



**Illinois
Native
Plant
Society**

Illinois Native Plant Society

PO Box 9245
Springfield, IL 62791

**Minutes
INPS State Governing Board Meeting
January 12, 2026**

Call to order

Board President Nick Seaton called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM.

Board Members and Guests Present

Nick Seaton, Carolyn Villa, Emily Dangremond, Nancy Smith, Sheri Glowinski, Eric Ulaszek, Floyd Catchpole, Trish Quintenz, Paul Marcum, Grant Fessler, Kurt Neubig, Vlad Nevirkovets

Quorum

The Board achieved a quorum of 71% attendance.

Minutes

Vice President Carolyn Villa moved to approve the minutes of the INPS Governing Board of October 14, 2025 as emended. Past President Emily Dangremond seconded the motion. The motion passed with Board members Sheri Glowinski, Floyd Catchpole, and Grant Fessler abstaining.

October 2025 minutes are finalized and posted on the INPS website [here](#).

President's report

**Meeting Calendar
for 2026**

Board President Nick Seaton presented the 2026 meeting calendar, including the upcoming strategic planning meeting, noting that the date for the February Executive Committee meeting is the third Monday rather than the second.

**PO Box in
Springfield**

Board President Seaton reminded the Board members to update the PO Box address on various platforms, including the website and Great Nonprofits page to ensure correct delivery of INPS correspondence.

**Board Retreat for
2026**

The board also considered scheduling a board retreat for 2026, with a potential date in March, and discussed whether it should be separate from the April board meeting. Board President Seaton will send a survey to determine the best weekend in March.

"Great Nonprofits" Site Vice President Carolyn offered to claim and update the Great Nonprofits profile.

Board Insurance Past President Dangremond provided an update on insurance. INPS needs certificates of insurance for events. The application for Board insurance is still pending.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer's Report Vice President Carolyn Villa presented the Treasurer's report on behalf of Board Treasurer, Becky Croteau.

She noted that chapter treasurers should submit annual reports to Becky for the 2025 annual report, and that Treasurer Croteau will handle CD renewals upon her return from travel in late February.

The 2024 membership payments have been distributed, and 1099 forms for grantees are being processed.

Treasurer Croteau arranged for mail collection and membership form handling during her absence.

Income from Membership Vice President Carolyn Villa relayed Treasurer Croteau's concern that income from membership dues is trending down, which is a concern.

Grants Report

No report

Membership and Website Report

Hosted Emails Recommendation Membership Chair Sheri Glowinski updated the Board regarding the executive team discussion of challenges with the current membership platform. Issues with the website are preventing members from updating credit card information and also makes it difficult to distinguish between legitimate and spam entries.

Membership Chair Glowinski explained that a committee formed to explore new membership systems that would better serve the organization's needs, including the ability to communicate with members at different levels (such as executive level and chapter level). The Board aligned on returning to a calendar-year membership schedule, which would allow members to opt out before their renewal date. The team agreed that finding a new system that aligns with their wishes is a critical priority.

Chapter Updates

Kankakee Torrent Chapter Board Member Floyd Catchpole reported that the Kankakee Torrent Chapter's has few activities recently.

Northeast Chapter Board Member Vlad Nevirkovets reported on the Northeast Chapter's efforts to organize an annual meeting and update their handbook. He clarified the applicability of statewide bylaws and parliamentary procedures to chapter meetings and about organizational practices, including meeting minutes and agendas.

Board Member Nevirkovets moved for INPS to provide a sponsored membership for Jamie Dickman for 2026. Vice President Carolyn Villa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Central Chapter Board Member Trish Quintenz reported on the Central Chapter's monthly meetings, successful seed exchange, and holiday dinner. The next big event is the upcoming plant sale on May 9th.

Board Member Quintenz requested that the website be updated to reflect this year's sale date. She will share the Chapter's Substack account link with the state Board members.

Quad Cities Chapter Board Member Grant Fessler reported that Samantha Chavez is stepping down as president and an election will be held to formalize leadership changes. The chapter is updating its email list and plans to organize native plant-related presentations for the winter.

Forest Glen Chapter Board Member Paul Marcum discussed upcoming events for the Forest Glen Chapter, including a skunk cabbage and snow trillium hike in April, a May hike at Forest Glenn, and a potential winter twig workshop.

The chapter is planning to host the INPS Annual Gathering in August or September 2026 at the INHS building. The aim is to coordinate dates that avoid university conflicts. Board Member Marcum is reaching out to other hosting chapters to discuss the lessons they learned in hosting the Annual Gathering.

Southern Chapter Board President Nick Seaton discussed Southern Chapter updates, including a recent botany hike that attracted 17 participants through email listserv notifications. They reviewed plans for upcoming events at SIU, including a presentation on the herbarium and a symposium themed "The Impact of Geology on Plant Communities."

Old Business

Code of Conduct Board President Dangremond provided an update the a draft code of conduct is planned to be released for review and discussion at the next Board meeting.

**Mark Widrechner
rubus Workshop** Board Member Marcum described plans for a workshop with Mark Widrechner on *rubus*, tentatively scheduled for July. The group discussed potential a workshop locations in Illinois and Indiana.

Board Member Catchpole agreed to follow up on dates and locations, with Will County being a preferred site due to its accessibility and indoor facilities.

New Harmony Symposium

The New Harmony symposium is scheduled on April 26-28. Board Member Marcum will lead a hike with Nathaniel Pia and other botanists. INPS has allocated two registrations, with President Seaton considering attendance.

Wild Things 2026

Board Vice President Villa reported on Wild Things 2026. She requested that the Southern Chapter send a volunteer. The Board group discussed gathering materials for the event

New Business

Executive Leader Website Information

Vice President Villa addressed website updates needed for the executive board's leadership page. She requested bios and photos from executive committee members.

INPS YouTube Channel

The Board also discussed reviving an INPS YouTube account to post recordings of Chapter events.

Issues with Email Forwarding for Club Presidents

Past President Dangremond raised concerns about INPS President email access and membership notification systems, noting that while some chapter presidents still receive automated join notifications, the system hasn't worked since September 4th. The group agreed to investigate the current email forwarding setup and discussed updating the directory mappings for new chapter leaders.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:09 PM by Board President Nick Seaton

Next Meeting

July 13, 2026 at 5:30 PM by Zoom