

# Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

DECEMBER 2015

## *A few words from the president*

I hope you had a nice Thanksgiving and you're poised for an equally good holiday season. With that notable snowfall on November 21, I thought the season for botanizing might become limited to appreciating twigs, bark and evergreen leaves. The following warm up melted off all the snow, though, and gave us at least another few days where we could enjoy what's remaining of this past year's herbaceous plants.

My favorite plant to search for this time of year is sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), and I did just that last weekend while I was home visiting family in Lake Bluff. I made a pilgrimage to the site where I first cut buckthorn and honeysuckle, and I was first introduced to sensitive fern in the wetland that surrounds it. I swapped out my leather boots for some rubber knee boots and went on the hunt.

Sensitive fern is so named because the sterile fronds of the plant are so sensitive to frost that they shrivel up with the first frost of the fall. What remains standing well beyond that first frost (and often into the following growing season) is the fertile frond, which is a beautiful structure that resembles an ornate fiddlehead (see the included photos of the green sterile fronds taken during the growing season, and the brown fertile fronds taken last weekend). To my delight, I came across a number of these beauties on my search and I was glad to see the population doing so well. I'm looking forward to revisiting the site during the growing season where it will likely be a lush, green bed of sensitive fern, with lots of bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), and the occasional monkeyflower (*Mimulus ringens*) and blue flag iris (*Iris virginica* var. *shrevei*).

I hope you can get out and find some of your favorite plants this time of year, too! Check out the upcoming events section in this newsletter for some ideas on how you might enjoy the outdoors, or at least appreciate them from the comfort of the indoors. While the Northeast Chapter hasn't organized a December event yet, we'll be sure to let you know if and when we get our act together and will share the event details as they become available.

Happy holidays!

- 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\*

*\*Additional Life membership categories provide even greater support for our organization.*

*To join, visit [www.ill-inps.org](http://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*

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

*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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Sensitive Fern. Sterile fronds on the left, fertile on the right. Photos by Andy Olnas.

*Native Plant Excursions - Visit our FaceBook page for more info!*

## RECENT

Plant List for the October NE-INPS Field Trip to **Hidden Fen, Glacial Park.**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Allium canadense</i>	Canada wild onion	<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Michigan lily
<i>Allium cernuum</i>	Nodding wild onion	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	Great blue lobelia
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canadian anemone	<i>Lobelia spicata</i>	Palespike lobelia
<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i>	Great angelica	<i>Lycopus americanus</i>	American water horehound
<i>Aster azureus</i>	Sky blue aster	<i>Lycopus uniflorus</i>	Northern bugleweed
<i>Aster laevis</i>	Smooth blue aster	<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>	Fourflower yellow loosestrife
<i>Aster novae-angliae</i>	New England aster	<i>Muhlenbergia mexicana</i>	Mexican muhly
<i>Aster pilosus</i>	Hairy white oldfield aster	<i>Oxypolis rigidior</i>	Stiff cowbane
<i>Aster puniceus</i>	Purplestem aster	<i>Parthenium integrifolium</i>	Wild quinine
<i>Blephilia ciliata</i>	Downy pagoda-plant	<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	Canadian lousewort
<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Fringed brome	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacob's ladder
<i>Cacalia suaveolens</i>	False Indian plantain	<i>Prunus americanus</i>	American plum
<i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>	Bluejoint grass	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Common mountainmint
<i>Carex granularis</i>	Limestone meadow sedge	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i>	Goldenglow
<i>Carex stricta</i>	Tussock sedge	<i>Salix amygdaloides</i>	Peach-leaved willow
<i>Carex sterilis</i>	Fen star sedge	<i>Salix bebbiana</i>	Bebb's willow
<i>Cirsium muticum</i>	Swamp thistle	<i>Salix exigua</i>	Sandbar willow
<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Field horsetail	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem
<i>Eupatorium altissimum</i>	Tall boneset	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	Starry false solomon's seal
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Spotted joe pye weed	<i>Solidago gigantea</i>	Late goldenrod
<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	Common boneset	<i>Solidago graminifolia</i>	Grass-leaved goldenrod
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild strawberry	<i>Solidago riddellii</i>	Riddell's goldenrod
<i>Galium labradoricum</i>	Northern bog bedstraw	<i>Spartina pectinata</i>	Prairie cordgrass
<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>	Bottle gentian	<i>Valeriana ciliata</i>	Common valerian
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	Jerusalem artichoke	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	Blue vervain
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Alum root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root
<i>Impatiens capensis</i>	Orange jewelweed	<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry
<i>Juncus dudleyi</i>	Dudley's rush	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Golden Alexanders
<i>Juncus torreyi</i>	Torrey's rush		

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## UPCOMING

Cook County has a number of hikes including outings at Powderhorn Prairie, Sand Ridge, and around Crabtree Nature Center. Check out the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's [web page](#) for even more ideas.

### DuPage County

There are a number of outdoor activities planned including the West Chicago Prairie Christmas Bird Count (Saturday, Dec. 19) and Snowshoe Hikes at Blackwell Preserve (\$5 fee, [registration required](#)). Check out the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's [web page](#) for additional listings.

### Lake County

Winter Walk Wednesdays are happening at Pine Dunes and Heron Creek this month, or you can Walk with a Naturalist in Raven Glen or Independence Grove. Check out the Lake County Forest Preserve's [web page](#) for complete details.

### McHenry County

There is a hike scheduled for Ryder's Woods on Saturday, Dec. 12, and a number of opportunities to visit Volo Bog (most Saturdays & Sundays). Visit the McHenry County Conservation District [web page](#) for details.

## Other Regional Plant Events

## UPCOMING

### Cook County

If you prefer some indoor activities, you might want to visit the **flower shows** at the Garfield or Lincoln Park Conservatories (ongoing), a **plant propagation** class on succulents offered at Crabtree Nature Center (Saturday, Dec. 5 at 10 a.m. or Dec. 19 at 11 a.m.), or learn about **lichens** at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (followed by a hike; Dec. 5, 1:30 p.m.). Not your cup of tea? Maybe you'll want to check out the special

presentation (and tasting) of [botanical beverages](#) (Sunday, Dec. 20). Visit the Forest Preserve web site for locations and schedule details.

And if you haven't seen the [lichen exhibit](#) at [The Field Museum](#), you can get in **FREE** (Illinois residents) on the following days in December: Saturday, Dec. 5, Sunday Dec. 6, or Sunday Dec. 13.

### DuPage County

[History of Trees in America](#) at The Morton Arboretum on Saturday Dec. 5 (1:00–3:30 p.m.).

### McHenry County

The annual McHenry County **Research Round-up** takes place on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Glacial Park.

Join the folks at Volo Bog State Natural Area for their next monthly meeting "**of Bogs & Books**" (book discussion group, ages 16 and older) on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10:00–11:30 a.m.

### Further Afield

#### **Winter Woody Plant Identification Workshop (pt. 2)**

Sunday, December 13, 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Camp Shaw, 6641 N 6000W Rd, Manteno, IL

This two-part workshop will include an indoor session on the basics of winter woody plant ID and a field session.

Contact [Keith Nowakowski](#) to see if space is still available.

#### **Ecology and Physiology of Plants in Winter:**

##### **Surviving the Big Chill**

Friday, January 8, 9:00 a.m. – Saturday, January 9, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

UWM Field Station, 3095 Blue Goose Road, Saukville, WI

<https://www4.uwm.edu/fieldstation/workshops/winter.cfm>

**2016 Science, Practice & Art of Restoring Native Ecosystems Conference**



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Friday, January 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – Sunday, January 16, 2016, 2:00 p.m.

Kellogg Conference Center, 219 South Harrison Road  
East Lansing, MI

Learn about the anatomical and physiological adaptations that allow temperate and boreal plants to survive low temperatures. **Workshop fee:** \$105.00. Available for 1.4 CEU or 1 college credit. Visit the [conference web site](#) for more information.

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** at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (no registration required) or River Trail Nature Center (call 847-824-8360 to register).

### **Habitat Restoration (Field Museum)**

**Beaubien Woods.** Saturday Dec. 5, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Invasive species removal. Field Museum staff will lead the hike and teach how to identify trees in the winter.

**Eggers Grove** Saturday Dec. 12, 10:00 am–1:00 p.m.

### DuPage County

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County [web page](#).  
Options include: **Restoration Workdays** at various Prairies and Woods. 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 and Cuba Marsh. Contact the Restoration workday coordinator [Tom Smith](#) to participate. Desk: 847-968-3329, Cell: 847-276-5379.

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

## Events At A Glance:

Ongoing	Lichens: The Coolest Things Free Entry Dec. 5, 6, and 13
Ongoing	flower shows
Saturday Dec. 5	History of Trees in America
Saturday Dec. 5	McHenry Co Research Round-up
Saturday, Dec. 5&19	Succulent Plant Propagation
Sunday, Dec. 13	Woody Plant Identification
Sunday, Dec. 20	Botanical beverages
Fri–Sat, Jan 8–9	Surviving the Big Chill
Fri–Sun, Jan 14–16	Restoring Native Ecosystems

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](mailto:northeast-inps@gmail.com) or write me directly at [lindamprince@gmail.com](mailto:lindamprince@gmail.com)

## REMINDER!

If you have not already done so,  
please renew your membership  
subscription today.

And if you are able, make additional  
donations by Dec. 31 to be eligible for  
deduction on your 2015 tax returns.

Any amount is appreciated!