



## *Illinois Native Plant Society*

PO Box 9245  
Springfield, IL 62791

### **Summary State Governing Retreat March 30, 2025**

#### **Call to order**

Board President Emily Dangremond called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM at Humiston Woods 2100 North Rd, Pontiac, IL 61764 and on Zoom

#### **Board Members and Guests Present**

Emily Dangremond, Susanne Masi, Nancy Smith, Kelsay Shaw (partial), Eric Ulaszek, Kate Ahrens, Brian Charles, Daniel Lara, Floyd Catchpole, Paul Marcum, Joe Armstrong, Samantha Chavez, Carolyn Villa, Becky Croteau. Guests: John Taft (partial), Kathy Garness (partial)

#### **Outcome**

The board reviewed the organization's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, especially as pertains to chapters. The Board agreed on the following time three priority areas and outcomes:

- Communications to improve member engagement, including things such as
  - Social media
  - Community outreach
  - Tabling
- Adding value for members, including items such as
  - Improve retention
  - Organizational "how to"
  - Consider opt-in membership directory
- Education and Support for members, including ideas such as
  - FAQs in Harbinger
  - Grants
  - Seed subscriptions
  - Webinars and plant ID sessions

#### **Grants Program Update**

Outgoing chair of the Grants Committee, Susanne Masi announced that Brian Charles will be taking on coordination of the Grant Committee at the end of the year. The committee awarded 5 research grants and 1 survey grant in the most recent cycle.

The Survey grant program will end and will be replaced by a Floristics grant program

#### **Bylaws Update**

Floyd Catchpole presented proposed changes to the bylaws that specifies chapters use the state organizations bylaws and no longer have their own.

#### **Ergenia Update**

John Taft provided an update on Volume 29 of *Ergenia*. The group discussed applying for non-profit rates.