



The Shooting Star

June 2021

Newsletter

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

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Should I Be Concerned?

Tuesday, June 15th at 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Presentation

The unglaciated terrain of southern Illinois is home to a variety of plant species not found in the rest of the state, making many of them rare in Illinois. Resources to monitor and protect these plants are limited.

To alleviate this, the Plants of Concern program has recently expanded to southern Illinois. From a lab at SIUC, former Southern Chapter president, Chris Benda, organizes citizen scientists to monitor rare plants.

Join the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society as Chris explains program goals and hopes for the future. Registration is required for this FREE event! To register, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/rwx3d5tc>.



If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Send your email address to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list. Also please “like” our page on facebook at www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants.



Message from the Southern Chapter President

If you are like me, you often fall into a routine and visit the same public lands over and over again. There is certainly nothing wrong with getting to know a site, but I want to encourage all of you (I am talking to myself here too!) to visit some new natural areas in southern Illinois. June is a great time to do that, before the real heat of summer sets in. There are so many great public places to hike, watch nature, and look at cool plants. One of the many wonderful things about southern Illinois is the great variety of habitat types and ecosystems that occur in close proximity. Prairies, glades, barrens, open woodlands, dry forests, mesic forests, bottomland forests, swamps, and the list can go on and on!

We have public land that is federal (Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service), state (state parks, nature preserves, state natural areas, state forests, university lands, etc.), and quite a few non-profit lands in southern Illinois that are open to the public as well (Green Earth Inc., Audubon Society, Clifftop, The Nature Conservancy). There is so much to see and explore, it can be overwhelming, but looking at resources like the different websites of the public land agencies or asking questions on our chapter's Facebook page is a great way to narrow down your choices! I hope to see you on the trail this summer! ~ Chris Evans



Panther Den Wilderness,
Photo courtesy Jennifer Behnken

"I want to encourage all of you to visit some of the new natural areas in southern Illinois....One of the many wonderful things about southern Illinois is the great variety of habitat types and ecosystems that occur in close proximity."

Feature Plant of the Month

Wild Hydrangea,
Hydrangea arborescens

Also known as smooth hydrangea, this native enjoys rocky wooded slopes, ravines, streambanks, and bluff bases. The word "hydrangea" comes from *hydor* meaning "water," and *aggeion* meaning "vessel," referring to the fruits of this shrub. Flower bloom mainly May through July, but as late as September. If grown in your backyard, plants can be pruned close to the ground in late winter to encourage robust growth, as blooms occur on new wood. They may die back on their own to the ground in harsh weather conditions. Leaves are oppositely arranged with rounded or egg-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves. A wide variety of insects benefit from this shrub.



Photos courtesy,
Illinois Wildflowers

2021



Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

June 15	Chris Benda	Plants of Concern	Virtual
July 17	Nick Seaton	Guided Hike	Max Creek
August 17	Alice Brandon	TBD	Virtual
September	TBD	TBD	TBD
October	INPS	Workday	Pleasant Valley
Nov. 16	Lauren Pile	TBD	Virtual

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>

Don't forget to check out the INPS YouTube channel, including recorded seminars from guest speakers from around the country! Check it out at <https://bit.ly/2SIHs2B>.

Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter
52 subscribers

HOME VIDEOS PLAYLISTS CHANNELS DISCUSSION ABOUT

Uploads ▶ PLAY ALL

Video Title	Speaker	Duration	Views	Time Ago
Tricia Bethke on oak diseases and pests in...	Tricia Bethke, Forest Pest Outreach Coordinator, The Morton Arboretum	43:12	9 views	3 weeks ago
Dr. Eric Larson on windstorm damage on...	Dr. Eric Larson, Assistant Professor, University of Illinois	37:06	22 views	1 month ago
Paul Marcum on the flora in southern Illinois	Paul Marcum, Associate Scientist, Illinois Natural History Survey	48:29	102 views	1 month ago
Justin Dodson on silviculture in the Shawnee...	Justin Dodson, Silviculturist, Forest Service, Shawnee NF	35:19	16 views	1 month ago
Nathan Speagle on forest stand improvement and fir...	Nathan Speagle, The Nature Conservancy	15:16	17 views	1 month ago

Local Events & Announcements

Giant City State Park

Backcountry Navigation

Saturday, June 26th 9am—12pm

On or off the trail, you need to know how to navigate in the woods. Join Isaiah Turner, outdoor enthusiast and park volunteer, for an introduction into backcountry navigation. Develop new skills as you learn: how to read a topographic map, how to use a compass, and how to put both skills together in various on-site field exercises.

Registration is required for programs; to register, call (618) 457-4836.



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!



IDNR, Conservation Worker seasonal openings are still open!

<https://illinois.jobs2web.com/>

Type "Conservation Worker" into the search engine and create an account to apply.

Locations include:

- Ferne Clyffe State Park
- Cache River State Natural Area
- Tunnel Hill State Trail

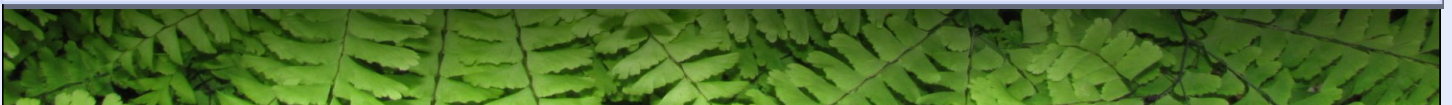


Habitat for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee

This important pollinator was once common in the Chicago area and 30 other states and provinces, but its population has declined over 87% in the last 20 years because of pathogen spillover, habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change. Bumble bees are important pollinators for native flowers and the crops that we eat, and they provide many benefits for people and the ecosystem.



Native wildflowers organically grown in residential yards and urban green spaces can provide significant foraging resources for pollinators. The Rusty Patched Bumble Bee relies on **38 flowering host plants**, such as echinacea and wild bergamot, many of which are common in yards. You can create habitat in your yard by growing host plants that bloom throughout the season, eliminating pesticide and chemical use, and letting sticks and leaves remain. We are looking for people to grow host plants and upload photos of host plants and bees to iNaturalist. For more information, check out <https://naturalhabitatevanston.org/content/evanston-host-plant-initiative>.



AmeriCorps Position

Land of Lincoln/Southern 7 AmeriCorps

Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge



WORK! LEARN! EARN! MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Job Location: Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge, 137 Rustic Campus Drive, Ullin, IL

Application Deadline: Original applications are due at the Refuge Office by 4 p.m. **July 16, 2021** by mail or in person. (Please note: This is a rolling basis application. Applications will be processed in the order they are received).

The Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge office is located at the Shawnee Community College at 137 Rustic Campus Rd, Building D, Ullin IL 62992.

AmeriCorps: AmeriCorps is a national Service program initiated to work with citizens and local communities through service-oriented projects that focus on education, public health, human services, and the natural environment. Since 2001, Southern 7 AmeriCorps members have been playing an important role in the Cache River Watershed working with Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Cache River Watershed in the fields of natural resource management and environmental education/outreach. Two positions will be open and starting August 2021.

Work Schedule and Stipend: AmeriCorps members must fulfill a total of 1700 hours from August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021. The work schedule typically is Monday through Friday, 40 hours per week, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; however, there will be weekend and evening work hours for special programs or projects. A stipend will include a living allowance \$13,992/yr in addition to a \$6,095 education award. Housing may be available on-site.

Eligibility and Selection: Experience and/or education in one or more of the related natural resources sciences (forestry, wildlife, etc.), environmental science, hydrology, biology, education (environmental education or interpretation), and/or parks and recreation management.

Typical Duties: Job responsibilities may include:

- **Resource Management:** Assisting with biological inventories, wetland restoration, and forest inventory work. This will involve special projects involving Indiana bats, waterbird surveys, hydrology of Cache River as well as day-to-day operations and management on the Refuge. This work targets restoration goals and promotes the stewardship of fish, wildlife, and plants for the benefit of people.
- **Public Outreach & Education:** Planning and facilitating a variety of public programs that include swamp ecology canoe tours/school field trips, special community events, classroom presentations, as well as weekend programs that target families and youth groups. Providing information through news releases, articles, calendar of events, interpretive publications, signs, and exhibits, as well as face-to-face interaction with visitors and volunteers onsite. These programs and activities strive to heighten individual appreciation for the Refuge and the Cache River Wetlands.
- **Volunteer Recruitment & Retention:** Planning and facilitating activities and/or field work days that involve volunteers. Responsibilities include recruiting and working with volunteers and coordinating training that enhances volunteer skills to perform tasks related to resource management, environmental education and stewardship.

How to Apply: Interested individuals should contact Karen Mangan at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge (Karen_Mangan@fws.gov or 618-634-2231) for additional information.

For more information about the Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge and the Friends of the Cache River Watershed, check out our websites at <http://midwest.fws.gov/cypresscreek> and <https://www.friendsofthecache.org/>

Local Events & Announcements

Natural Areas Training

Wonder why an area is designated as a “Natural Area?” Take your knowledge of plants to the next level with a hands-on field workshop that will explain how to assess and grade the different plant communities found across the state of Illinois. These workshops are designed for practitioners, students, and lay people who have an interest in understanding how to assess the natural quality of land, using a variety of metrics. Three workshops will be offered throughout Illinois and some botanical skills are recommended.



To attend one of the **FREE** workshops, please register for one of the following dates:

Southern Illinois (Carbondale): June 11-13, 2021 from 1:00pm Friday to 2:00pm Sunday

Northern Illinois (Nachusa): June 18-20, 2021 from 1:00pm Friday to 2:00pm Sunday

Central Illinois (Champaign): June 25-27, 2021 from 1:00pm Friday to 2:00pm Sunday

Each workshop is limited to **10 participants** according to social distancing guidelines.

Please register by emailing botanizer@gmail.com.



Illinois Forestry
Development
Council

Funding provided by the Illinois Forestry Development Council

Instructor: Chris Benda
illinoisbotanizer.com

Discovery at Touch of Nature, Buffalo Clover

A rare plant has been found around the multi-use trail at SIUC's Touch of Nature Environmental Center. On this feature, botanist Chris Benda tells us about buffalo clover, *Trifolium reflexum*. It is in the pea family and a state threatened species. The leaves of buffalo clover are on the same stalk as the flower, different than clover found in lawns when the leaves and the flowers are on separate stalks. Once these plants were found, the trail was re-routed by Touch of Nature staff. Prescribed fire management activities performed at Touch of Nature also benefit this species. Chris Benda also observed over 500 other plant species on this proposed trail! To listen to this piece by Kevin Boucher, visit:

<https://news.wsiu.org/post/discovery-touch-nature#stream/0>



Photo courtesy, Chris Benda



The poster features a large orange sun in the top left corner. The title "Illinois Extension SUMMER TRASH BLASTS" is prominently displayed in the upper center. Below the title, it specifies "FRIDAYS, 9-11AM" and "ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED." with a URL. A list of four events is provided, each with a date, a trash bag icon, and a location. Logos for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Cache River Watershed, and the University of Illinois are included. A large orange letter 'I' is on the right. A photograph of a pile of black trash bags is on the left. A dark blue box at the bottom contains contact information and a disclaimer.

Illinois Extension
SUMMER
TRASH BLASTS

FRIDAYS, 9-11AM
ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.
<https://go.illinois.edu/IDNRTrashBlast>

LIMITED PARTICIPATION.
WEAR A MASK.
BRING YOUR OWN
WORK GLOVES.

6 / 4
Cache River
State Natural Area

7 / 9
Ferne Clyffe
State Park

8 / 6
Cache River
State Natural Area

8 / 20
Horseshoe Lake
Fish & Wildlife Area

ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES

Friends of
the Cache River
Watershed

I

BE PART OF
THE SOLUTION, NOT
THE POLLUTION.

Questions? Contact Kim Rohling at kimrohli@illinois.edu

University of Illinois | U.S. Department of Agriculture | Local Extension Councils Cooperating. University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact your local Extension Coordinator 618-658-5321. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

University of Illinois Extension is partnering with Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Friends of the Cache River Watershed to host trash blasts in State Natural Areas, Parks, Trails, and Fish and Wildlife Areas. Master Gardeners, Master Naturalists, and members of the public are invited to assist with litter clean-up events. Members of the public will need to fill out an IDNR volunteer waiver on site. Kim Rohling will coordinate small teams of volunteers to collect litter from 9:00-11:00AM, in various locations in southern Illinois.

Volunteers will be required to sanitize their hands, follow social distancing guidelines, and wear a face mask for the duration of the event. To be prepared, volunteers should wear sturdy shoes, bring their own work gloves, and a face mask. Trash buckets and trash grabbers will be assigned to volunteers to use for the morning. All equipment will be disinfected before and after the event. This event is limited to 10 volunteers in order to follow recommended COVID-19 guidelines from Extension and IDNR. Register to save your spot now <https://go.illinois.edu/IDNRTrashBlast>.

Bring your own water to stay hydrated. We recommend you wear a wide-brimmed hat, lightweight pants, and a lightweight long-sleeved shirt to protect yourself from the sun, biting insects, or poison ivy/understory plants. Wear sturdy footwear and bring your own work gloves. Maps to the meeting location for each clean-up will be emailed to you the Monday before the event. Hope to see you there!

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



SAVE THE DATE

**INVASIVE SPECIES SUMMIT:
JAPANESE CHAFF FLOWER**

AUGUST 12-13, 2021

Illinois
Extension

I

Save the Date! Invasive Species Summit: Japanese Chaff Flower August 12-13, 2021

The University of Illinois Extension, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area, Southern Illinois University, and Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge are working with many other partners to host this two-day event to learn more about the ecology, impacts, and management of the invasive plant, Japanese Chaff Flower (*Achyranthes japonica*).

If you are a land manager, landowner, forester, biologist, other natural resource professional, Extension professional, or anyone interested in natural resource management or invasive species consider attending this free summit. The summit will include both virtual presentations from experienced researchers and managers and field tours to see infestations in-person and learn from professionals actively engaged in managing this species. Field tours are being planned for at least five different states where chaff flower is present (Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio) plus a virtual field tour option for those that cannot attend a field tour in person. More details to come.



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www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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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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☐ 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, Attn: Dr. Nancy Garwood
Life Science II—Mailcode 6509 Southern Illinois University 1125 Lincoln Dr. Carbondale, IL 62901

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: _____