



The Harbinger

NEWSLETTER



of the

Illinois Native Plant Society

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

NOVEMBER 2012

Volume 29, No. 4



This year has been a fabulous one for autumn colors. The disappearance of chlorophyll has unmasked the accessory pigments present in the leaves that harness the full potential of the sun by absorbing different wavelengths in the ultraviolet spectrum. This photo was taken at the Garden of the Gods Natural Area in Saline County, Illinois. ~Christopher David Benda, Editor



GO GREEN! If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help us lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Please send your email address to illinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list. Also check us out on facebook at www.facebook.com/illinoisplants

Message from the President

Hello One and All,

So here it is, my first message as the newbie president of the INPS. I would like to thank Connie Cunningham for her hard work and all the good things she accomplished during her tenure as president. She also proved to be a great mentor to me.

Over the next two years I hope I can build on Connie's work. The INPS is reaching a critical point as an organization. Our core membership consists primarily of retirees and professionals in the field of Botany. We need to bolster this membership with young professionals starting to build careers and anyone wanting to learn more about the importance of native plants in situ as well as in landscaping projects. We need to recreate the membership as it was when INPS was created 30 years ago. We need the future botanists to follow Mohlenbrock, Evans, Schwegman, Stritch and Ebinger.

The executive committee and governing board can help to do this, but we need the general membership submitting papers and inviting friends to attend events. We need professors encouraging students to get involved with the society. Let them know about our grants for research and about *Erigenia* to get a start on writing for publication.

How do we pitch the INPS? Field trips organized by the chapters create an informal way to get folks out and provide a casual atmosphere that enables learning and networking. Coming from Montana (studied Agronomy at Montana State, go Bobcats), the Illinois native plants were not the ones I learned in Range Science. Field trips helped me learn Illinois flora and ecosystems. They helped me find the nature preserves. Remember to let people know the difficulty of the terrain when you extend an invitation. We don't walk quickly (unless with Henry Eiler); we mostly mosey through a site. Occasionally I have seen people crawling along, literally.

Friendships are an important part of INPS. We meet people from around the state that speak our language (often a bit geeky) and share a fashion sense (field wear). If you can spend time with a group of people with their pants tucked into their socks, you know you have something special in common. After all, I met my husband, Floyd, at a Central Chapter event. However, I do have to perform a geek check before going out to other events.

As for me and my background, I claim no great accomplishments. RJ Fehl once called himself a ditch digger. If I had one word for what I am, it would be grower. I have worked for years in greenhouses and was the assistant director/curator/grower at the Washington Park Botanical Garden in Springfield, Illinois. There I ran almost 9000 square feet of greenhouse and conservatory space. I grew tropicals and potted plants like poinsettias, chrysanthemums and lilies. I cared for orchid, bromeliad, and bonsai collections. I grew thousands of annuals and perennials over the years, including native plants. I currently work seasonally at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, on the recreation side, planting natives at trailheads and controlling weeds along the trail system.

In the years to come, I look forward sharing our mission with the next generation of Botanists as well as nature lovers in Illinois and across the nation.

~INPS President Janine Catchpole



2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Chapter events are too numerous to list here. For information about events with your chapter, please contact the following representatives.

NORTHEAST CHAPTER - Chicago

Janine Catchpole (President)

815-603-5190

northeast.inps@gmail.com

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER - Rock Island

Robert Byrant (President)

563-349-0448

qc_inps.home.mchsi.com

IRENE CULL CHAPTER - Peoria

Mary Hartley (President)

309-995-3356

haywool@winco.net

FOREST GLEN CHAPTER - Danville

Connie Cunningham (President)

217-516-1792

conniejcunningham@gmail.com

CENTRAL CHAPTER - Springfield

Annette Chinuge (President)

217-483-5893

annette@avrosystems.com

SOUTHERN CHAPTER - Carbondale

Chris Benda (President)

217-417-4145

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com



Also see the online calendar at our website <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events>



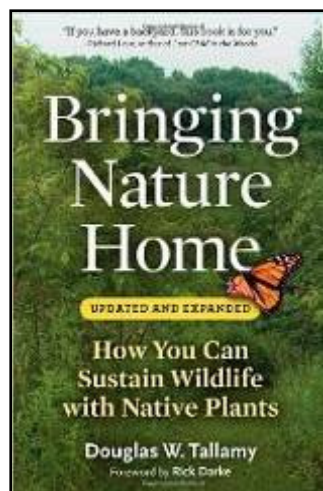
Erigenia, the Journal of the Illinois Native Plant Society **Now available at <http://www.ill-inps.org>**

Hi Everyone! It is with great excitement that we announce that all of our Erigenia issues are now available for pdf download through the INPS website! Please use the link below for your convenience.

http://www.ill-inps.org/Erigenia_Back_Issues#

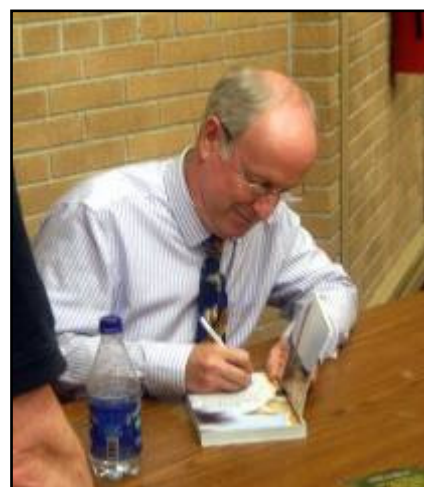
Please feel free to pass this information on!

Sincerely,
The INPS Governing Board



Bringing Nature Home, a Lecture by Doug Tallamy, a Great Success.

The Northeast Chapter of the INPS partnered with the Greater Du Page Chapter of the Wild Ones (lead organization), The Sierra Club, The Conservation Foundation, and the Forest Preserve Districts of Will and Du Page Counties to sponsor a lecture on Saturday, October 20, 2012 by Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of *Bringing Nature Home*. There were 400 people in attendance, with about a 40% of them saying they had very little experience with native plants but a desire to learn. The Southern Chapter of the INPS sponsored a lecture by Dr. Tallamy in February 2011 and a recording of his presentation can be viewed here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2IDO1RQ5Mg>



INPS 2012 Annual Meeting

The 2012 Illinois Native Plant Society Annual Meeting was hosted by the Quad Cities Chapter and held at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. The conference started off with presentations about the mighty Mississippi River by Bob Bryant (Quad Cities Chapter President) and Dr. Susan Romano (Biology professor at Western Illinois University). Field trips followed and highlights of each trip are described in the subsequent pages. More photos can be seen in an album on our facebook page.

Photos by Bob Bryant, Christopher David Benda, Jennifer Anderson-Cruz, and Rachel Goad.

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.508570642487809.90034313.128013787210165&type=1&l=3adcf53ff8>

Blue Heron Boat Tour (Iowa) & Thomson / Fulton Sand Prairie Reserve (Illinois)



Blue Heron Boat Tour



Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia macrorhiza*)



Thomson / Fulton Sand Prairie

Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve & Swamp White Oak Preserve (Iowa)



Cardinal Flower



Round-headed Bush Clover



Fern Workshop and Wildcat Den Field Trip (Saturday, September 22)

By Bob Bryant: The fern workshop was held at Nahant Marsh Education Center's interpretive building in Davenport, IA. Bob Bryant (Quad City Chapter INPS President, Nahant Marsh Resource Manager and fern enthusiast), started the day off with a brief introduction to Nahant Marsh. The 262-acre center is part of the 500-acre wetland complex, and is one of the largest urban wetlands on the upper Mississippi River. The fern workshop highlighted the ferns of the Quad City region, and covered the identification, distribution, uses, folklore, field guides and photographing ferns. Using PowerPoint, pressed fronds and two fern identification keys, all 37 fern species of the Quad City region were covered. A short hike was taken to see grape fern, cut-leaved grape fern, and ebony spleenwort. After eating lunch at Nahant, everyone headed to Wildcat Den State Park (423 acres), north of Muscatine, IA. The park has some of the some unique sandstone features in eastern Iowa. The trail to and through the sandstone ravine, known as the "Devil's Punch Bowl", shows many of the geological and floral features of the park, including a nice variety of ferns. With this summer's drought and it being fall, some of the ferns weren't in the best condition. Christmas fern, an evergreen, showed the least effects of this year's drought. Some of the more exposed rock-loving common polypody's pinnae had curled up and were turning brown. Creeping fragile fern, which is infrequently found along the trails, is sensitive to drought conditions and was very hard to find. The other species observed were rattlesnake fern, Goldie's fern, silvery spleenwort, northern lady fern, spinulose woodfern, blunt-lobed woodsia, interrupted fern, walking fern and everyone's favorite, the northern maidenhair. A single ginseng was also found. Time didn't permit hiking to see the long beech fern (endangered in Iowa and Illinois). Documented at Wildcat Den in 1897, it was finally re-discovered in 2008.



Common Polypody Fern (*Polypodium virginianum*)



Long Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*)



Twenty-five fern species can be seen along the Devil's Punchbowl trail.



Spinulose Woodfern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*)

INPS 2012 Annual Meeting

Keynote Speaker – Kenny Salwey, the Last River Rat

Before dinner, president Connie Cunningham addressed our members and proposed updates to the INPS By-laws. They were accepted, in accordance of Article XI, Section 1, by the general membership during the 2012 INPS Annual Meeting in Rock Island, IL. The approved changes can be seen on our website.



We would like to introduce a new board member. Rachel Goad is our new Secretary! Rachel received her B.S. from Illinois State University and worked for both the New England Wildflower Society and the Plants of Concern program at the Chicago Botanic Garden. After receiving her M.S. from Southern Illinois University, Rachel returned to the Plants of Concern program, where she plays an integral role in monitoring rare plant species in the Chicago area. We extend a huge thanks to our former Secretary Becky Croteau for her years of service.



Collinson Ecological Nature Preserve (Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies, Illinois)



Flowers above: Ladies' Tresses Orchid (*Spiranthes magnicamporum*) and Stiff Gentian (*Gentiana quinquefolia*)

Credit Island Park (Iowa)



Pink Turtlehead (*Chelone obliqua*)

Oval Ladies' Tresses Orchid Appearing in Northern Illinois

By Floyd Catchpole: *Spiranthes ovalis* var. *erostellata* (Catling) has been sighted by INPS members three times this fall in northern Illinois. It was seen at Collinson Ecological Preserve (09/23/2012) during an INPS annual meeting fieldtrip in oak woodland on lower slopes of a ravine near Mill Creek. It was also found in sunny woodland on Conroy Island (09/14/2012) in the Des Plaines River (Forest Preserve District Will County) and in an old Osage orange hedgerow (09/19/2012), east of the Des Plaines River (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie). The Will County sightings are County Records. Photos were taken, but no specimens due to small population sizes. Collinson and Conroy island plant identifications were verified by Jason Zylka (FPDWC), while Eric Ulaszek (MNTP) verified the Midewin population.

Oval Ladies' Tresses was considered "one of the rarest of the *Spiranthes* species...of the United States" by Ames (1906). Our earliest record is from the American Bottoms (across from St. Louis, MO) in 1845 and only four records occur in Illinois prior to 1950 (Sheviak, 1974). By 1978, Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock listed it in ten counties in southern and central Illinois. More recently, it was found in Rock Island, DuPage and Kane Counties.

Sheviak indicates that the original habitat is uncertain, but possibly was mesic woodland or floodplain. This species has been able to expand into modern, disturbed habitat of old fields and abandoned wooded pastures. All three sites where it was found this year showed clear signs of having been pastured in the past. All were growing in moderate light levels (somewhat shadier at Collinson) and mesic soils. All three sites had hawthorn in the vicinity.

Perhaps the hot, dry summer inspired blooming. Regardless, we have had an opportunity to see an orchid that was once one of the rarest of all. Whether it will continue to increase, or dwindle again is uncertain, but the tiny Ladies' Tresses are always a joy to see.



Literature Citations

Ames, Oakes. 1906. *Spiranthes ovalis*. *Rhodora* 8: 15-16.

Mohlenbrock, Robert, and Douglas Ladd. 1979. *Distribution of Illinois Vascular Plants*. Southern Illinois University Press. Carbondale, Illinois.

Sheviak, Charles. 1974. *An Introduction to the Ecology of the Illinois Orchidacea*. Scientific Papers XIV, Illinois State Museum. Springfield, Illinois.

Caesar, the Orchid Chief

Science **NOW** UP TO THE MINUTE NEWS FROM SCIENCE

Turns out the early Romans were wild about orchids. A careful study of ancient artifacts in Italy has pushed back the earliest documented appearance of the showy and highly symbolic flowers in Western art from Renaissance to Roman times. In fact, the researchers say, the orchid's popularity in public art appeared to wilt with the arrival of Christianity, perhaps because of its associations with sexuality. The fanciful shapes and bright colors of orchids have long made them popular with flower fanciers, and today they support a multibillion-dollar global trade. Read more at:

<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2012/10/caesar-the-orchid-chief.html>

This Issue's Featured Botanist:

Julian Alfred Steyermark (1909-1988)

Julian Alfred Steyermark was born in St. Louis, Missouri as the only child of the businessman Leo L. Steyermark and Mamie I. Steyermark (née Isaacs). He studied at the Henry Shaw School of Botany at Washington University in St. Louis, where he completed his Ph.D. in 1933. His distinguished career included the Field Museum of Chicago, the Instituto Botánico de Caracas and he was with the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis from 1984 until his death. Steyermark's major works were his Flora of the Venezuelan Guayana, Flora of Missouri, and his Flora of Guatemala.

During his life, Steyermark collected over 138,000 plants in twenty-six countries, which earned him an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records. He made the initial descriptions of 2,392 taxa of plants, including one family, 38 genera, and 1,864 species. The standard author abbreviation Steyermark is used to indicate Steyermark when citing a botanical name. The plant genus Steyermarkia was named in his honor. ~From Wikipedia

Julian A Steyermark (1909-1988), a native of St Louis, USA, collecting on top of Cerro Jaua, in the state of Bolívar, Venezuela, in 1974, accompanied by a local Indian assistant. Steyermark made more than 138,000 collections of plants, described 3,157 plant taxa, and more than 300 species were named in his honor. Photo: Missouri Botanical Garden.

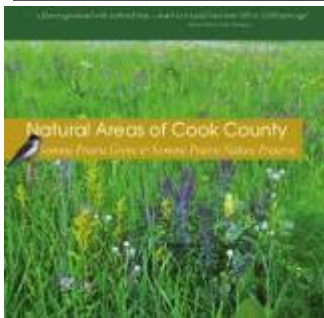


What to look for this month:

This time of year you can find the newly emerged leaves of the puttyroot orchid, also called the Adam and Eve orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*). This species carries out photosynthesis in the winter, when the canopy leaves have fallen and light is able to reach the forest floor. Look for the flowers to appear in late April.



Natural Areas of Cook County



The Illinois Natural History Survey has produced a set of site brochures for 20 natural areas in Cook County. These include Bakers Lake, Black Partridge Woods, Bluff Spring Fen, Busse Forest, Cranberry Slough, Kennicut Grove, Morton Grove Prairie, Palos Fen, PawPaw Woods, Powderhorn Marsh, Sagawau Canyon, Sand Ridge, Shoe Factory, Somme Prairie, Spring Creek, Thornton, and Wolf Road Prairie. Brochures are available for download at:

<https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0B4jvvuRQu711VmMzN3lyRndsUFE/edit?pli=1>

How and Why to Report Invasive Species in Illinois

View this short article on why and how to report invasive species in Illinois at:

<http://illinoisism.blogspot.com/2012/09/reporting-invasive-species-in-illinois.html>



From The New York Times: Invasive Grasses as Biofuel? Scientists Protest

More than 200 scientists from across the country have sent a letter to the Obama administration urging the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider a rule that would allow two invasive grasses to qualify as advanced biofuel feedstock under the nation's renewable fuel standard. *Pennisetum purpureum*, known as napiergrass or elephant grass, is of African origin but has been introduced to many tropical areas around the world, where it multiplies rapidly. *Arundo donax*, or giant reed, is native to India and is considered particularly fearsome: it ranks as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species. (**note from the board: the INPS signed onto this letter**)

Read more at: <http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/23/invasive-grasses-as-biofuel-scientists-protest/>

The Colors of Fall: Are Autumn Reds and Golds Passing Us By?

Climate change, land-use change, introduced pests and diseases altering fall foliage



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

The falling leaves drift by the window, the autumn leaves of red and gold ...

It was 1947 when Johnny Mercer wrote the lyrics to the popular song "Autumn Leaves." Sixty-five years ago, Mercer likely didn't think the reds and golds of fall might someday fade. But that's what's beginning to happen in U.S. Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Autumn colors were different there a century, or even a half-century, ago, and they will likely continue to change...

More at: http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=125511&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Warmer Temperatures Make New USDA Plant Zone Map Obsolete

ScienceDaily (Sep. 13, 2012) — Gardeners and landscapers may want to rethink their fall tree plantings.

Warming temperatures have already made the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new cold-weather planting

guidelines obsolete, according to Dr. Nir Krakauer, assistant professor of civil engineering in The City College of New York's Grove School of Engineering. The new USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, which predicts which trees and perennials can survive the winter in a given region, was a long time coming. Temperature boundaries shown in the latest version have shifted northward since the last one appeared in 1990. But the true zones have moved even further, according to Professor Krakauer's calculations. Read more at:

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120913151130.htm>



FYI -- Indian Lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*. In news brief from IDNR.

Request for assistance in determining distribution of new invasive plant found in Lake Vermilion. *Nelumbo nucifera* (sacred or Indian lotus) has been found covering a substantial portion of Lake Vermilion in Danville, IL (just east of Champaign). The recently discovered population is most likely an aquatic garden escapee. Illinois Department of Natural Resources is trying to determine if this is an isolated population or if other populations of this species exist in the state. Some identifying features of the plant: native lotus have yellow petals and nearly round seeds while the exotic lotus has pink or white petals with seeds that are oblong. If you know of a population please contact Cathy McGlynn (cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net), Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership.



Leave Nature Alone? - A blog essay by Stephen Packard

How much meddling with the ecosystem is too much? Or, to look at the flip side, when does "leave it alone" become shameful neglect? This is a report on the white-fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) at Somme Prairie Grove. It's a drama of a threatened species coming back from the brink.

Under modern conditions, neglected populations of this classic prairie species die out. Without our help, this orchid (and many, many species) would soon be gone from the Earth.

My adventure with the orchid began in the late 1970s when I was just starting my career. I got a report that a young fellow had found it in a forest preserve. Rufino Osorio grew up in a rough and crime-ridden inner city neighborhood, but his grandmother in Puerto Rico had introduced him to the love of plants. In Chicago, he figured out that the Montrose Avenue bus would take him to Schiller Woods Forest Preserve along the Des Plaines River. It was an Eden to him, in many ways. But when he found the orchid, he had to tell somebody. Rufino called the Audubon Society, and they put him through to me at the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Read blog at: <http://vestalgrove.blogspot.com/2012/09/leave-nature-alone.html>



Genome Run: Andean Shrub is First New Plant Species Described by its DNA

It took a colorful floral species from South America, *Brunfelsia plowmaniana*, to finally break botany's nomenclatural gene barrier. A flowering shrub from the Andean cloud forests made taxonomic history last month. The plant had puzzled botanists for decades as they endeavored to determine whether or not it was truly an evolutionary newcomer. When its DNA revealed this to be true, researchers made the unprecedented move to include the plant's genetic code in its description as a new species. That decision could open the door to future DNA definitions of new botanical species—and heal a rift in the field of botany. More at:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=new-plant-described-dna>



The Ferns of Southern Illinois

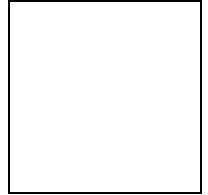
The Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society has created a photo album of ferns on their facebook page. You can view the album at this link (*you do not need a facebook account to view the photos*).

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.482265385137946.107879.175434959154325&type=1&l=60c4f82899>

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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!!!



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