

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

NOVEMBER 2015

A few words from the president

Fall greetings, Northeast Chapter!

I hope you all are enjoying the season as much as I am. I was up in Waukegan conducting wetland surveys this week and came across a couple cool species, one of which I had never seen before. I was in a marshy area and saw the dried up remains of tufted loosestrife (*Lysimachia thyrsoiflora*), which has a beautiful, fluffy, golden yellow flower around June in the Chicago area. I had only previously seen this one at Kane County Forest Preserves in Batavia and Elburn. The species I'd never positively identified before was common yellow lake sedge (*Carex utriculata*) and there was a good amount of it growing in a colony adjacent to that marsh.

My understanding is that 159 to 193 species of sedge (the genus, *Carex*) grow in Illinois, and they frequently have only subtle differences between one species and the next. It's always cool when you're able to learn a new one and see what it looks like growing in the field. I was lucky enough to check another one off my sedge "life-list" when we saw fen star sedge (*Carex sterilis*) on our native plant walk at Hidden Fen in Glacial Park a few weeks ago. Many thanks to MCCD's Laurie Ryan for showing our group such a cool site and teaching us so many new plants. Please read Daniel Lopez's trip recap from the trip later in the newsletter for a more detailed summary of our walk. A compiled species list will appear in the next newsletter.

Our visit to McHenry County was great and we're already looking forward to returning in 2016! The official field trip season for 2015 is coming to a close, and we're starting to brainstorm trip destinations for next year. We'll be working toward offering field trips more frequently and widespread throughout Northeast Illinois the next growing season and hope that you can join us out in the field! In the interim, keep your eyes peeled for email, newsletter and Facebook notifications, as we're looking to line up some Chapter events over the next few months- we'll keep you posted as those plans take shape!

As late fall and winter approach, one of the best ways to experience our region's great natural areas is to

volunteer your time with a local land management agency. We are fortunate enough to live in an area where we have tens of thousands of acres of natural areas but even the well-funded agencies have only few paid staff that are out there taking care of them. They rely heavily on the efforts of volunteer stewards, and you too can have a great impact in restoring our natural landscape. Please check out the volunteer opportunities section of our newsletter for some possible activities that could be a good fit, and I'd also recommend checking the [Chicago Environmental Network](#) events calendar for something that might interest you, too.

Thanks!

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

- \$15 Student
- \$25 Individual
- \$20 Institutional (nonvoting)
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Supporting
- \$100 Patron
- \$125 Business
- \$500 Life*

*Please note the revised fee schedule for 2016. *Additional Life membership categories provide even greater support for our organization.*

To join, visit www.ill-inps.org. Please indicate that your chapter is Northeast
OR

Mail to: INPS, Forest Glen Preserve, 20301 East 900 North Rd, Westville, IL 61883

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Native Plant Excursions Visit our FaceBook page for more info!

RECENT

NE-INPS Field Trip Hidden Fen, Glacial Park, Richmond. (All photos by Daniel Lopez)

Hi guys, this is Daniel Lopez, the editor of the Illinois Native Plant Society-Northeast Chapter Facebook page. I had the privilege of attending the field trip to Glacial Park around the Hidden Fen area of the park this past month. We saw some new faces at our last field trip, which is always a treat to meet new people interested in the world of native plants. It was nice to see our new friends so interested in the plants that we encountered as they were very curious about almost every plant that we came by. We saw some pretty interesting plants in the mesic prairie around the fen including Rattlesnake Master, giant Prairie Dock, and Culver's root. In the fen portion of the site, there were some exceptionally nice plant finds such as Bottle Gentian, high quality willows and sedges, Michigan Lily, and Blue Lobelia.



Laurie Ryan, providing instruction on Aster (*Symphyotrichum*) ID

We had a great guide, Laurie Ryan, who did a superb job at informing us about the history of the Hidden Fen area. She taught us how to identify many native plants whether they be actively growing or in a dormant state. Identifying native plants when dormant is a great skill to have. I highly recommend anybody interested in refining their plant identification skills attend our future field trips.

Our experienced field guides share a wealth of knowledge with participants. During this trip, Laurie Ryan shared a diversity of information with attendees from general ecological principles through plant ID, and the natural history of the site. We all thoroughly enjoyed the visit and really look forward to our next one, hopefully with more new faces!



Michigan Lily seeds (*Lilium michiganense*)



Sedge identification in progress!

Like us on FaceBook in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)!

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Bottle Gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*)



Swamp Aster (*Symphyotrichum puniceum*)

UPCOMING

Think the season is over now that the weather has turned cooler? Think again! Check out these fantastic plant-centric activities!

Cook County Check out the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's [web page](#) for complete listings.

Turkey Trot Hike

Friday, Nov. 27 • 1 p.m., Trailside Museum Of Natural History, River Forest

Walk off that turkey dinner on a special post-holiday guided hike of nearby trails.

DuPage County

Things are slowing down, but there are still a few guided hikes to be done, like the Ranger Trek on Nov. 14 at Wood Dale Grove. Check out the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's [web page](#) for complete details.

Lake County

You can Walk with a Naturalist or participate in a Guided Hike at least one weekend day all month! Check out the Lake County Forest Preserve's [web page](#) for complete details.

Other Regional Plant Events

UPCOMING

Cook County

Bryophyte Basics

Saturday, Nov. 7, 1:00 p.m., Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont.

Investigate the life cycles of mosses and liverworts with an indoor lecture followed by an identification hike.

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Conifers

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 1:30 p.m., Sand Ridge Nature Center, South Holland

Explore the group of trees that bear cones and, for the most part, keep their leaves through winter.

Winter Tree Identification

Saturday, Nov. 14, 1:00 p.m., Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont.

Use a dichotomous key to identify trees by their twigs and bark.

Lichens: The Coolest Things You've Never Heard Of Ongoing through June 5, 2016, The Field Museum.

This special exhibit is nearly a year old now. If you haven't been, a chilly rainy day might be just the time to visit! Lichens were considered plants until microscopy revealed their true nature, a symbiotic partnership between fungi and algae.

Lake County

Botanical Art Exhibition: Enriching Life Sunday, Nov. 8 through Wed. Dec. 23, 1:00-4:30 p.m., Brushwood Center, Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area.

A display of the finest works of botanical art created over the last year in Brushwood Center's Botanical Art Open Workshop. Each piece in the exhibition has been handpicked by teacher and renowned botanical artist, Heeyoung Kim. There will be an Artist Reception Nov. 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the various Forest Preserve web pages below for a complete listing in each county.

Cook County

Forest Preserve District of Cook County [web page](#). Options include: **Restoration Workdays** (Saturday, Nov. 14, 10:00 a.m. – noon) at the Little Red Schoolhouse

Nature Center (no registration required) or River Trail Nature Center (call 847-824-8360 to register).

Ecological Restoration

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 21, 22, 28, and 29, 9:00 am-12:00 p.m., Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, Lemont.

Invasive species removal. Tools and gloves will be provided! Registration is required.

Prairie Planting

Sunday, Nov. 22, 1:00 p.m., Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills.

Sow the seeds of history in this hands-on program. Hat, gloves, sturdy shoes, long pants and long sleeved shirt recommended. Registration required.

DuPage County

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County [web page](#). Options include: **Restoration Workdays** at various Prairies and Woods, or at the Blackwell Nursery. Register at 630-933-7681 at least five business days prior.

Lake County

Lake County Forest Preserve [web page](#). Options include: **Restoration Workdays** at the Native Seed Nursery or in a variety of communities including Marl Flat, Cuba Marsh, Prairie Wolf Slough and several Woods. Contact the Restoration workday coordinator [Tom Smith](#) to participate. Desk: 847-968-3329, Cell: 847-276-5379.

McHenry County

Ecological Restoration

Saturday, Nov. 14, Glacial Park, Lost Valley Visitor Center

Remove invasive woody vegetation. Bring gloves and eye protection if you have it. Contact Tom Simpson to RSVP at either tsimpson@mccdDistrict.org or (815) 678-4532 ext. 8218.

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

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Conservation/Land Management

Natural Areas Conference 2015 November 3–5, 2015, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Registration is now open for the conference, and early registration ends September 12. The theme is “Conservation Through Collaboration.” The conference includes a number of plenary and special sessions, field trips and workshops. For more information, please follow [this link](#).

Introduction to Prescription Burns Saturday, Nov. 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Herrick Lake

Hear about the how, when and why of the DuPage District’s prescription-burn program, and see a burn in progress, weather permitting. Free. Register by calling (630) 933-7248.



Wild turkeys – photo LMM

Events At A Glance:

Nov. 3–5	Natural Areas Conference
Nov. 7	Bryophyte Basics
Nov. 8-Dec.23	Botanical Art Exhibit
Nov. 11	Conifers
Nov. 14	Winter Tree Identification
Nov. 14	Prescription Burns
Nov. 28	Turkey Trot Hike
Ongoing	Lichens: The Coolest Things

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@gmail.com or write me directly at lindamprince@gmail.com



Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) – photo by LMM



Deciduous woods fall splendor – photo LMM