River Days

**Saturday, September 8,
9am-4pm**

Headquarters:

**Ullin Ball Park, Ullin, IL
(on Old Hwy 51 in northwest
Pulaski County)**

- Canoe tours and guided hikes
- Live wildlife exhibits
- Nature activities and crafts
- Asian carp fry
- Take the Cache Challenge and win a **Cache patch!**
- Educational giveaways for teachers and home schoolers

Limited capacity for night hike and canoe tours; to reserve your space, call Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge at 618-634-2231.

Nature Fest at Cache River Days is supported and organized by:



Shawnee
Community College

Ullin Village of



**DUCKS
UNLIMITED**
50 Years of Conservation

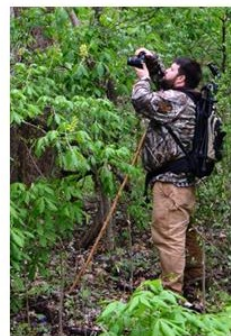
Wild Plants of Giant City

**Giant City State Park
September 15th
10am-Noon**

Giant City State Park is home to hundreds of species of plants. Join Extension Forester, Chris Evans, for a fun and informative wild plant hike on the two mile Trillium Trail. This is a moderate trail with some steep stair climbing.

**This program is free
and open to the public!**

**No reservation required. We will
meet at the Shelter #1 parking lot
at 4pm.**



**For more information please
contact Jennifer Randolph at
618-457-4836**

Identifying Grasses Made Easy

Giant City State Park

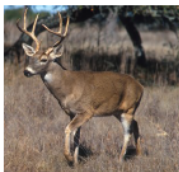
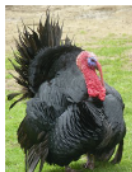
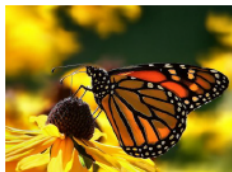
September 15th

1-3pm



Identifying grasses can be tricky! Join Erin Medvecz with the U of I Extension to learn tips and techniques to help you identify 30 different grasses in southern Illinois. After the presentation, take a hike with Erin to identify grasses in Giant City. This program is free and open to the public. Please register by calling 618-457-4836.





University of Illinois Extension

Registration is now open for the

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

September 22, 2018
9:00 am - 2:45 pm
Shawnee Community College
Ullin, IL

Register at:

<https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=18980>

I ILLINOIS

Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



For more information, call 618-695-3383 or email Chris Evans at cwevans@illinois.edu

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!**

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.

August Invasive Plant Phenology Report: <https://bit.ly/2Ck5a6h>

FRST Volunteer Workday Schedule for September

Saturday, September 23rd, 9am-noon, Benieta Powell

121 Woodline Dr., Makanda, IL 62958

This workday will primarily involve oriental bittersweet and autumn olive/bush honeysuckle removal.

For foliar application of herbicide, please wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy close-toed footwear. Water, tools, bug spray and snacks are provided. Please bring a water bottle to fill from our cooler.

RSVPs are greatly appreciated but not required. For more information, contact Nathan Speagle at volunteerfrst@gmail.com or Nick Seaton at rtrcwma@gmail.com.



Chainsaw Safety and Invasive Control Training



September 16, 1pm - 4pm
Dixon Springs Agricultural Center
354 State Highway 145N
Simpson, IL 62985-9614

Join us for a hands-on, field training for Chainsaw Safety and Invasive Species Control. Participants will get training in the safe use of chainsaws, what safety gear to use, and an opportunity to practice these skills with experts.

Please RSVP or ask questions by email krohling@illinois.edu or phone 618-695-3383 by September 14.

Wear long pants and sturdy leather boots. If you have them, bring chainsaws and PPE (chaps, helmets, hearing protection, eye protection). We also have saws and safety equipment to loan if needed.



Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
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www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Chris Benda
VP: Chris Evans
Secretary: Erin Medvecz
Treasurer: Sonja Lallemand
At-large: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Jean Sellar
At-large: Jody Shimp
At-large: Marisa Szubryt
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

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- #### Membership Categories
- ☐ Student.....\$15.00
☐ Individual.....\$25.00
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☐ 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

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Illinois Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central (Springfield) | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast (Chicago) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Glen (Westville) | <input type="checkbox"/> Quad Cities (Rock Island) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand Prairie (Bloomington) | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern (Carbondale) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irene Cull (Peoria) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Uncertain _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kankakee Torrent | |

I would like to help with:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leading Field Trips & Tours | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Speaking | <input type="checkbox"/> Writing/Submitting articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars | <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising | <input type="checkbox"/> Photography |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Assistance/Managment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |