



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

February 2019

Newsletter

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

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Winter Tree Identification

Tuesday, February 19th at 6:30 p.m.

**Carbondale Township Hall
216 E. Monroe St. Carbondale, IL**

Identifying trees and shrubs in the winter when their leaves are gone can seem difficult, but all the parts necessary to know them are there if you know what to look at. Learn how to look at trees in the winter by reviewing bark, bud, and twig characteristics and you will be able to identify trees any time of the year on your own!

Chris Benda (aka, Illinois Botanizer) teaches the Flora of Southern Illinois at Southern Illinois University. Chris has over 10 years of experience as a botanist in Illinois and is the past-president of the Illinois Native Plant Society and President of the Southern chapter. See full bio at www.illinoisbotanizer.com.

This program is free and open to the public!



Viburnum, photo courtesy, Chris Benda



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

As I write this month's message, I can't help but to think about the weird weather we've been having! I think I saw it all in February, from ice, snow, sleet, and sunshine! My wife and I were able to cross country ski in a field near our house and that was a first for me in the 9 years I've lived in southern Illinois. Yet today was especially nice with temperatures exceeding 60 degrees, and just a couple days after single digit temperatures. Odd indeed.

Luckily we had relatively pleasant weather for our event last month at Debbie Newman's place. Sixteen INPS members gathered to eat, look at plants, and be merry! More about the event on page 5.

Our next INPS program will feature yours truly and I will be speaking about winter tree identification. This is a topic I've spent some time researching over the last couple years and the slideshow will highlight characteristics that make tree identification easy in the winter. See the flyer on page 1 for more information. While we don't have the entire 2019 sorted out at this point, we do have many events planned and you can see the full calendar of events on page 3. Of course our annual Indigenous Plant Symposium and Native Plant Sale had been planned for a few months and will be on April 5-7 with Chris Evans as keynote speaker. See the flyer on page 4.

At our January board meeting, the official slate of officers for 2019 was approved. We welcome incoming board member Nick Seaton and thank exiting board members Chris Evans and Sonja Lallemand. Jean Sellar will move to the Vice-president position and Nancy Garwood to the Treasurer position. Yet one thing remains the same: our dedication to delivering quality programming to our membership!

"...one thing remains the same: our dedication to delivering quality programming to our membership!"

Speaking of which, please renew your membership for 2019 in case you haven't yet. Despite receiving a lot of new memberships last year, overall the numbers slightly decreased so retention of members is important to sustaining the society. As always, your support is greatly appreciated! I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events this year! ~ Christopher David Benda



Recording botanical names

Feature Plant of the Month

**American agave,
*Manfreda virginica***

Also referred to as false or American aloe, the basal leaves are currently dormant; look for the seed capsules, each capsule containing two rows of flattened seeds, typically dispersed by the wind. The genus refers an ancient writer, Manredus de Monte Imperiali. This species is the only native member of the Agave family in Illinois with succulent agave-like leaves and tall spike of greenish flowers, which can bloom several times during its lifespan. It is only found occasionally in southern Illinois in chert, sandstone, or limestone rocky glades, upland savannas, cliffs along rivers, and other sandy habitats. The flowers are utilized by Sphinx moths, Noctuid moths, and bumblebees. Consider adding it to your rock garden in your backyard.



Photos courtesy,
Chris Benda,
Illinois Wildflowers

2019



Southern Chapter

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southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

Feb. 16	Chris Benda	Winter Tree Identification	CTH
March 19	Marisa Szubryt	Species Distribution Mapping: A Case Study	CTH
April 5-7	various	Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium: Understanding the Research Behind Local Conservation	John A. Logan College
May 11	Nick Seaton	<i>Styrax</i> Search Party	Pope County, IL
May 25-26	TBD	Spring Sedge Extravaganza	Southern IL
June 18	TBD	TBD	TBD
June 21-23	Gary Sullivan	INPS Annual Gathering	North Central IL
July 16	TBD	TBD	TBD
Aug. 20	Nick Seaton	River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area	CTH
Sept. 17	Marisa Szubryt	From Aster to Symphyotrichum: Why?	CTH
Oct. TBD	Abel Kinser/ Chris Benda	Workshop: Asters and Goldenrods	TBD
Nov. 19	TBD	TBD	TBD
Dec. TBD	TBD	INPS Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony	TBD

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 Indigenous Plants Symposium

Understanding the Research Behind Local Conservation

April 5-7, 2019

John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL

Keynote Speaker:
Chris Evans

Guided Hikes
April 5 & April 7
Locations TBA

Closing Plenary:
Dr. Justin Schoof

Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 6

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SIU Southern Illinois
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Summary of Past Events



January Program, Cadaver Botany Hike, by Nick Seaton

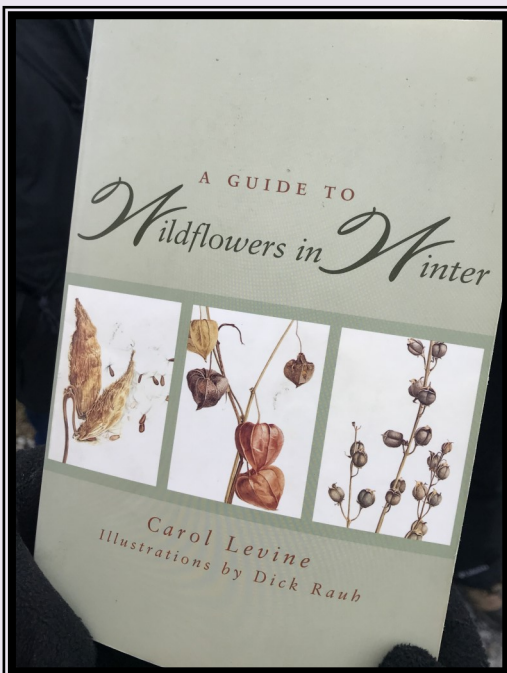
The southern chapter of INPS held a potluck and cadaver botany excursion at one of its members properties this past month. Debbie Newman's property is in the Ozark Hills natural division and holds a rich diversity of plant species that can be found in the many natural community types present on the property. After enjoying a feast of home-cooked food and mingling with our members at the fine abode of our host, we headed outside. Although windy, the sun was shining and the temperatures were in the mid-40s. Some notable species found while the group was out in the high quality barrens include goats rue, little bluestem and pineweed along with both post and blackjack oaks.

In the property was in the direct path of an EF4 tornado in February 2017 that caused significant damage. It is expected that changes in flora will occur after such a disturbance and some have already begun. The pineweed has taken off in some areas where the soil was almost completely removed. Luckily, invasive shrubs like bush honeysuckle and autumn olive have been eliminated by the landowner, but the fear is that the tornado could have brought seeds of invasives onto the property that might flourish after the disturbance. So far though, the increased light gaps have allowed for bountiful blooms of native species. As the years pass and the forest recovers from the disturbance, it will be interesting to see the various suites of species that make their way through the property.

Many thanks for Debbie Newman for hosting this event and if a member is interesting in hosting the cadaver botany and potluck in 2020, please let us know!



Photos courtesy, Chris Benda



Local Events & Announcements

Webcast: “Fire’s American Century”

Wednesday, February 13th, starts at 11 am

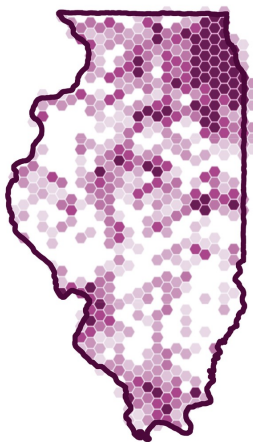


Today, each era continues to promote updated versions of its goals. Suppression is moving toward an all-hazard, urban fire-service model. Restoration has expanded from simple prescribed fire to interactive techniques involving fire and fuel management, all embedded in complex collaborations. The managed wildfire is still a work in progress, but it seems implicitly to reject the idea that we can get ahead of the problem or that fire is something largely under our control in favor of administrative mashups. To learn more and register for this webinar, visit <https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/stewardship-network-webcasts>.

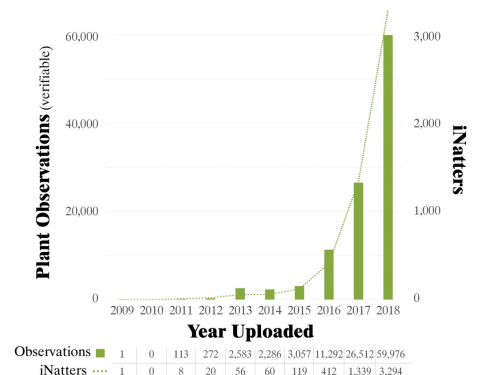
Illinois Botanists Big Year 2018 Results

- 35,864 research grade observations of plants
- 1,468 species
- 2,167 observers
- 973 people helped with ID

2018 Plant Observations



Ten Years of Illinois Botanizing on iNaturalist



<https://www.inaturalist.org/posts/21183-illinois-botanists-big-year-2018-results>

Native Plant Sales

INPS is compiling a list of native plant sales in the state on our website. If you have information about a native plant sale in Illinois please visit our <https://ill-inps.org/native-plant-sales-2/> and check to see if it's on the list. If not, you can add it to the list by clicking on the add a new entry at the bottom of page.

INPS membership renewal

We'd like to remind you to renew your 2019 membership with the Illinois Native Plant Society (INPS). We are also excited to share that *Erigenia* No. 27 is ready to go to the printer. If you have had a change of address recently, please update your membership or send us an email with the new information.

Your membership is essential for INPS to maintain our dedication to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois. It also allows us to publish the *Harbinger* newsletter and the *Erigenia* journal. Annual memberships for INPS are on the calendar year and run from January to December. Please fill out the last page of the newsletter and mail it in, or visit this link to renew online:

<https://ill-inps.org/online-membership-form/>.

Local Events & Announcements

Position Announcement—University of Illinois Extension Forestry

Illinois Forestry Association (IFA) Program Coordinator



IFA is a non-profit association with a membership primarily made up of private forest landowners. This position will be based out of the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center and will be responsible for facilitating the day-to-day operations of the IFA. This position is part-time and currently funded for two years.

To apply, send a cover letter and resume to Chris Evans cwevans@illinois.edu by February 6, 2019. For more information, contact Chris Evans at 618-695-3383.

Cache River Wetlands Center

Slide Tour: Newfoundland and the Gaspé Peninsula

Saturday, February 16th, 10—11 am

John Schwegman will be our travel guide to explore outstanding natural areas within vacation driving distance of southern Illinois, no passport needed! This slide program covers the west coast of Newfoundland, including coastal tundra, rare orchids, a beached whale, icebergs, and more. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.



Giant City State Park

Maple Syrup Program

Wednesday, February 6th, 6 – 7 pm

Curious about maple syrup production? Join Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension Forester, as he covers the basics of tree identification, equipment needs, tree tapping, sap collection, boiling, and finishing maple syrup.

Natural Bee Keeping for Beginners

Saturday, February 23rd, 10 am – 12 pm

Discover the basics of backyard bee keeping! Join local bee enthusiasts Angie and Colin Kuehl and they discuss getting started with bee keeping. The benefits of beekeeping extend beyond just pollination and honey! Head out to the Visitors Center and find out how you can get started. This program is free and open to the public. Please register by calling 618-457-4836.



Natural Areas of the Shawnee National Forest



© Kevin Rohling



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Beginner Chainsaw Safety and Timber Stand Improvement Training



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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February 14

5:30 PM for Early Entry to Little

Egypt Arts Association

6:30 ALPS Meeting / Presentation

Artistic Lens Photography Society

Little Egypt Arts Association

601 Tower Square

Marion, IL 62959

The Natural Areas of the Shawnee National Forest are unique in several ways. Kevin Rohling will present to the Artistic Lens Photography Society on the history of natural areas and the unique plant, animal, and geologic features of these special places. Join us to learn more. Early entry will allow for optimal parking and to learn more about ALPS and the LEAA.

RSVPs are appreciated. Email krohling@illinois.edu or phone 618-695-3383.

February 23, 1pm - 4pm

Dixon Springs Agricultural Center

354 State Highway 145N

Simpson, IL 62985-9614

Join us for a hands-on, field training for Beginner Chainsaw Safety and Timber Stand Improvement. 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 register early (class will fill up) or ask questions by email krohling@illinois.edu or phone 618-695-3383.

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.

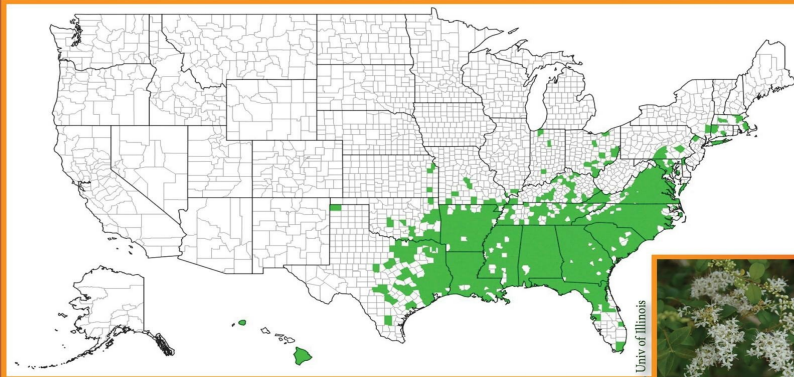
Invasive Species Corner

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

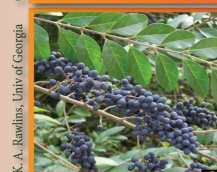
Please look at the following resources for the latest in Invasive Species news.

#MAPITMONDAY

Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*)



- Semi-evergreen shrub/small tree that grows to 20' tall
- Multi-stemmed with many long, leafy branches
- Leaves opposite, oblong, 1-2.4" long, 0.2-0.6" wide; can be pubescent along the underside of the midvein
- Panicles of white-cream flowers develop April - June in axillary clusters; pollen can be allergenic
- Fruits abundant, spherical, 0.3-0.5" long; ripens from green to dark purple to black, and persists into winter
- Seeds dispersed by wildlife with one-year seed soil viability; plant also colonizes by root sprouts



C. Evans, Univ of Illinois

K. A. Radlins, Univ of Georgia

C. Evans, Univ of Illinois

EDDMapS
find · map · track



Alternative Tools Used in Woody Invasive Control

DATE: 2/16/2019

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, cordless electric chainsaws, a girdling device, and "tree pullers". See a demonstration of each of the tools and an opportunity to practice at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center. Event will be outdoors, so please dress appropriately for the weather. Pre-registration is required, contact Kevin Rohling at 618-695-3383 or krohling@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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www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Chris Benda
VP: Jean Sellar
Secretary: Erin Medvecz
Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Nick Seaton
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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- ☐ New Member ☐ Address Change only
☐ Renewal ☐ Additional Donation

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Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$15.00
☐ Individual.....\$25.00
☐ Family.....\$35.00
☐ 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

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society
INPS, Membership, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

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

- ☐ 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: _____