



"...dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois."

# The Shooting Star NEWSLETTER

of the  
Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

## August 2012

### Sedge Identification Workshop part II

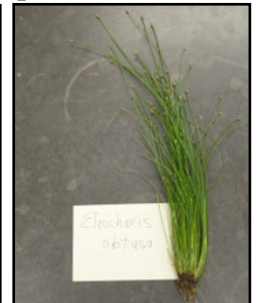


Last weekend was part two of our series of workshops focused on sedges. Sedges are grass-like plants in the *Cyperaceae* family, yet they are more closely related to rushes than grasses. This family contains many species that are difficult to identify. Sedges are underappreciated and often overlooked yet one in every five species of plants in Illinois is in this family. While the last workshop focused on the largest genus in this family (*Carex*), this workshop focused on the many other genera of plants in this diverse family such as *Cyperus*, *Eleocharis*, *Rhynchospora*, and *Scirpus*.

The workshop proved to be a very humbling experience for the professional and amateur botanists in attendance. We learned that not all species of



sedges have edges (triangular stems) although general characteristics include having tristichous leaves and floral scales that are distichous or spiraled. Sedges can be distinguished from grasses (*Poaceae*) by the closed sheath margins on the leaves and they can be distinguished from rushes (*Juncaceae*) by the presence of achenes instead of capsules. Special thanks to Dr. Gordon Tucker of Eastern Illinois University for leading the workshop.



The sedge identification workshop was organized by the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society and made possible by the Department of Plant Biology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and a grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.



# INPS 2012 CALENDAR

Upcoming 2012 Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
September 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Andy West	<i>The Sand Hills of Nebraska</i>	CTH
October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Nancy Garwood	<i>Ranunculaceae Family</i>	CTH
October 28 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Benda	<i>Hike to Boss Island</i>	Vienna, IL
November	TBA		TBA
December	TBA	<i>2012 Holiday Dinner</i>	TBA

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012

## Past 2012 Events:

January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Damon Lesmeister	<i>Conflicts in Conservation</i>	CTH
February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Josh Nickelson	<i>Winter Tree ID</i>	SIU campus, Ag bldg.
February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Dr. Doug Tallamy	<i>Replay slideshow talk from Feb 2011</i>	CTH
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Benda	<i>Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois</i>	CTH
March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Benda	<i>Degognia Canyon</i>	Degognia, IL
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	INPS So. Chapter	<i>2012 Spring Social</i>	Goreville, IL
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	ISST - Bruce/Kevin	<i>Coordinated Control of Invasives</i>	CTH
June 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup>	Mike Murphy	<i>Sedge ID Workshop I</i>	SUIC
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Shawnee NF	<i>Fire and Land Management</i>	CTH
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Benda	<i>The Wonders of Camp Ondessonk</i>	CTH
August 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Gordon Tucker	<i>Sedge ID Workshop II</i>	SIUC

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

Special thanks to **Chris Benda** for presenting about **The Wonders of Camp Ondessonk** last month and to **Dr. Gordon Tucker** for leading the **Sedge ID workshop** recently!

## Related August Events

➤August 25<sup>th</sup>: Mimi Hummingbird Fest in Pope County from 9:00am to 12:00pm at Kristie Lindegren's residence at the end of Nine Wishes Ranch Road. Call Terri Tracey at 618-521-1030 for more information.

➤August 25<sup>th</sup>: Cold Blooded Creatures of the Cache from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at the Cache River Wetlands Center. The program concludes with a hike to look for cold-blooded creatures at Heron Pond. For more information, call the Cache River Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.

Please visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm>

## Moss Sex Driven by Scent

During mating season, a moss needs a little help from its friends—and it uses smell to recruit them. A new study has found that mosses, which were long thought to require only water or wind to reproduce, release an aroma that entices tiny animals such as mites and little bugs called springtails to help fertilize the plants. The discovery challenges current ideas about plant evolution, but experts say it raises more questions than it answers...Read more at

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2012/07/moss-sex-driven-by-scent.html?rss=1>





# INPS AUGUST PROGRAM



**The Sedge ID Workshop was the only event scheduled for August.  
Please look for our next event in the September newsletter.**

Ever fancied naming a plant after yourself? Or perhaps you'd prefer to immortalize a beloved pet? Well, either way, now's your chance.

The naming rights for this newly discovered iris from the genus *Hesperantha* are up for grabs in an online auction. Proceeds will go to charities that aim to protect its critically endangered habitat in the Overberg region of South Africa.

The plant flowers late in the year, at the beginning of the dry season, when the vegetation surrounding it is dry and brown. Even its own leaves are more or less dry when it flowers - the only signs of life are the iris's buds and bright pink flower. It blooms early in the morning, closing its petals again by early afternoon, perhaps to avoid the harsh sun or unwanted insect visitors. Read more at...

<http://www.newscientist.com/blogs/shortsharpscience/2012/08/what-do-you-call-an-iris-with.html?>



(Image: Odette Curtis)

## **Another rare plant located in flower in southern Illinois!**

This plant is rare in southern Illinois and the flowers only open for a short time in the late afternoon making them difficult to photograph. For these reasons, the state threatened *Talinum parviflorum*, or Small Flower-of-an-hour, is a real find. Also called Fameflower or Rock Pink, this tiny species of plant occurs in Illinois at only a few sites mostly in central Johnson County.

The genus *Talinum* (now called *Phemeranthus*) contains three species in Illinois although none of them are common. In the *Portulacaceae* family, *Talinum parviflorum* is a small succulent plant that prefers dry and rocky habitats. The largest population can be found on a sandstone glade on the south side of Round Bluff Nature Preserve at Ferne Clyffe State Park.

Interestingly, the [illinoiswildflowers.com](http://illinoiswildflowers.com) website says the flowers of this species open on sunny days in the morning and Don Kurz's Illinois Wildflowers book says this species flowers in the mid-afternoon. Yet on multiple days in August this species was found at 6:00pm with flowers just opening up and was in full glorious bloom by 7:00pm. Clearly the plants are not reading the literature!

Look for the recent article by Bill McClain about this neat group of plants in the latest Illinois Audubon magazine.

~by Chris Benda, editor





*It's a  
Gem.....*



### ***"Geologic Jewels" Protected in Randolph County***

One of Illinois' geologic jewels, with canyons, gorges and sandstone cliffs, will now be protected in perpetuity under a recent deal by Clifftop and HeartLands Conservancy. The two nonprofit land trusts worked jointly to purchase a unique tract of land in Randolph County. "Illinois residents usually think such natural features are unique to the Southwestern U.S. But,

Southwestern Illinois also hosts these geologic jewels and our organizations are excited to protect and conserve this property," said George Obernagel, President of Clifftop's Board of Directors.

The 115-acre parcel of land contains sandstone canyons and gorges and cliff systems that host unusual plant communities. A significant stretch of Mill Creek also winds through the property

The newly named "Mill Creek Natural Area" hosts plant species now found much further north.

These rare glacial relict communities demonstrate the power of ancient geologic forces as the canyons have sheltered plants such as club moss, cinnamon fern, and bishop's cap for eons.

HeartLands and Clifftop worked together in 2010 to purchase, jointly own, and permanently protect the 475-acre White Rock property in Monroe County. The Grand Victoria Foundation and private donors in Southwestern Illinois provided funding for the Mill Creek acquisition.

The organizations will conduct a number of special guided field trips to Mill Creek Natural Area, but the site will not be open to the general public in the near future. The organizations are planning restoration and stewardship work for the benefit of the property and the unique ecological communities sheltered there.

Please see our website –

[www.clifftopalliance.org](http://www.clifftopalliance.org) – for additional information about the Mill Creek Natural Area acquisition and more photos of this gem of an area.

*Photos by Tom Rollins, Thomas Rollins Photography*

**Note from the southern chapter president:** Congratulations to the organizations that stepped in and helped acquire this land. It is my hope that someday the INPS can be in a financial situation where we can assist in acquiring property for protection. We need your help to make this goal a reality!





## 2012 Annual Meeting of the Illinois Native Plant Society

**September 21-23, 2012**

**!! Registration deadline: September 15 !!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Registration Options: Select only one**

#### **Full Conference**

- INPS Member (includes: mixer, sack lunch, banquet) .....\$65 \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-member (includes: mixer, sack lunch, banquet one-year INPS membership) .....\$85 \_\_\_\_\_
- Student (includes: mixer, sack lunch and banquet).....\$50 \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Saturday and Sunday**

- INPS Member (includes: sack lunch and banquet).....\$55 \_\_\_\_\_
- Non-member (includes: sack lunch, banquet and one-year INPS membership).....\$75 \_\_\_\_\_
- Student (includes: sack lunch and banquet).....\$40 \_\_\_\_\_

**Field trip and meal options:** Please indicate your preferences by placing an X in the appropriate boxes below. This will aid the Quad City Chapter in making the necessary provisions. The Blue Heron River Cruise and Thomson Fulton Sand Prairie field trip is limited to 26 participants.

Saturday all-day field trip options	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
1. Blue Heron River Cruise and Thomson/Fulton Sand Prairie			
2. Fern Workshop and Wildcat Den State Park			
3. Big Sand Mound and Swamp White Oak Preserves			

Sunday half-day field trip options	Choose one
1. Black Hawk State Historical Site	
2. Collinson Ecological Preserve	
3. Credit Island Park	

Please write in any vegetarian requests below

**Banquet Entrée Preference:** \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_ Pork Loin with apples and mustard cream sauce  
\_\_\_\_\_ Eggplant Parmesan Napoleon

#### **Please make payment out to:**

Quad City Chapter, Illinois Native Plant Society

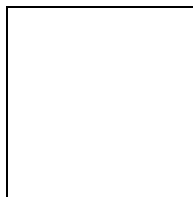
#### **Mail payment and registration form to:**

Illinois Native Plant Society  
Quad City Chapter,  
936 22nd Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201

You will receive an email or mailed confirmation based on your contact information provided above. For more information, contact:

Bob Bryant, QC Chapter, President  
Email: [bjbryant9@msn.com](mailto:bjbryant9@msn.com)  
Cell phone: 563-349-0448

INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 271  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0271



[southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)  
[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French's Shooting Star

### Board Members

President: Chris Benda  
Vice-President: Chris Evans  
Secretary: Karla Gage  
Treasurer: Rhonda Rothrock  
At-large: Nancy Garwood  
At-large: Jody Shimp

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**Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!!!**



## Join us!

- ☐ New member  
☐ Renewal  
☐ Address Change only

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you want to receive newsletters by postal mail\*

### Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$13.00  
☐ Individual.....\$20.00  
☐ Family (new category).....\$30.00  
☐ Institutional (nonvoting).\$20.00  
☐ Supporting.....\$30.00  
☐ Patron.....\$55.00  
☐ Life.....\$300.00

### Chapter Affiliation

- ☐ Central (Springfield)  
☐ Forest Glen (Westville)  
☐ Northeast (Chicago)  
☒ Southern (Carbondale)  
☐ Quad City (Rock Island)  
☐ Irene Cull (Peoria)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society

Mail to:

INPS Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271

Carbondale, Illinois 62903