

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

JULY 2015

A few words from the president

Hi Northeast Chapter!

It's almost July but I'm still buzzing from the awesome weekend we had at the INPS Annual Gathering in early June. Around 60 folks from all over the state converged on Forest Glen Preserve in Vermilion County where we set up for the weekend. A number of field trips were offered and I opted for a Saturday hike through Kennekuk County Park that led us from Windfall Prairie Nature Preserve and eventually through Horseshoe Bottoms Nature Preserve.

Windfall was a beautiful, sloping dry prairie remnant that overlooks the Middle Fork River. We saw scarlet Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), pagoda plant (*Blephilia ciliata*), and downy phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) in bloom, to name a few. After stopping there for lunch, we ventured on toward Horseshoe Bottoms and encountered steep terrain, ravines and streams on the way to the black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) and buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) swamp. It was a long, and at times difficult hike but we had a great group and lots of camaraderie.

On Sunday, I went on a tour of two remnant cemetery prairies and it wound up being worth braving some heavy rain and the occasional lightning strike. Prospect Cemetery Prairie in Paxton was beautiful and had both short green milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*) and prairie milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*) along with prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) and porcupine grass (*Stipa spartea*), among countless others. The skies cleared when we headed up to Loda Cemetery Prairie where we saw a number of cool plants including hairyjoint meadowparsnip (*Thaspium barbinode*) and yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*).

My brief descriptions and few cell phone photos don't begin to do justice to these beautiful natural areas (see page 2). They are really spectacular and very much worth the drive down from the Chicago region. In more local

news we're hoping to set up at least one field trip within the Northeast Chapter area for mid to late July and will send out details on that one as they become available – it's been too long since we've had a plant walk and we hope you can join us out there once we figure out a place and time!

Andy

If you received this as a complimentary copy, you may wish to join the Illinois Native Plant Society. Send your name, address, and phone number with a check made out to INPS for

- \$13 Student
- \$20 Individual
- \$20 Institutional (nonvoting)
- \$30 Family
- \$30 Supporting
- \$55 Patron
- \$300 Life

Mail to: INPS, Forest Glen Preserve, 20301 East 900 North Rd, Westville, IL 61883 or visit www.ill-inps.org. Please indicate that your chapter is Northeast.

Join today! Like us on [FaceBook!](#)

Spanish speakers – visit our [Spanish FaceBook page](#)

INPS NE Chapter 2015 Officers:

President: Andy Olnas

Treasurer: Jason Zylka

Secretary: Christina Pierce

Social Media: Daniel Lopez

Newsletter Editor: Linda MacKechnie

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Windfall Prairie



Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*)



Scarlet Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*)



Poke Milkweed (*Asclepias exaltata*)



Short Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*)



New Jersey Tea & Prairie Coreopsis
(*Ceanothus americanus* & *Coreopsis palmata*)

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Native Plant Excursions

Visit our [FaceBook](#) page for more info!

RECENT

INPS Annual Gathering

Friday, June 5, 6:00 pm – Sunday, June 7, 4:30 pm.

Forest Glen Preserve

The Illinois Native Plant Society held the 2015 Annual Gathering at Forest Glen Preserve in Vermillion County, Illinois. Photos from Chris Benda available on the INPS web page (www.ill-inps.org)

UPCOMING

Cook County

Too many to list! Visit the [Forest Park District of Cook County](#) event web page for listings. A sampling includes: Wildflower Walks, Canyon Tours, Gardening (including gardening for pollinators), etc.

Du Page County

Ranger Trek, Meacham Grove

Thursday July 2, 8:30 am – 10:00 am

Learn about history, flora, fauna and forest preserve features on a guided hike. All ages; under 18 with an adult. Free. Register starting two weeks prior at 630-933-7248.

St. James Farm Nature Walks

Saturday July 4, 10:00 am – 11:00 am

View blooming plants on a relaxing 1-mile walk. Ages 5 and up; under 13 with an adult. \$2 per person ages 5 and up; under 5 free. Register by Thursday prior at 630-580-7025.

Lake County

Too many to list! Visit the [Forest Park District of Lake County](#) event web page for listings. A sampling includes Hikes, Invasive Species workshops, and more. A number

of bilingual (English & Spanish) hikes are on the schedule!

Other notable offerings:

Botany for Beginners

Lake in the Hills Fen

Sunday July 26, 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Barb Wilson, Plant monitor at the Fen for 15+ years, will take you to her favorite places to see and learn to identify a wide selection of the over 400 plant species there.

Registration preferred but walk-ins welcome. Call 847 658 0024 or contact:

<http://www.davidschwaegler.com/fen2/email.html>

Other Regional Plant Events

RECENT

Du Page Centennial BioBlitz and Open House

The Du Page BioBlitz was Friday, June 26, 3:00 pm – Saturday, June 27, 3:00 pm. We hope to bring you highlights in the next newsletter.

UPCOMING

Kankakee Torrent Chapter plant sale

Saturday, August 1 at Camp Shaw-waw-nah-see

Check their [website calendar](#) or [facebook](#) page for updates and details.

You may also want to check out [The Outside Calendar](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Workday at the Native Plant Nursery

June 24; July 1, 6, 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Blackwell Native Plant Nursery

Assist with routine nursery activities such as watering, hand weeding, or planting. Registration via phone 5 days in advance at 630-933-7681.

Restoration Workday in the Native Plant Nursery Weekends.

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Volunteers should dress in long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves. **WINTER:** Brush clearing. **SPRING:** Buckthorn control, sow prairie/woodland seeds. **SUMMER:** Garlic mustard management, wild life monitoring, weed management, planting. **FALL:** Brush clearing, seed collection, tree and shrub planting.

Restoration workday coordinator:

[Tom Smith](#), Land Management Technician
Desk: 847-968-3329, cell: 847-276-5379.

[The Habitat Project](#) and [Habitat 2030](#) [ongoing]

Funding Opportunities

USDA seeks partner proposals to protect and restore critical wetlands

From the USDA Office of Communications Release No. 0177.15. WASHINGTON, June 22, 2015 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the availability of \$17.5 million in financial and technical assistance to help eligible conservation partners voluntarily protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands on private and tribal agricultural lands. "USDA has leveraged partnerships to accomplish a great deal on America's wetlands over the past two decades, Vilsack said. "This year's funding will help strengthen these partnerships and achieve greater wetland acreage throughout the nation." For more information, [please follow this link](#).

Policy Notices

Illinois Governor Rauner's Proposal to Close State Museum in Springfield

Chris Young, the spokesman for the Department of Natural Resources, told the State Journal-Register: "The museum will return art objects owned by other entities that currently are on display. Consigned Illinois artisan works also will be returned, as well as scientific collections from other museums and universities that have been borrowed for research purposes. The museum's staff will also be calling back artifacts and specimens that are on loan to other entities for research

and exhibition. At this time, there is no definitive list of objects or collections to be returned. Closure will come after the museum's professional staff has adequate time to ensure that collections are properly accounted for and stored."

You can get more information about the proposed closing ([here](#)), and provide feedback to your State of Illinois representative ([instructions here](#)).

Plant of the Month

Juneberry. Serviceberry. Shadbush. All are common names for this lovely small tree. It is one of several native species of *Amelanchier*. If you are lucky enough to have them growing in your area, you have probably been feasting on the cranberry-sized fruits that are ripe now! The berries are wonderful in pancakes and make a wonderful sauce to top vanilla ice cream. Enjoy!
Linda



Amelanchier arborea (photo from <http://www.motherearthnews.com/>)

Events At A Glance:

July 2	Ranger Trek, Meacham Grove
July 4	St. James Farm Nature Walk
July 26	Botany for Beginners

Please check on our NE-INPS or Facebook pages for late additions to the calendar of events.

Got some great ideas for places to go or plants to see?
Want to hear talks on specific topics?

Send us an email message: [northeast-inps at gmail.com](mailto:northeast-inps@gmail.com)
or write me directly at [lindamprince at gmail.com](mailto:lindamprince@gmail.com)