



The Shooting Star

March 2021

Newsletter

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

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Dalea's Disjunct Distribution: Understanding the Implications

Leafy prairie clover (*Dalea foliosa*) is a federally endangered legume with an unusual, disjunct distribution. Join the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society for our March meeting in which Dr. Ashley Morris of Furman University will demystify glade systems and explain her work to help conserve this rare plant.

This virtual meeting will be held
March 16 at 6:30pm.

Registration is required for this FREE event.

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/4w9a2tc6>



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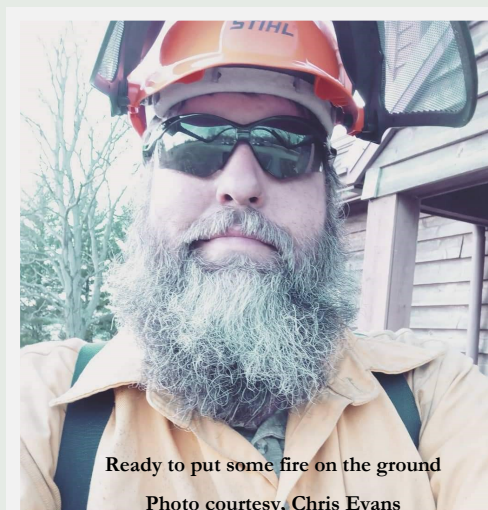
Message from the Southern Chapter President

Happy March everyone; wildflowers are actually blooming right now in southern Illinois! Head out in the woods and you can see harbinger-of-spring, spring beauty, toothwort, hepatica, and many more of our earliest flowers in bloom. Other than the arrival of spring wildflowers, March brings with it the prescribed fire season.

The past week many successful prescribed fires were conducted in the region, so I thought this a good time to highlight the benefit of management to our natural areas and native plants. Active management, including prescribed fire, invasive species control, hydrologic manipulation, tree thinning/removal, planting, and other practices may seem heavy-handed and counter-intuitive to the “let nature take its course” mentality. However, we have already altered our natural ecosystems greatly through fire suppression, land conversion, excessive logging, over-grazing, introduction of exotic species, climate change, draining of wetlands, and many other ways.

The management practices underway now are a way of mitigating those past and sometimes ongoing impacts already wrought on these ecosystems, bringing them back closer to their historical state and/or enhance the diversity and richness of native species. Management and preservation should go hand-in-hand.

As you start your spring outdoor adventures, pay attention to the land around you. Look for signs of management and see how the natural ecosystems are responding. ~ Chris Evans



“Management practices underway now are a way of mitigating those past and sometimes ongoing impacts already wrought on those ecosystems, bringing them back to their historical state and/or enhance the diversity and richness of native species.”

Feature Plant of the Month Hazelnut, *Corylus americanus*

This shrub has gained momentum for the nutritional value of the nuts for people and wildlife alike. Also known as American filbert, this multi-stemmed shrub grows in a wide range of habitats in full sun to part shade. This species has male and female flowers located on the same plant, the female flowers producing edible, high-protein nuts in the summer. The genus *Corylus* comes from the Greek word *korylos*, translating to the word “helmet,” referring to the shape of the nut husks. The bark is smooth and gray, the leaves are oval-ovate in shape with doubly serrate margins (leaf edge). They can form dense thickets unless root suckers are trimmed.



Photos courtesy, Chris Benda & Missouri Botanical Gardens

2021



Southern Chapter

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Calendar of Events

March 16	Ashley Morris	Population and Genetics of <i>Dalea foliosa</i>	Virtual
April 15-17	INPS	Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium	Virtual
May 18	Tricia Bethke	Oak Pests and Diseases	Virtual
June 15	Chris Benda	Plants of Concern	Virtual
July 20	TBD	Guided Hike	TBD
August 17	Alice Brandon	TBD	Virtual

2021 Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium



**Putting Theory into Practice
Ecosystem Restoration & Management**

**Virtual Symposium
April 15 | 6PM-8PM
April 16 | 6PM-8PM
April 17 | 9AM-4PM**

**Register with Hopin, our virtual platform at
<https://hopin.com/events/2021-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium>**

Native Plant Sale Fundraiser

Sunday, April 18th 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Carbondale Pavilion

Native perennial wildflowers and grasses from local grower, Southernwood Gardens. Online shopping and curbside pickup available, visit greeneearthinc.org for more information.

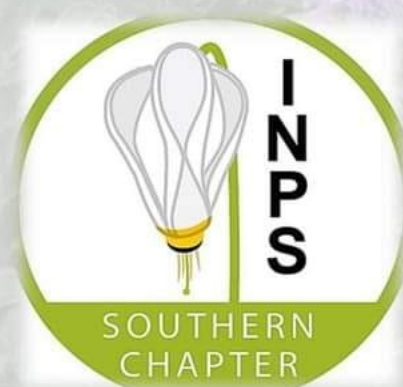
This sale is held in conjunction with the 2021 Virtual Indigenous Plant Symposium April 15th through April 17th. Proceeds benefiting Green Earth and Illinois Native Plant Society southern chapter. Masks and social distancing will be required.

Register for the symposium at:

<https://hopin.com/events/2021-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium>.

Donate for the symposium at:

<https://illinoisplants.org/southern-chapter-conservation-fund-donation-page/>



IL Native Plant Society to Host Virtual Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium

The Illinois Native Plant Society will host the 8th annual Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium virtually on April 15-17. The theme of this year's symposium is "Putting Theory into Practice: Ecosystem Restoration and Management." Restoration and management work is actively occurring throughout southern Illinois ecosystems, and is critical to their health. This symposium is both a celebration of these efforts and an opportunity to share them with the public.

The 3-day symposium includes Thursday and Friday evening lectures and Saturday presentations. The annual native plant sale, organized by Green Earth, is a major fundraiser for their organization and an opportunity to support their important work while obtaining high-quality native plants. The native plant sale will take place Sunday, April 18 at 9am at the Carbondale Town Square Pavilion.

The closing plenary will be delivered by Mike Baltz, who will [discuss the Let the Sun Shine In conservation partnership that has helped to bring order and efficiency to the oak ecosystem recovery effort in southern Illinois.](#)

The symposium is organized by the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society in collaboration with U.S. Forest Service at the Shawnee National Forest, Southern Illinois University Plant Biology Program, Green Earth, and University of Illinois Extension.

The symposium is being offered for free this year. The symposium will be offered through Hopin, a virtual delivery platform. Please register at <https://hopin.com/events/2021-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium>.

In lieu of a registration fee, please consider donating to the Conservation Fund, a fund managed by the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society to support projects that promote the conservation, preservation, and study of native plants in southern Illinois. Donations can be made at <https://illinoisplants.org/southern-chapter-conservation-fund-donation-page/>.

Local contact: Erin Garrett, Secretary of the Southern Chapter of Illinois Native Plant Society, emedvecz@illinois.edu or Nancy Garwood, Treasurer of Southern Chapter of Illinois Native Plant Society, ngarwood@plant.siu.edu



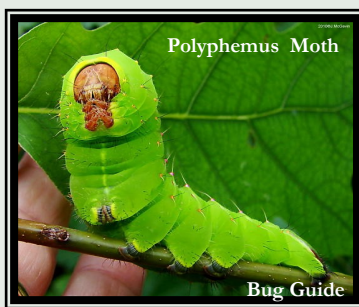


Summary of Past Events

February Program, Oaks and Caterpillars, Diversity and Natural History by Chris Evans



Dr. Jim Whitfield was the guest speaker at our February virtual meeting. Dr. Whitfield is from the University of Illinois, where he researches the interactions between moths, butterflies, and parasitic wasps. Dr. Whitfield presented a fascinating talk about the complex relationships of caterpillars and the oaks upon which they feed in Missouri and southern Illinois.



The importance of caterpillars in the ecosystem, the need for native oaks on the landscape, and the diversity of caterpillars in southern Illinois were all included in this presentation. It is estimated that southern Illinois is home to 350-400 caterpillars that utilize oak species.



These caterpillars can be categorized into broad groups based upon their feeding style. These groups include leaf fold shelter, leaf mine, sheet web, leaf tie, skeletonized leaf, and leaf roll. Defensive mechanisms and predator avoidance strategies also vary greatly, including camouflage, mimicry, toxins, and shelter building. Dr. Whitfield included wonderful photography of many caterpillars and great stories he has collected during his research and travels.



White Oak (left), Northern Red Oak (right), photos courtesy Illinois Wildflowers



Local Events & Announcements

Giant City State Park

12-Mile Red Cedar Hike

Sunday, March 21st 8am— 3:30pm

For the experienced long distance hiker wishing to take a more challenging guided hike, now is your chance! Join Mary Boehler, park volunteer and master naturalist, as she leads participants along this 12-mile backpacking trail. This hike will take a minimum of six hours to complete and will be very rugged.

Art in the Park

Saturday, March 27th, 2—4pm

What better setting than outdoors at Giant City State Park to get creative and learn how to watercolor paint! Join local artist, Anne Krippenstapel, for a leisurely afternoon of creating art inspired by local wildlife. This is a free program and all supplies will be provided.



In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 and to help keep program participants safe, all programs will take place outdoors and will have a limited registration of 10 or less people. Please remember to bring a mask. If social distancing of at least 6 feet is not possible, masks must be worn.

Registration is required for all programs. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 for more information or to register.



All programs are free!

Happy Hiking!



Cache River Wetlands Center

Guided Hike at Cedar Bluff

Saturday, March 27th, 1—4pm

Enjoy a spring walk at Cedar Bluff Natural Area, an annex of Ferne Clyffe State Park, utilizing the Cedar Bluff Trail and Bork's Falls Trail. Be rewarded with 50-foot bluffs, overhangs, a shelter cave, and dramatic views of the early spring landscape. Meet at the parking lot for climbers next to Cedar Grove Church, south end of Happy Hollow Road in Johnson County. For more information and directions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.



John O'Dell Monument, Donations Requested

The River-to-River Trail Society announces that, in conjunction with the Saline County Tourism Board and the Shawnee Trails Conservancy, it is raising funds for a monument to honor John O'Dell, educator, outdoorsman, minister, community leader, and father of the River-to-River Trail. John assembled his maps to find a route, put on his boots, and went out on foot to mark the whole length of the trail, stretching 158 miles from Battery Rock and Elizabethtown on the Ohio River to Grand Tower on the Mississippi. The River-to-River Trail is one of the premier hiking and horseback trails in the Midwest, and is enjoyed daily throughout the year by locals and visitors alike. Donations in any amount are requested from those who love Southern Illinois or the outdoors. The fund-raising drive will run through April 30, 2021. Please mail your donation, payable to the River-to-River Trail Society, to William Gilmour, 2998 Massac Creek Road, Metropolis, IL 62960. Please indicate that the contribution is for the O'Dell Monument. Because the River-to-River Trail Society is a federally-recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, all contributions are tax-deductible. Please forward or share this message with anybody who might be interested.



Local Events & Announcements

Thicket Forming Shrubs, by Henry Eilers

<https://illinoisplants.org/plant-profile-thicket-forming-shrubs/>

When we think about our woodlands – what comes to mind? Perhaps the earliest wildflowers after a long cold winter or hunting for morels a bit later. And then there are large trees of course, such as oaks and hickories.

We think less often of the understory, unless such iconic species as dogwood and redbud are in bloom. They are part of some 30 such species that make their home at the Shoal Creek Conservation Area. There are ground hugging species, such as New Jersey tea, Carolina rose and lead plant that barely qualify as woody plants, and others that on occasion can rival the usual canopy trees in size. A bit of research, for instance, showed that the ubiquitous sassafras can grow to enormous sizes. Larry Mahan in his *'In Search of Large Trees'* lists two champions with over 16' and 18' circumference, with the first one in our neighboring Macoupin County. Guy Sternberg in his *'Native Trees for North American Landscapes'* mentions even larger trees.

Recovery is slow, but the land is healing as ever more forbs, grasses and sedges recruit in the ground layer. Surprisingly many of the species here have strong affinity to prairies. How did they survive in the ever-increasing shade? Exploring that may be for another column. Shade tolerant woodland graminoids, especially sedges, had an edge in survival as the woodlands got ever darker. But they too did not really thrive. They are returning to their former dominance where the canopy has been opened up and burns are reducing the smothering duff. While not so deep rooted, many species are symbiotic with ectomycorrhizal and arbuscular fungi. No doubt, much carbon is stored by these vastly underappreciated plants and their associated fungi and microbes as they replace much of their shallow but dense root systems annually. What do we really know about their role in the scheme of things? Perhaps not as much as what we think. (Continue reading this article by visiting the website above)

ILLUSTRATED GLOSSARY OF BOTANICAL TERMS

FLORA OF THE CHICAGO REGION

A Floristic and Ecological Synthesis

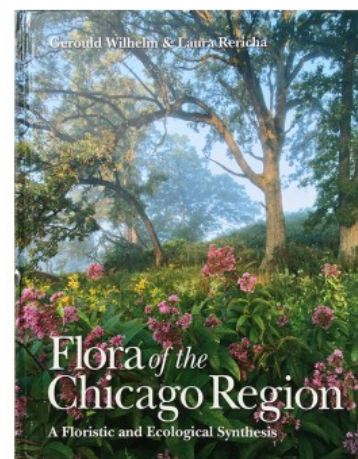
(Wilhelm & Rericha, 2017)

Published by the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS)

September 20, 2020

Check out these useful illustrations in conjunction with dichotomous keys to become familiar with botanical terminology.

<https://bit.ly/30BB5bF>



It's Not Too Early to Plan Your Urban Monarch Garden, Chicago Tribune

<https://bit.ly/2OLOIm4>

The population of monarchs passing the winter in Mexico appears to have fallen. Now, the good news for Illinois' state insect: The Field Museum is trying to figure out what makes a successful urban monarch garden, and it's not too early to start preparing for the summer.



Photo courtesy,
Chicago Tribune



March 24 - Crop Tree Management: Science and Application

Arguably the best forest stand management practice a woodland owner can undertake on their property is the release of crop trees. Explore crop tree management selection, potential, and maximizing return on investment.

[Jay Hayek](#), *Extension Forester, University of Illinois*

March 31 - Tree Planting Basics

Tree planting is a vital practice to restoring Illinois' forests. Get a simple guide for everything you need to know to have a successful planting operation. Explore plant materials and planting methods as well as how to apply these practices in a variety of field conditions.

[Ryan Pankau](#), *Horticulture Educator, University of Illinois*

Extension Forestry to Host Spring Webinar Series

Just in time for spring, the Illinois Extension Forestry team will lead a six-session Forestry Spring Webinar Series for woodland owners on Wednesdays starting March 24.

The series is free and open to the public and will explore how landowners can manage their crop tree investment, how to plant trees and contribute to restoring Illinois forests, backcountry navigation and orienteering, managing invasive plant species, using herbicides safely to prevent drift, and using woodlands to provide habitat for wildlife.

The Forestry Spring Webinar Series will be 2 to 3 p.m. CT Wednesdays from March 24 to April 28. Sign up for one session or the whole series. Register for free online at go.illinois.edu/SpringForestry.

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/3lbo7uQ>

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in these programs, please contact [Chris Evans](#) at cwevans@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

The Extension Forestry program provides forestry and natural resources education, technical assistance, programming, and awareness to a diverse audience including an estimated 132,000 private forest landowners who own 3.7 million acres or 82% of all forest land in Illinois. Find more about the program online at extension.illinois.edu/forestry.



2021 Annual Meeting

VIRTUAL EVENT

Thursday, March 18th, 6:00pm

Keynote by Dr. Jeff Hoover -

*"THE EFFECTS OF FOREST
MANAGEMENT ON THE
RELATIVE ABUNDANCE OF
FOREST-BREEDING BIRDS"*

Program includes presentations on
conservation projects throughout Southern
Illinois, awards for Conservation Partner and
Conservation Organization of the Year, and
the Keynote Address.

This event is free and open to the
public. Registration is required. For
more information or to learn about our
organization, please go to
shawneercd.org or email us at
info@shawneercd.org

Scan to register or go
to: qrs.ly/42cb954



Register for this meeting by visiting:

<https://bit.ly/3qGhBNN>



Invasive Species Corner

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

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>
<https://www.frstillinois.com>
www.sipba.org

Non-Native Invasive Species Update (NNIS) - Nick Seaton

Winter is wrapping up and so is the treatment window for woody invasives. As spring rains show up early and in full force our work in the forest is forced to slow down a bit. Treatment of some invasives becomes less effective at this time. Plants like amur honeysuckle *Lonicera maackii*, autumn olive *Elaeagnus umbellata*, Callery (Bradford) pear *Pyrus calleryana*, and winged burning bush *Euonymus alatus* all enjoy a reprieve from our control efforts during their vegetative growth phase. They won't rest easy though, as several kinds of treatments can resume in just a few short weeks. For more information on how you can help ID these invasive plants and remove them from your woods visit

<https://www.rtrcwma.org/>.

If you are out in the woods hiking off that cabin fever, you may notice a squat herbaceous plant already sporting a healthy green to its kidney shaped leaves. Garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* (pictured right) was featured last month but is definitely worth a second look. This hearty perennial produces a rosette in its first year of growth with a flowering stem up to four feet high in the following spring. It begins growing before many of our native species, making it easy to spot this time of year. Scouting out garlic mustard is important as this invasive weed produces seeds that persist up to seven years in our soil and stifles native competition with its allelopathic properties. Early treatment in March and April can prevent further infestation or cumbersome pulling and bagging later on in the year.



Garlic mustard rosette

If you find yourself learning more about invasive plants and wondering if you can even make a dent, The Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST) can help you start restoring your woods. FRST works with private land-owners, public partners, and volunteers to tackle infestations of non-native invasive species throughout our region. FRST offers a membership that gives you access to expertise, training, supplies and support to start controlling these pests on your land. We organize our members on stewardship days so you don't have to do it alone. For less than the price of five Little Caesars Pizzas you get a yearlong membership that won't give you acid reflux, but will get you all the tools and support you need to tackle invasive plants on your land. Check out memberships and opportunities at frstillinois.com.

"Scouting out garlic mustard is important as this invasive weed produces seeds that persist up to seven years in the soil and stifles native competition with its allelopathic properties."



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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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- ☐ New Member ☐ Address Change only
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Name _____
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Please make checks payable to: Illinois Native Plant Society, Attn: Dr. Nancy Garwood
Life Science II—Mailcode 6509 Southern Illinois University 1125 Lincoln Dr. Carbondale, IL 62901

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

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: _____