



# The Shooting Star NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

## July 2012

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

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT on the SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST

At last month's meeting we hosted Shawnee National Forest specialists Matt Lechner and Scott Crist for a presentation about resource management on the forest. They informed the group of the extensive responsibilities of the agency and the current and future activities of the Shawnee National Forest, which includes paving the Ozark Road to Bell Smith Springs. You can find a list of current and recent projects at this link [http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project\\_list.php?forest=110908](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/project_list.php?forest=110908)



One of the projects that the Shawnee National Forest is taking a proactive stance on is gating the caves that are known to contain the federally endangered Indian Bat. White-nose Syndrome, a disease that is believed to be decimating bat populations across the county, has been found in neighboring states, but not in Illinois. It is unknown how the fungus is being transferred; therefore these preventative measures are being implemented.

The Shawnee National Forest is also interested in restoring the land back to the open Oak-Hickory Woodland community indicative of pre-settlement times. The many pine plantations across the forest are not natural and fire is one management technique being used to return the forest to its original condition. They burn about 6000 acres annually as part of their prescribed fire program. As one of the smallest forests in the system, the Shawnee National Forest is in a unique position to manage the forest with ecological rehabilitation as its utmost priority.



*US Forest Service experts Matt Lechner (left) and Scott Crist (right) with INPS southern chapter President Chris Benda (middle). These folks work within the politics and mandates of the Federal Government to implement sound ecological management of the Shawnee National Forest.*

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### The NewScientist: Murderous fungi feed their insect victims to plants

Meaty snacks: they're not just for Venus flytraps. Almost any plant can be a carnivore with the help of fungi. Read more at...

<http://www.newscientist.com/article/dn21965-murderous-fungi-feed-their-insect-victims-to-plants.html>

# INPS 2012 CALENDAR

Upcoming 2012 Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
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
September 18 <sup>th</sup> -	TBA		TBA
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>	SIUC
June 19 <sup>th</sup> -	Shawnee NF	<i>Fire and Land Management</i>	CTH

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

Special thanks to **Matt Lechner** and **Scott Crist** for presenting about **Resource Management on the Shawnee National Forest** last month!

## Related July Events

- July 12<sup>th</sup>: The Next Earthquake presentation by Harvey Henson, Assistant Dean, College of Science at SIU from 7:30pm to 9:00pm at the Carbondale Township Hall.
  - July 14<sup>th</sup>: Winged Wonders: Dragonflies of the Cache by John and Martha Schwegman from 10:00am to 11:30am at the Cache River Wetlands Center.
- Please visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm>

## Where Have All the Hummingbirds Gone?

The glacier lily, as it's called, is a tall, willowy plant that graces mountain meadows throughout western North America. It flowers early in spring, when the first bumblebees and hummingbirds appear. Or did. The lily, a plant that grows best on subalpine slopes, is fast becoming a hothouse flower. In Earth's warming temperatures, its first blooms appear some 17 days earlier than they did in the 1970s...Read more at

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=124345&WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_51&WT.mc\\_ev=click](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=124345&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click)

Take a NatureWatch moment - the best video of our pollinators you'll ever see:  
<http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0>



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



# INPS JULY PROGRAM



Please join the Southern Chapter of the  
Illinois Native Plant Society for a presentation entitled  
**“The Wonders of Camp Ondessonk”**



**July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall**  
**217 East Main St., Carbondale, IL**  
(please enter from the back alley)

**DETAILS:** Camp Ondessonk is a very special place. Located near Ozark, Illinois this site is known to many and cherished by all because this incredible place has a landscape that rivals anything that can be found in southern Illinois. The vegetation here is remarkably diverse and very interesting, including gems like French’s Shooting Star, Spider Lily, Crane-fly Orchid, Pennywort, Goldenseal, Cucumber Magnolia, Filmy Fern, and Netted Chain Fern. The large sandstone overhang called Pakentuck includes a waterfall that is one of the most spectacular sights in the entire state. The cliffs and rock boulders of Phantom Canyon harbor many different kinds of plants and animals. The adjacent Hogg Bluff contains a prehistoric stonewall of the indigenous people of 500 A.D. All of these features, as well as the 3-sided “treehouse” style cabins strategically situated around the lake, make Camp Ondessonk a place worth knowing. The property is private, but you may ask for permission for a visit by calling 618-695-3592.



**ABOUT THE PRESENTER:** Chris Benda is an ecologist and biology instructor in southern Illinois and President of the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society. Although never a camper nor a counselor at Camp Ondessonk, he has thoroughly explored the scenic landscape, botanized the natural communities, and has taken hundreds of photos since learning about the camp in the summer of 2009. Join him as he showcases this special place and the interesting vegetation that occurs there.





# KEEP A LOOKOUT!

## for NEW INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest!



Early detection and eradication can prevent an invasion. The maps show current reported distribution in the Midwest, including Ontario.\*

☐ Not known    
 ☐ Isolated ( → = single county reports)    
 ☐ Locally abundant    
 ☐ Widespread



ASIAN BITTERSWEET



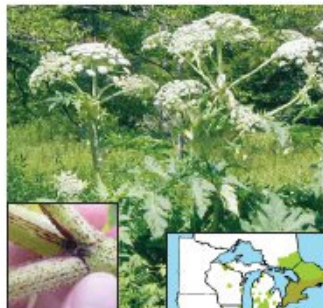
BLACK SWALLOW-WORT



CHINESE SILVERGRASS\*\*



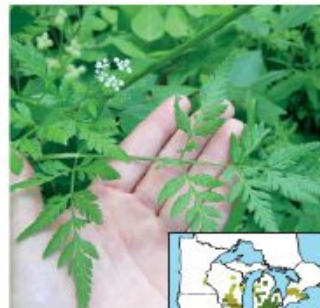
CHINESE YAM



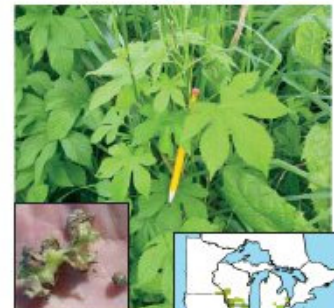
GIANT HOGWEED



JAPANESE CHAFF FLOWER



JAPANESE HEDGEPARSLEY



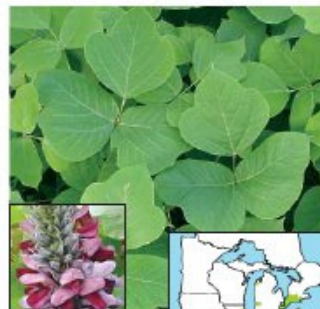
JAPANESE HOP



JAPANESE STILTGRASS



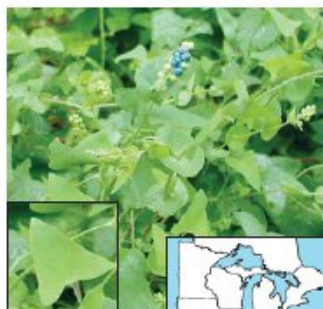
JAPANESE WINEBERRY



KUDZU



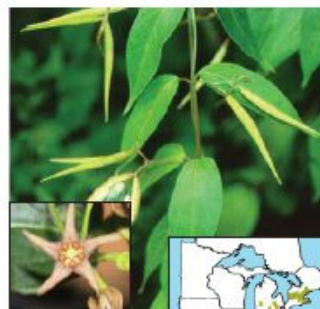
LESSER CELANDINE



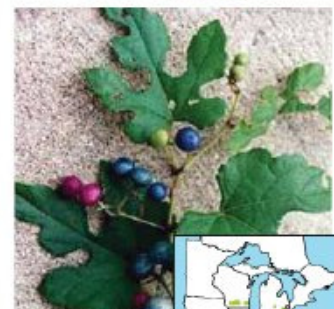
MILE-A-MINUTE WEED



NARROWLEAF BITTERCRESS



PALE SWALLOW-WORT



PORCELAINBERRY

To report a sighting, please contact: [www.GLEDN.org](http://www.GLEDN.org)

\*\*For Chinese silvergrass, please report escaped populations only, not intentional plantings.

\*Updated May 2012

See reverse side for species descriptions



# New INVASIVE PLANTS in the Midwest



## ASIAN BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

**Woody, perennial vine.** Leaves alternate, toothed, shape variable; teardrop-shaped to round with a pointed tip. **Flowers** small and greenish-yellow; male and female flowers on separate plants. **Blooms** in early summer, fruits in fall. **Fruit** greenish to yellow, grows in clusters of 3 - 7 along stem at leaf axils. Fruit splits open to reveal a bright red inner-fruit. Threatens woodlands, forests, savannas and floodplains.

## BLACK SWALLOW-WORT (*Cynanchum louiseae*)

**Herbaceous, perennial vine** reaches lengths of 3 - 8 feet high. **Leaves** opposite, 2 - 5 inches long, toothless, narrowly to broadly oval with pointed tips, dark green and shiny. **Flowers** tiny, dark purple with 5 pointed, downy, triangular petals that are as long as wide. **Seed pods** milkweed-like, slender and tapered, 1.5 - 3 inches long. **Seed** on silky filaments. Threatens woodlands, forests, grasslands and savannas.

## CHINESE SILVERGRASS (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

**Perennial grass**, grows in large clumps 5 - 10 feet high. **Leaves** elongate, up to 3 feet long and 1 inch wide with a silver white midrib, **leaf edges** rough, **leaf tips** are sharp and recurving. **Inflorescence** showy at the end of a stalk, fan-shaped, 6 - 24 inches long, silvery to pale pink. **Seeds** 0.1 inch long, with a twisted bristle tip. Threatens forest margins and disturbed areas.

## CHINESE YAM (*Dioscorea oppositifolia*)

**Herbaceous, perennial vine** twines clockwise, climbs to 15 feet. **Leaves** opposite (upper nodes alternate) reddish where leafstem joins leaf, shape is variable, but often shield- or heart-shaped. **Flowers** small and white with a cinnamon odor, arranged in spikes. **Reproductive bulbils** (small potato-like tubers in leaf axils) present June to September. Threatens streamsides, floodplains and ravines.

## GIANT HOGWEED (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*)

**Large perennial herb**, flowers once then dies. A single basal leaf grows the first year, then grows a larger rosette each year. In 4th or 5th year plant produces a 7 - 15 foot tall flower stalk. **Leaves** 3-part compound, 1 - 4 feet wide, deeply incised and pointed. **Flowers** white in multiple broad-domed umbels. **Flower stalk** hollow with coarse hairs and reddish purple splotching. Threatens river corridors and woodland edges.

**Caution! Plant sap causes severe phytophotodermatitis.**

## JAPANESE CHAFF FLOWER (*Achyranthes japonica*)

**Perennial, herb** grows up to 6 feet tall. **Stems of seedlings** are reddish, larger plants have red nodes. **Leaves** opposite, simple, and smooth-edged with deeply incised leaf veins. **Flowers** in small spikes, lack petals, and have a bottle-brush appearance. **Fruits** lay flat against the spike with a pair of stiff bracts and remain on stalks during winter. Threatens wet forests and riparian areas.

## JAPANESE HEDGEPARSLEY (*Torilis japonica*)

**Biennial herb** grows 2 - 4 feet tall when flowering in second year. **First year rosette** leaves are parsley-like and stay green into fall, **second year** alternate, fern-like, 2 - 5 inches long and slightly hairy. **Flowers** tiny and white, clustered in small flat-topped umbels. **Fruit** small and covered with hooked hairs. Threatens woodlands and savannas.

## JAPANESE HOP (*Humulus japonicus*)

**Herbaceous annual vine** twines counter-clockwise. **Leaves** opposite, 2 - 5 inches long, toothed, and palmately divided, usually with 5 lobes. **Leaf stem** as long or longer than leaf length. **Leaves and stem** with hooked climbing hairs. **Flowers** mid to late summer (male and female flowers on separate plants). Threatens floodplains, wet forests, stream banks and lakeshores.

## JAPANESE STILT GRASS (*Microstegium vimineum*)

**Annual, sprawling grass**, 12 - 24 inches tall, resembling miniature bamboo. **Leaves** wide, alternate, pale green, lance-shaped, 2 - 3 inches long with a pale silvery stripe of reflective hairs along midrib of upper surface. **Flower** spikes 1 - 3 inches long. **Blooms** late summer into early fall. Prolific seed production. Threatens river and stream corridors, floodplains, moist woodlands and forested wetlands.

## JAPANESE WINEBERRY (*Rubus phoenicolasius*)

**Deciduous, perennial shrub.** **Stems** upright, arching, up to 9 feet long with glandular red hairs and small spines. **Leaves** divided into 3 sharply toothed leaflets with dense silvery-white hairs on the underside. **Flowers** small with white petals and hairy sepals arranged in clusters. **Fruit** bright red and raspberry-like. Threatens forests, savannas, prairies, wetland edges, and open woodlands.

## KUDZU (*Pueraria montana* var. *lobata*)

**Semi-woody, perennial vine** climbs 30 - 90 feet. **Leaves** alternate and compound with 3 unlobed to deeply lobed leaflets, hairy beneath and up to 4 inches wide. **Flowers** purple, pea-like and grow from leaf axils in long hanging clusters; blooming in late summer. **Seed pods** brown, flattened and hairy. Threatens forest edges, woodlands and savannas.

## LESSER CELANDINE (*Ranunculus ficaria*)

**Perennial herb**, forms a dense carpet. **Leaves** in rosette, shiny, dark green, kidney- to heart-shaped. **Flower** one inch wide, 8 - 12 petals, bright yellow with slightly darker center on single stalk above leaves. **Roots** with finger-like tubers, cream-colored bulblets in stem axils. **Fruit** hairy seeds held in round heads. Threatens floodplain forests, low open woods, and meadows.

## MILE-A-MINUTE WEED (*Polygonum perfoliatum*)

**Annual, herbaceous vine** that climbs to 15 feet tall. **Stem** with hooked barbs; circular, cup-shaped, leafy structures around the stem at nodes. **Leaves** alternate, shaped like an equilateral triangle with barbs on undersides, leaf bases arrow- to heart-shaped. **Flowers** small, white and inconspicuous. **Fruit** a fleshy, blue, pea-sized berry. Threatens woodland edges, wetlands and riparian corridors.

## NARROWLEAF BITTERCRESS (*Cardamine impatiens*)

**Annual or biennial forb**, 6 - 31 inches tall. **First year rosette**, leaves pinnately divided with 3 - 11 round-lobed leaflets. **Second year (bolted) leaves** have 6 - 20 lance-shaped leaflets with asymmetrical bases, edges may be smooth to sharply-toothed. Base of second year leaves clasps stem (auricles). **Flowers** white, 0.1 inch long. **Fruit** erect, slender silique, many per plant, 0.6 - 0.8 inches long. **Seeds** orange to brown, 10 - 24 in each fruit. Threatens wet woods and floodplains.

## PALE SWALLOW-WORT (*Cynanchum rossicum*)

**Herbaceous, perennial vine** twines 3 - 6 feet high. **Leaves** opposite (similar to black swallow-wort). **Flowers** maroon to pink with 5 pointed, hairless, triangular petals that are twice as long as wide. **Seed pods** milkweed-like (similar to black swallow-wort). **Seed** on silky filaments. Threatens woodlands, forests grasslands and savannas.

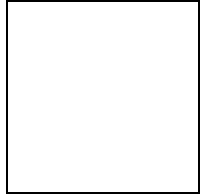
## PORCELAINBERRY (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*)

**Perennial, deciduous, woody vine.** **Stem** pith is white and continuous across nodes. **Bark** does not peel. **Leaves** alternate with a heart-shaped base, 3 - 5 lobed, hairy with rounded teeth on edges. **Flowers** greenish-white, occur opposite the leaves. **Fruit** colorful, lavender to green or bright blue. Native grape, *Vitis riparia*, has brown pith and peeling bark. Threatens forest edges, pond edges and stream banks.

**For control and management of these species, please visit the following Internet links:**

<http://mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu>, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>, and <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/>

INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
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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

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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

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Mail to:

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