



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

**December
2018**

Newsletter

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

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Illinois Native Plant Society 2019 Research Grant Program Announced

This grant program is intended to expand botanical inquiry about and knowledge of native plants within Illinois and to support researchers engaged in these studies.

Students, citizen scientists, conservation groups, independent researchers and institutions are alerted to consider applying for a grant ranging from \$500-\$1500 to fund one-year projects. The grants are intended for research on Illinois native plants such as life history, reproductive biology, demography, genetics, site inventory analysis, and community ecology, as well as research on threats to native plants and communities, such as invasive species. Laboratory research and projects focused on **research** relating to education about, or restoration of, native plants and plant communities will be considered. Funding may not be used for seed, plants or management supplies or equipment, except as essential to the research project. **All projects must demonstrate how they support the mission of the Illinois Native Plant Society.**

Applications must be received by January 31, 2019. Awards will be announced by March 31, 2019.

Full application details and form are at:
<https://ill-inps.org/2019-research-grants/>



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Well another year has come to an end and what a good year it was, for both INPS and me personally. INPS Southern chapter had another year of outstanding programs, informative workshops, and fun events. I got to travel the state documenting its flora and photographing rare plants. I am thankful to everyone who helped make this year a success!

Last month we hosted David Barfknecht, Ph.D candidate in plant biology at Southern Illinois University, to speak about his research with acid gravel seeps, a rare community type in Illinois. Read more about it on page 5. We also had a great holiday dinner and award ceremony earlier this month. Read more about that on page 5.

Otherwise I don't have too much to say other than that we are planning programs for 2019. A "cadaver botany" hike and potluck will be held at the residence of Debbie Scott Newman on January 26th. RSVP is required and more information will be in the next newsletter.

Please see the ballot on page 3. We have one new member this year, Nick Seaton, who will be joining us as an at-large member. Jean Sellar is moving to the Vice-president position and Dr. Nancy Garwood to the Treasurer position.

Lastly, this is the time of year to pay annual dues. There is a form on the last page of the newsletter or you can pay online at this link, <https://ill-inps.org/about-membership/>.

As always, thank you for your support. ~Christopher David Benda



Sonja Lallemand and Chris Benda,
Conservation Leadership Award

"A 'cadaver botany' hike and potluck will be held at the residence of Debbie Scott Newman on January 26th. RSVP is required and more information will be in the next newsletter."

Feature Plant of the Month

**Hairy Hawkweed,
*Hieracium gronovii***

While dandelions are furthest from our minds this time of year, this relative's basal leaves are still visible on a pleasant walk in the woods, specifically rocky or sandy woodlands or savannas, mesic sand prairies, bluffs, and edges of fields. Also known as Gronovious' or Beaked Hawkweed, its rosette of leaves are ovate in shape and very hairy, in varied lengths up to eight inches. The stalk also exhibits tiny hairs with smaller leaves in an alternative pattern on the stem. Catch it in bloom from mid-summer to early fall. Pollinators enjoy the flowers, wild turkey eat the seed heads, and the foliage is consumed by deer, rabbits, and other small mammals.



Photo courtesy,
Illinois Wildflowers



Photo courtesy,
Chris Benda

To vote online for INPS, visit <https://bit.ly/2SPMf6Q>



2019 SINPS BALLOT



ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SOUTHERN CHAPTER Term length = 1 year January - December

☐ **PRESIDENT – Chris Benda (incumbent) or** (write in vote)

☐ **VICE - PRESIDENT – Jean Sellar or** (write in vote)

Jean has agreed to switch from an at-large member to the Vice President role. Jean grew up with the knowledge that she wanted to be a biologist and a conservationist. She has a Master's degree in Ecology and worked at the Field Museum and as a consultant to zoos, museums, and environmental planning firms before a career as a gadfly at the US Army Corps of Engineers. While there she established several programs to fund and implement large ecosystem restoration projects and managed several litigation cases with the US Attorney's Office against violators of the Clean Water Act. She helped with the start-up of Chicago Wilderness, and, after her retirement from the Corps, worked to establish an ecosystem restoration program at Friends of the Forest Preserves in Cook County. Now she inhabits and admires a 64-acre parcel west of Cobden. *Jean is an incumbent board member and has agreed to switch from an at-large member to the vice president role.*



☐ **TREASURER – Nancy Garwood or** (write in vote)

Nancy has agreed to switch from an at-large member to the Treasurer role. Nancy is a native of southern New Jersey, but moved to Chicago in 1968. She obtained her B.A. (1973) and Ph.D. (1979) in Biology from the University of Chicago, taught at a university in Chicago for 6 years, and carried out botanical research outside of the USA for 20 years, before arriving in Southern Illinois. Her research has touched upon many facets of tropical botany, including the seasonal timing of germination and flowering, plant succession on landslides, seedling identification, plant taxonomy and evolution, non-timber forest products, and plant conservation. She is an adjunct professor at SIU, teaches General Plant Biology, and is Curator of the SIU Herbarium. Nancy hopes her varied professional experience in botany, and keen interest in the local flora, can help the Southern Chapter of INPS flourish. *Nancy is an incumbent board member and has agreed to switch from an at-large member to the treasurer role.*



☐ **SECRETARY – Erin Medvecz (incumbent) or** (write in vote)

☐ **AT-LARGE MEMBER – Jody Shimp (incumbent) or** (write in vote)

☐ **AT-LARGE MEMBER – Marisa Szubryt (incumbent) or** (write in vote)

☐ **AT-LARGE MEMBER – Nick Seaton or** (write in vote)

Nick is the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area Program Coordinator. He is a graduate student in the plant biology program at SIU studying the effects of deer browse on Japanese Chaff Flower, *Achyranthes japonica*. Prior to his position with the RTRCWMA, Nick worked for The Nature Conservancy as a member of the Invasive Species Strike Team. He has agreed to join the board as an at-large member, and to assist with developing the monthly newsletter.





2018



Southern Chapter

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www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Stay tuned for exciting upcoming programs in the 2019 Calendar of Events!



Barkhausen's Influence Memorialized in Visitor Center at Cache River

Read the entire story by visiting <https://bit.ly/2QmUn1U>.

Although he came to the conservation field later in life, Henry Barkhausen left an indelible impression, particularly in Southern Illinois. His tireless work to preserve the Cache River watershed led to the visitor center — the Barkhausen-Cache River Wetlands Center being named in his honor.

Agriculture and logging had diminished the natural quality of the Cache River Watershed by the time Barkhausen got involved in the 1970s.

"I'm not sure how much of a hunter he was, but he was very much a conservationist and putting the Cache back as much as possible," said Bill Reynolds, former site superintendent of Ferne Clyffe State Park. "He was interested in turning the tide and bringing things back in favor of conservation. He was tireless. When he was committed to something, he was fully involved."

"I think probably as much as anything he kind of inspired folks to be inspired," said Max Hutchinson of Vienna, who was a member of the Citizens to Save the Cache. "He didn't try to do it all. He didn't try to necessarily take the lead in a lot of the efforts. He kind of worked behind the scenes, but certainly with the folks he knew at the Department of Conservation, all of that was certainly a big help. That was kind of a link or a connection with all the things that needed to be done."

Eventually the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Ducks Unlimited formed the Joint Venture Partnership. That allowed agencies to begin purchasing land and restoring the area to its natural state.

(Story courtesy, Les Winkeler)





Summary of Past Events



November Program, Community Changes in Southern Illinois Acid Seeps, by Dan Barfknecht

David Barfknecht's November talk on temporal changes in plant communities within southern Illinois acid seeps highlighted the many alterations these unique ecosystems have been undergoing in the past decades. Threats to maintaining these communities' biodiversity, including anthropogenic hydrologic changes and *Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese stiltgrass) invasion, were analyzed. Human activities such as stream down-cutting appear to pose the greatest threat to our unique acid seep plant communities and the numerous rare plants within them.

2018 Southern Chapter Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony

On December 1st, the Southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society gathered to honor Sonja Lallemand, our outgoing Treasurer, for her service to INPS, with our annual Conservation Leadership Award. Sonja was instrumental in creating and organizing our annual Indigenous Plant Symposium and native plant sale. She also meticulously kept our finances in order and wisely invested our money. Sonja will be greatly missed, but will continue to advise the chapter as needed. Thanks Sonja for your contributions!

This event also included our annual holiday dinner, this year held at Scratch Brewing Company in Ava. INPS provided some hors d'oeuvres and Scratch made pizza. Of course everyone was able to buy the unique and flavorful beer brewed at Scratch. We held the event this year during the day and several members mentioned they liked that. It was a great event to end another great year of programming by INPS. Thanks for your support!



Photo courtesy, Chris Benda



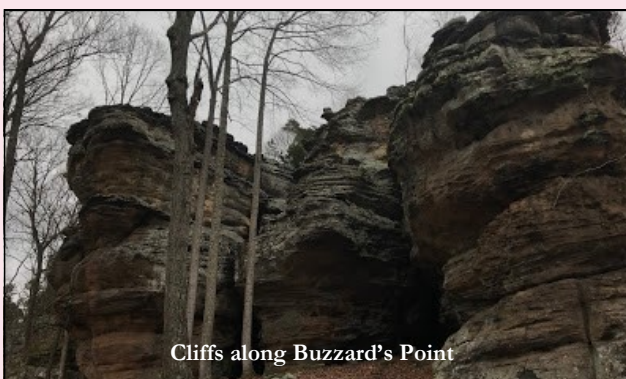
Hiking the River to River Trail Across Southern Illinois

By Chris Benda

I have long wanted to thru hike the River to River Trail (R2R) through southern Illinois, from the Ohio River in Elizabethtown to the Mississippi River in Grand Tower (note: this is a reroute from the original route which started near Battery Rock). Last year, a project was completed to re-route, map, and mark the entire length of the River to River Trail, which now spans approximately 157 miles. The newly released trail guide was exactly the impetus I needed to take action. That and I felt like I was in good shape after hiking all season, and I wasn't getting any younger.



December is a fine month for hiking in southern Illinois. As a botanist, I tend to move slowly (I stop and smell the roses, so to speak), but with most plants dormant, I was able to maintain a good pace. Also, summer in southern Illinois can be brutal. It's hot and extremely humid, and many tick and chigger bites can be guaranteed. The heat will wear one out, require lots of water (and dependable water sources in the summer are rare on this trail), and make it hard to make miles. Plus, since a lot of the trail traverses low quality habitats (pine plantations and fields of invasive species) anyway, I figured December would be a good time to make the trek. To read each adventure of his journey, visit <http://illinoisbotanizer.blogspot.com/>.



Cliffs along Buzzard's Point



Blackjack Oak,
Quercus marilandica



Fern-leaved Phacelia,
Phacelia bipinnatifida



Lusk Creek



Crow Knob Ecological Area

"It is customary to get your feet wet in the Ohio River before beginning and I did just that, after collecting a small bottle of Ohio River water to carry with me to the Mississippi River."

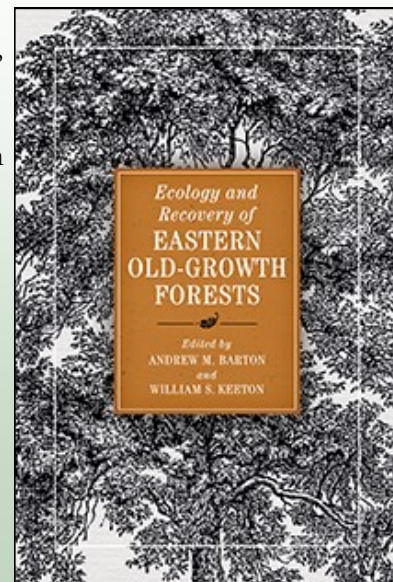
Photos courtesy, Chris Benda



New Book: “Ecology and Recovery of Eastern Old-Growth Forests”**by Andrew M. Barton and William S. Keeton**

North American landscapes have been shaped by humans for millennia, but the arrival of Europeans several centuries ago ushered in an era of rapid conversion of eastern forests to cities, farms, transportation networks, and second-growth woodlands. In recent decades, however, numerous remnants of eastern old growth have been discovered, meticulously mapped, and studied. Many of these ancient stands retain surprisingly robust complexity and vigor, and scientists are developing strategies for restoration that will foster biological diversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Forest ecologists Andrew Barton and William Keeton bring together an edited volume that breaks new ground in our understanding of eastern old-growth forest ecosystems and their importance for resilience in an age of rapid environmental change. Leading experts examine topics of contemporary forest ecology and conservation across a broad geographic canvas in eastern North America. For more information, visit <https://islandpress.org/books/ecology-and-recovery-eastern-old-growth-forests>; use code FORESTS for a 20% discount. Also available at other sources, such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or other local bookstores. If you'd like to use the book in a class, you can request an exam copy at islandpress.org/educators.



Are you decking the halls with invasive plants? Find out by taking this holiday quiz at <https://bit.ly/2EzmB3d>.

Alternative Tools Used in Woody Invasive Control

Date: 1/12/19

Time: 1-4 PM

Location:

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center,
354 State Highway 145N Simpson, IL



Join representatives of U of I Extension Forestry and partners in this hands-on demonstration event. Come check out alternative tools used in the control of woody invasive species, such as clearing saws, sawzalls with brush blades, and “tree pullers”. See a demonstration of each of the tools and an opportunity to practice at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center demonstration forest. Event will be outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Pre-registration required, contact Kevin Rohling at 618-695-3383 or rohling@Illinois.edu to register.

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

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Cooperative Weed Management Area


SIPBA
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FRST
Forest Restoration
Support Team

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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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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!



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Erigenia, our scientific journal, is now available digitally as well as in print.

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- | | |
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| <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 |
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| | <input type="checkbox"/> Website Assistance/Managment | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |