



# The Shooting Star NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

## JULY 2011

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

### Next Regular Meeting

**July 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:00am**

**Browne Auditorium, SIUC campus**  
Ken Schaal, of Bluestem Prairie Nursery  
in Hillsboro, Illinois, will present  
**“Observations at a 30 year-old Prairie  
Restoration”**

*See flyer next page*

*Next Month:*

*John Schwegman, retired biologist, will present  
“Rare and Little Known Plants of Illinois.”*



*Rosa setigera* – Prairie Rose



*Asclepias tuberosa*  
Butterfly Milkweed



### Go Natural! Plant Natives!

As you may remember, we brought in Dr. Doug Tallamy last February, an expert on explaining why using native plant species in your yard or home garden is so important. The positive response that resulted from this presentation has been tremendous. People went home after the talk and immediately started removing non-native and ornamental plants from their yards! Plant nurseries have started offering more native species and our members have asked for more information. Last month, we viewed the beautiful prairie garden at the Rothrock's residence and this month, we offer a unique opportunity to hear about a 30 year old prairie restoration from Ken Schaal,

who has made a lifetime's work out of growing native species at his Bluestem Prairie Nursery.

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER COORDINATING COUNCIL MEETING - JULY 12, 2011 at 1:30pm at the HENRY BARKHAUSEN CACHE RIVER WETLANDS CENTER in CYPRESS, ILLINOIS**

The public is invited to attend a discussion with Lt. Governor Sheila Simon and learn about river conservation on Mississippi River Watershed. Lt. Governor Simon chairs the Mississippi River Coordinating Council that is composed of a diverse group of citizens, not-for-profit organizations, and state and federal agencies. Through a public dialogue, the Council coordinates initiatives, projects and funding to promote the ecological health of the Mississippi River. Contact: Olivia Dorothy, 217-558-3089, [www.ltgov.illinois.gov](http://www.ltgov.illinois.gov)



*Iris shrevei* – Wild Iris



*Lilium michiganense* – Michigan Lily



*Phlox pilosa* – Wild Phlox

**Coming this month, by popular demand,  
native plant propagator, Ken Schaal, will present  
“Observations at a 30-year old Prairie Restoration”**

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 @ 11:00am  
Browne Auditorium, Parkinson Lab bldg, SIU Campus  
1259 Lincoln Drive, Carbondale, IL**

**This event is free and open to the public**



**Ken Schaal is a retired Biology teacher from Hillsboro, Illinois who started his own prairie restoration in 1978. In 1985, he started Bluestem Prairie Nursery and has sold native prairie, wetland, and woodland plants for 26 years. Ken is a member of the Central Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society, and is also a member of many other organizations, including Illinois Audubon Society, and is President of the Montgomery County Natural Areas Guardians. He will present, “Observations at a 30 year-old Prairie Restoration.”**



**This program is sponsored by the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society and Natural Areas Association, SUIC Chapter.**





We have a beautiful facebook page for the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society! Follow this link and you can browse the photo albums without having to sign up...or if you have a facebook profile, please click on the "like" button to add to your favorite pages. [www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants](http://www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants)

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## Last Month's Event



The hike last month at Cave Creek Glade was not the flower explosion that we hoped for, but many uncommon plants and wildflowers were observed. This year was one of the best purple coneflower displays ever seen at the glade, but the hike was a little too late for the FGB (full glorious bloom). Another highlight of the hike was the flowering of the *Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora*. Also called Blue Sage, this rare mint has

a rich blue color and is only known in southern Illinois at a few sites. The prairie vegetation once common to the north was once common here as well, but was relegated to small openings (glades) within a matrix of dry woods. A limestone substrate dominates at these glades and the steep, dry, rocky conditions allow for



*Salvia azurea* var. *grandiflora* – Blue Sage

growth of only the most drought tolerant species such Dwarf Hackberry (*Celtis tenuifolia*), Chinquapin Oak (*Quercus muhlenbergii*), and Black Hickory (*Carya texana*). Other common limestone glade vegetation includes Prairie Dock and Rosinweed (*Silphium* spp.), Gray-headed Coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), Marbleseed (*Onosmodium molle*), Milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), Wild Petunias (*Ruellia* spp.), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Wild Phlox (*Phlox* spp.), and American Agave (*Manfreda americana*). More photos of the glade are located on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants](http://www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants).

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## Related July Events

- July 7<sup>th</sup>: "Out of the Wild" highlights the Prothonotary Warbler from 1pm to 3pm at the Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center. For information call (628)657-2064.
  - July 12<sup>th</sup>: Recycling Workshop: 6:30pm in Room 118 of the Civic Center in Carbondale.
  - July 17<sup>th</sup>: Friends of Giant City: Cleanup of Giant City State Park from 9am to 2pm with a free lunch at the Park Lodge at 1pm. Volunteers meet at the Visitors Center. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED (618) 457-4836.
- Visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm> for more!

INPS 30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 2011 ANNUAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 23 – 25<sup>th</sup> at CAMP ONDESSONK, Ozark, IL  
SEE REGISTRATION FORMS NEXT PAGES

# 2011 ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING



September 23-25<sup>th</sup> at Camp Ondessonk in Ozark, Illinois!!!

Please join us as we go into our 30<sup>th</sup> year as an organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois. The celebration will be held at Camp Ondessonk, a rural setting near the small town of Ozark, Illinois. Please see the following pages for details!

## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Larry Stritch, National Botanist - USFS



USFS Botanist Dr. Stritch circa 1994

The Illinois Native Plant Society is pleased to welcome the US Forest Service's National Botanist, Dr. Larry Stritch, back to southern Illinois as our keynote speaker for our 2011 annual meeting! Larry currently resides near Washington DC but lived in Illinois from 1978-1998. During much of that time, Larry played a pivotal role in the conservation of natural areas across southern Illinois as a District Heritage Biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and later as a Botanist for the Shawnee National Forest. He also served as Project Director for the conversion of the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and has served as an adjunct professor at several universities and as a research associate at the Field Museum in Chicago. Larry earned his Master of Science and a Ph.D. under the direction of Dr Robert Mohlenbrok at Southern Illinois University. His graduate work included a floristic inventory of Hayes Creek Canyon watershed in Pope County and his Ph.D. focused on a revision of the leguminous genus *Wisteria*. Larry is a long time gardener and plant propagator and enjoys all aspects of gardening. Listen to him share stories of his ascension from student of famed SIU Botanist Robert Mohlenbrock to National Botanist of the US Forest Service, a position he has held for the last 13 years.

## Embroidered INPS polo shirts from Silkworm Inc. will be available at the meeting - please order in advance!

Be one of the first to sport a shirt with the new Illinois Native Plant Society logo!

We are offering collared polo shirts in 3 colors; sand, Carolina blue, and gold.

Shirts are only \$25 and come in sizes from small to 5XL. Shirts must be ordered and paid for in advance and will be ready at the meeting.

We are also considering offering hats and field bags. Those do not need to be ordered in advance, but please check the corresponding box on the registration forms if you are interested in either item.

*Note: due to the high cost of embroidery, the logo will be a simplified version without the gold sun backdrop.*



Field bag example



Carolina blue Polo example

## Directions to Camp Ondessonk:

Ozark, Illinois is located on highway 45 in between Harrisburg and Vienna in Johnson County. From interstate 57 in Marion follow route 13 east and go south on highway 166. Take a right (south) on highway 45 to Ozark. Follow Ozark Road to the east (turn left at the Ozark General Store) a half mile to the entrance to Camp Ondessonk on the right (look for rock pillars). Follow Camp Ondessonk Road 2 miles to the St. Noel Conference Center.

**What to Bring:** Bed sheet and blanket or sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, hiking boots, lounging footwear, raingear, extra clothes, towel, water bottles, camera, bug spray, sunscreen, headlamp or flashlight.

## Requesting donations for the silent auction

If you have an item(s) (especially old literature) to donate for the silent auction please bring them to the conference and email [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com) or call Rhonda Rothrock at 618-684-6605.



## Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society

Chris Benda, President - Chris Evans, Vice-President  
Sara Koropchak, Secretary - Rhonda Rothrock, Treasurer  
P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903  
[southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)

Illinois Native Plant Society Annual Meeting: September 23-25<sup>th</sup> 2011 - Camp Ondessonk, Ozark, IL

### Please fill out the following contact information:

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

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

### Registration: Select ONE registration option

*Food: includes a hot breakfast Saturday and Sunday, picnic lunch Saturday, and a banquet dinner on Saturday.  
All meals are served family style, with serving platters brought to each table instead of a buffet. We ask that you please arrive for meals on time.  
To help us plan, please indicate here if you would like the vegetarian lasagna instead of steak for the banquet dinner \_\_\_\_\_*

Student (includes lodging, food, a goodie bag, and one year membership to INPS).....\$75: \_\_\_\_\_

INPS Member (includes lodging, food, and a goodie bag)..... \$100: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-member (includes lodging, food, a goodie bag and one year membership to INPS).....\$120: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*NOTE: Late registration charge if form RECEIVED after September 7: \$10

Circle polo shirt size if you'd like one for just \$25 more: S / M / L / XL / XXL / 3XL / 4XL / 5XL

Please check here if interested in a hat or field bag \_\_\_\_\_

**Please enclose check to the INPS Southern Chapter for the full amount owed (registration, shirts, late fees) with your registration and return to the address listed at the top of the page.**

**Saturday hikes:** please rank in order of preference in case some fill up (1=first choice, 5=last choice)

___ Rim Rock/Pounds Hollow & Garden of the Gods	Leaders: Chris Benda
___ Bell Smith Springs & Burden Falls Wilderness Area	Leaders: Jody Shimp
___ Cache River State Natural Area/Heron Pond & Cave Creek Glade	Leaders: Jim Waycoulis
___ Todd Fink Glade, Simpson Township Glade & Trigg Tower	Leaders: Andy West
___ Lusk Creek Nature Preserve/Indian Kitchen & Millstone Bluff	Leaders: John and Martha Schwegman

### General schedule:

Friday 6pm Check-in, cocktails and refreshments (*Alcohol allowed, but bring your own, there will lots of ice available on site*)  
7pm Welcome to Southern Illinois slideshow presentation  
9pm Campfire and Astronomy lesson

Saturday 8am Breakfast (*biscuits and gravy, includes cereal, milk, juice and fresh fruit (oranges, apples and bananas)*)  
9am Hikes until 3:30pm (*participants and leaders will need to organize caravans to sites*)  
4pm State Board Meeting  
5pm Happy Hour (*please provide your own alcohol*)  
6pm Banquet Dinner (*steak or vegetable lasagna, baked potato, salad, rolls, and dessert*).  
7pm Keynote Speaker  
8:30 Award Ceremony  
9pm Campfire and live music

Sunday 8am Breakfast (*scrambled eggs and sausage patties, includes cereal, milk, juice and fresh fruit (oranges, apples and bananas)*)  
9am Optional morning hike to Packentuck Falls  
Noon Travel home



# Saturday hike options and descriptions

## Option #1: Rim Rock/Pounds Hollow & Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area



Rim Rock National Recreational Trail is a short trail that circles a rock escarpment known as the “Pounds” and has a rich history. Along the trail is a rock staircase, a small spring, and abundant wildflowers. Lichen grasshoppers can be found on the dry glades near the parking lot. Garden of the Gods is possibly the most visited site in all of southern Illinois as it contains an unprecedented view of the Shawnee Hills from the extensive west-facing rock outcrops.

Restrooms: At both locations; Hike difficulty: Easy

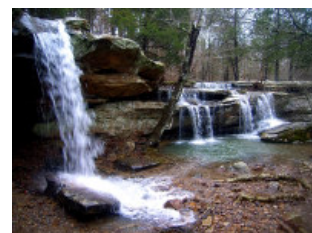


## Option #2: Bell Smith Springs & Burden Falls Wilderness Area



Bell Smith Springs is one of the flagship sites within the Shawnee National Forest. The area contains over 700 species of plants within the diverse uplands and mesic bottoms. *Dodecatheon frenchii* is at the base of the numerous sandstone overhangs. Burden Falls is the tallest cascading waterfall in Illinois and it is an outstanding sight when flowing. The cliffs are still impressive even when dry and the site is only a few steps from the parking area.

Restrooms: Bell Smith only; Hike difficulty: Easy



## Option #3: Cache River State Natural Area/Heron Pond & Cave Creek Glade

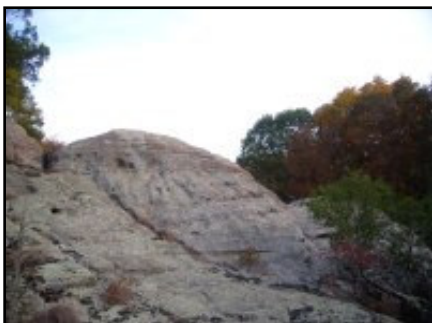


This hike option is always a crowd favorite. See examples of a prairie community representative of more northern locales and Cypress Swamps more common to the south. The Cache River SNA is an internationally recognized wetland of importance and the short hike to the boardwalk at Heron Pond is the primary feature. Cave Creek Glade is a remarkable site that contains a very high quality Limestone Glade community. Prairie-like vegetation abounds on the dry, south-facing slope. The site is very steep and rocky but is conveniently located right next to a major road.

Restrooms: Heron Pond only; Hike difficulty: Moderate



## Option #4: Fink Sandstone Barrens, Simpson Township Barrens, and Trigg Tower

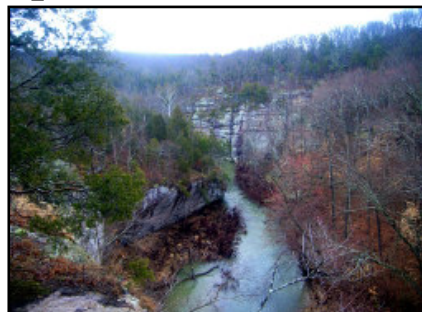


The Fink Sandstone Barrens is a premier example of a Sandstone Glade complex in Illinois. The lichens and mosses found on the extensive bedrock exposure put on a colorful display any time of year. This site is located near a road, but there are no trails. Tremendous plant diversity is exhibited at the Simpson Township Barrens. The primary feature is a Limestone Glade that is easily accessible next to the road. No trip to this area would be complete without a stop at Trigg Tower, a former fire tower that provides views of the Shawnee National Forest and beyond.

Restrooms: None; Hike difficulty: Moderate



## Option #5: Lusk Creek Nature Preserve/Indian Kitchen & Millstone Bluff Natural Area



The area known as Indian Kitchen is a nature preserve comprised of a horseshoe shaped canyon along Lusk Creek within the Lusk Creek Wilderness Area. A 2 mile hike is required to reach this incredibly scenic area but it is well worth the effort. Millstone Bluff is a natural area that contains a small Limestone Glade and may be the best preserved example of a prehistoric Woodland Indian stonefort in southern Illinois. There are interpretive signs and petroglyphs along a short trail around the bluff.

Restrooms: At both locations; Hike difficulty: Challenging

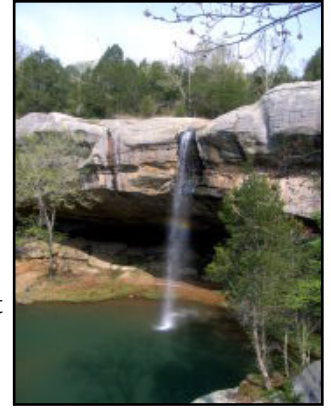




# Optional Sunday hike to Cedar Falls (Packentuck)



Any visit to Camp Ondessonk would not be complete without the hike to Cedar Falls. Also called Packentuck, this is the site of a former Boy Scout camp and it contains the highest free-flowing waterfall in Illinois. There is a large sandstone overhang underneath the cliff and the expansive views from both above and below the falls make this trek one to remember forever. We will walk approximately 1.5 miles from St. Noel to the falls and will offer a shuttle ride back to St. Noel for those needing to hit the road north. Those not in a hurry will have the option of seeing the scenic Phantom Canyon on the way back to the lodge where a great diversity of plants can be found, including hundreds of French's Shooting Stars.



## Lodging options and descriptions

### Option #1: St. Noel Conference Center



For guests that enjoy active days spent in the great outdoors yet prefer the conveniences of plumbing and electricity, the St. Noel Conference Center has rooms that sleep 8-10 people. Each room is different and some have a nice balcony over the patio area.

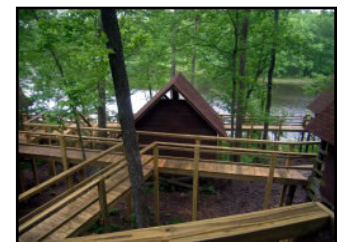
Each room has a combination of single beds and bunk beds as well as a private bathroom. St. Noel also offers a reading lounge, dining area, meeting area, and wireless internet access. Room selection will be on a first-come basis, but you can secure an entire room for your group if desired.



### Option #2: Daniel Cabins



Arguably one of the highlights of a Camp Ondessonk visit, these unique 3-sided cabins take full advantage of the natural surroundings. Intentionally designed and placed to maximize visitor's experience of the tranquility and inspiration of nature, units are constructed as tree-houses, allowing for great views of Camp Ondessonk. We have reserved the unit called Daniel (pronounced Don-a-el) which overlooks Lake Echon and is the closest unit to the conference center and dining area (St. Noel). There is an outhouse at Daniel and a full bathhouse within a short walk. You may also camp out in a tent if desired.

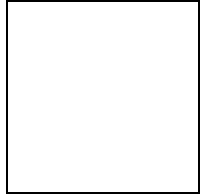


### Option #3: Alternative Lodging

Alternative lodging options can be found in Harrisburg and Vienna. Both towns are about 20 minutes from Camp Ondessonk. Note: Lodging is included in the registration cost and people are encouraged to stay at Camp Ondessonk.



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
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*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French's Shooting Star

### Board Members

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

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The Southern Chapter of the INPS thanks **Chris Benda** for the presentation on **Cave Creek Glade** at the Henry Barkhausen Wetlands Center last month!

## INPS 2011 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
July 23 <sup>rd</sup> –	Ken Schaal	<i>Native Plants in Landscaping</i>	TBA
August 16 <sup>th</sup> –	John Schwegman	<i>Rare and Little Known Plants of IL</i>	CTH
August 20 <sup>th</sup> –	John Schwegman	<i>Hike at Wolf Creek Botanical Area</i>	Tamms, IL
September 23-25 <sup>th</sup> –	INPS 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Ozark, IL		

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 East Main Street  
TBA = To Be Announced

### Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

*It's summer wildflower season in the Rocky Mountains, a time when high-peaks meadows are dotted with riotous color. But for how long? Once, wildflower season in montane meadow ecosystems extended throughout the summer months. But now scientists have found a fall-off in wildflowers at mid-season. They published their results, funded by the National Science Foundation, in the current issue of the Journal of Ecology. "Shifts in flowering in mountain meadows could in turn affect the resources available to pollinators like bees," says David Inouye of the University of Maryland, currently on leave in NSF's Division of Environmental Biology. More at [http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=119843&WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_51&WT.mc\\_ev=click](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=119843&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click)*



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN