



**Illinois
Native
Plant
Society**

Illinois Native Plant Society

PO Box 9245
Springfield, IL 62791

Saturday, March 28, 2026

10:00 pm to 4:00 PM

Hybrid In-Person and Online via Zoom

Margery Adams Wildlife Sanctuary

2315 E Clear Lake Ave, Springfield IL 62703

[Join Zoom Meeting By Clicking Here](#)

Link to strategic session

I. Welcome, Purpose, and Agenda (10:00 am)

- A. INPS President to kick off the strategic session

II. Opening Exercise (10:15 AM)

III. SWOT Analysis for All Chapters (10:30 AM)

- A. Participants to discuss strengths and weaknesses facing chapters
- B. Participants to discuss opportunities and threats facing chapters
- C. By-laws changed to align with state by-laws?
- D. Revisit outcomes from last year's discussions in preparation for break out sessions

Lunch Break (11:30 AM - 12:30 PM)

IV. Roadmap (So Far) for 2026 (12:30 - 1:30 PM)

- A. Overview of packet materials and Q&A (Contributors)
- B. Treasurer's report and 2026 budget (Becky)
- C. Website, dues and payments roadmap (Sheri/Nancy)
- D. *Erigerina* (John Taft)
- E. Grants (Carolyn Villa obo Brian Charles)

V. Breakout Groups (1:30 PM)

- A. Develop new approach for dues and membership levels and needed web pages
- B. Revisit the three highest priorities from the 2025 retreat

VI. Report Outs (2:30 PM)

- A. Breakout teams report out

VII. Align on highest 3 priorities for 2026 (3:30 PM)

VIII. Closing remarks (no later than 4:00 pm)

Packet Contents

- I. Roster of Attendees and Invitees (Nancy, Board Secretary) ([Link](#))
- II. 2026 Budget Proposal (Becky, Board Treasurer) ([Link](#))
- III. 2025 Income & Expenditures (Becky, Board Treasurer) ([Link](#))
- IV. INPS Consolidated Chapter Financial Statements – 2025 (Becky, Board Treasurer) ([Link](#))
- V. INPS Grants Payments 2025 ([Link](#)) (Becky, Board Treasurer)
- VI. Website/Membership Roadmap ([Link](#)) (Sheri Glowinski)
- VII. Summary of of Top Priorities from INPS 2025 Board Retreat ([Link](#))
(collated by Nancy, Board Secretary)

Roster

Participant	Organization	Attendance Mode
Nick Seaton	INPS President Southern Chapter Representative	In-Person
Carolyn Villa	INPS Vice President	In-Person
Emily Dangremond	INPS Past President	Online
Sheri Glowinski	INPS Membership Chair	Absent
Becky Croteau	INPS Treasurer	In-Person
Nancy Smith	INPS Secretary	In-Person
John Taft	Erigenia Editor	Online
Brian Charles	Harbinger Editor Illinois Native Plant Conservation Alliance Grants Coordinator	Absent
Daniel Lara-Newman	INPS Board Member Asst. Webmaster	Absent
Kate Ahrens	INPS Board Member	Absent
Eric Ulaszek	INPS Board Member	Absent
Carolyn Villa	INPS Board Member	In-person
Floyd Catchpole	Kankakee Torrent representative	In-person
Vlad Nevirkovets	Northeast Chapter Representative	Online
Trish Quintenz	Central Chapter Representative	In-Person
Paul Marcum	Forest Glen Chapter Representative	Absent
Joe Armstrong	Grand Prairie Chapter Representative	Absent
Grant Fessler	Quad Cities Chapter Representative	Online

Proposed 2026 Budget

Prepared by Becky Croteau, INPS State Treasurer

Projected Income = \$15,000.00

Memberships	\$10,000.00
General Fund Donations	\$ 1,000.00
Grant Donations	\$ 1,000.00
CD Interest Grant Account	\$ 1,000.00
CD Interest General Fund	\$ 2,000.00
Annual Meeting	(unknown income)
Sales Tax	(unknown income)

\$11,670 budget deficit

Projected Expenditures = \$ 26,670.00

2025 Chapter Disbursements (25%)	(\$ 1,800.00)
Website Revamp & Maintain	(\$ 5,000.00)
Grant Budget Transfer for 2026 Grants	(\$12,000.00)
IEC Membership	(\$ 150.00)
Donations to other groups	(\$150.00)
Annual Meeting	(unknown expenses)
Sales Tax	(unknown expenses)
Zoom & Google	(\$ 200.00)
Square Fees (3.6% of income)	(\$ 700.00)
Insurance	(\$ 900.00)
Erigenia & Harbinger <i>(Includes postage)</i>	(\$ 4,000.00)
PO Box, Office Supplies, postage	(\$ 450.00)
Registered Agent	(\$ 120.00)
Accountant (Taxes & 1099 Filing)	(\$ 600.00)
<u>Milage</u> & Other Reimbursements	(\$ 600.00)
Projected Expense Total	(\$26,670.00)

\$11,670 budget deficit ? We still have about \$26,000 in a Certificate of Deposit, so it's covered.

WE CAN'T CONTINUE TO DO THIS EVERY YEAR!!!

****Final Payments for 2025 Grants = (\$ 9,075.50). This money comes from existing separate Grant Accounts.

2025 Income & Expenditures

Prepared by Becky Croteau, INPS State Treasurer

INCOME: \$24,143.50

Description	Amount
Memberships (2025)	\$ 7,070.00
CD Interest Grant Fund	\$ 146.91
Donations (Square has no details)	\$ 885.00
Annual Meeting	\$ 7,207.00
CD Interest General Fund	\$ 4,665.12
Grant Donations	\$ 1,100.00
Money Market Interest	\$ 1.30
Sales Tax from Chapters	<u>\$ 3,068.17</u>
<u>Income Total</u>	<u>\$24,143.50</u>

Net Loss for 2025 = (\$25,158.46)

Grant Payments on 2023, 2024 & 2025 Grants = (\$ 18,109.54)

This Money came from our separate Grants Account.

EXPENSES: \$49,301.96

Description	Amount
2023 Chapter Disbursements (25%)	(\$ 4,581.75)
2024 Chapter Disbursements (25%)	(\$ 4,581.75)
Transfer to Grants Account for 2025 Grants	(\$ 22,000.00)
Donations to Other Groups	(\$ 150.00)
Zoom & Goggle	(\$ 179.89)
Square Fees (3.6% of income)	(\$ 513.97)
Insurance	(\$ 863.00)
Erigenia & Harbinger (Includes postage)	(\$ 3,383.12)
Website	(\$ 1,182.21)
IEC Membership	(\$ 150.00)
P.O. Box	(\$ 220.00)
Office Supplies, postage, other printing	(\$ 206.62)
Registered Agent	(\$ 111.00)
Accountant (Taxes & 1099 Filing)	(\$ 400.00)
Sales Taxes & Filing Fees	(\$ 3,083.17)
Annual Meeting	(\$ 7,207.00)
Mileage & Other Reimbursements	<u>(\$ 488.48)</u>
<u>Expense Total</u>	<u>(\$49,301.96)</u>

INPS Consolidated Chapter Financial Statements - 2025

Prepared by Becky Croteau, INPS State Treasurer

Chapter	Treasurer	12/31/2024 Balance	12/31 2025 Balance	24 to 25 Change	2025 Income	2025 Expenses
State Level	Becky Croteau	\$69,387.08	\$46,706.31	(\$22,680.77)	\$24,143.50	(\$49,301.96)
Central	Jean Moser	\$102,933.18	\$104,913.54	\$1,920.36	\$43,113.73	(\$41,133.37)
Forest Glen	Ken Konsis	\$3,881.01	\$4,331.01	\$450.00	\$600.00	(\$150.00)
Grand Prairie	Nancy Armstrong	\$936.50	\$1,097.25	\$160.75	\$168.75	(\$8.00)
Kankakee	Elspeth Stanzil	\$3,867.96	\$ 4,317.96	\$450.00	\$3,600.57	0
Northeast	Mark Kluge	\$10,497.29	\$12,236.44	\$1,739.15	\$3,739.05	(\$999.90)
Quad Cities	Grant Fessler	\$2,246.48	\$ 2,783.98	\$573.50	\$537.50	0
Southern	Nancy Garwood	<u>\$20,292.77</u>	<u>\$20,535.28</u>	<u>\$242.51</u>	<u>\$17,027.59</u>	<u>(\$16,785.08)</u>
Total		\$214,724.87	\$194,138.33	(\$17,144.50)	\$92,930.69	(\$108,378.31)

INPS Grant Payments 2025

Prepared by Becky Croteau, INPS State Treasurer

1. Chris Benda	Final payment 2023 grant (1/23/25)	\$2,500.00
2. Noah Farris	Final payment 2023 grant (3/10/25)	\$2,500.00
3. The Wetlands Initiative (Katie Kucera)	Final payment 2024 grant (9/16/25)	\$1,104.00
4. Eric Ziomber	Final payment 2023 grant (1/31/25)	\$ 250.00
5. Biological Sciences, ISU (Cassie McGinnis)	Final payment 2024 grant (6/20/25)	\$1,000.00
6. Grant Fessler	Initial Payment 2025 grant (4/10/25)	\$1,500.00
7. UIUC (Kassandra Carter)	Initial Payment 2025 grant (4/14/25)	\$1,500.00
8. Mac Johnson	Initial Payment 2025 grant (4/15/25)	\$1,475.00
9. Emily Poindexter	Initial Payment 2025 grant (4/28/25)	\$1,500.00
10. Daniel Pohl	Initial Payment 2025 grant (4/21/25)	\$2,500.00
11. Kathleen Garness	Initial Payment 2025 grant (5/22/25)	\$1,500.00
12. Dr Mark Widrlechner	Plant Survey Expenses (6/28/25) <i>Technically not a grant but included in the 2025 grant budget.</i>	\$ 780.07

These we all paid with the previous & 2025 grant funds **TOTAL = \$18,109.07**

Website/Membership Roadmap for 2026

Executive Summary

The INPS Web Tech Committee, chaired by Sheri Glowinski, has interviewed four vendors about the next steps for the INPS Website. None advise that we continue with Gravity Forms, our current platform for managing memberships.

One vendor supplied a [list](#) of the 347 pages from our site, explaining that they take the number of pages into account when they calculate pricing for a support contract. The committee has set a goal to limit the website to no more than 15 pages.

A best practice emerged for the organization's consideration, namely that the payment system and the website be maintained separately. An advantage of this approach is that the website administrators would not have access to the payment and membership systems.

The committee has received proposals from several vendors. While the committee is still working out the details. We can anticipate needing about \$10,000 over two years to create a site with a separate, yet integrated membership management with a support contract. The upfront costs would be around \$3,000 to \$5,000 in 2026.

Recommended Next Steps

1. Develop a proposed budget in coordination with the Board and others
2. Set a timeline, in coordination with organizers of the Annual Gathering
3. Approve budget at the April 13th Board Meeting
4. Finalize contract with selected vendor
5. Implement new website

Summary of Top Priorities from 2025 Board Retreat

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 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.

Erigenia Update

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