

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

JANUARY 2016

A few words from the president

Late December greetings, Northeast Chapter!

With 2015 winding down, I'd like to take the opportunity to recognize the other chapter officers for their hard work this past year. They all volunteer their time to try to provide our members with regular information about native plants, opportunities to appreciate our region's natural areas, and interesting stories from the field. Their passion for local conservation shines through with their efforts and it's a pleasure to work with people that are so dedicated to the cause. Thank you Daniel, Linda, Christina and Jason for your time and energy this year, and I'm looking forward to another productive year working with you guys in 2016!

That said, we are always looking for other folks that also are interested in native plants, natural areas, ecology, or habitat restoration that might be interested in volunteering with the Northeast Chapter. The Chicago Region is pretty unique in that while we are so densely populated, we have so much land that's protected and managed as natural areas. All those great natural areas represent opportunities to learn about native plants, and in my opinion the biggest thing that holds us back from scheduling more field trips and chapter events is that we're limited in what five volunteers are able to do. For instance, if we had more folks that were able to commit to attending a field trip we schedule, there seems to be no shortage of land managers out there that would love to show an interested group of people the place they work so hard to preserve and restore.

We're also always open to hear ideas about other events that people would be interested in seeing us offer, and we'll try to respond in timely fashion to any suggestions. We've already got some field trip destinations in mind for 2016 and we're looking forward to sharing those details with you as we firm up those plans. We hope you are able to join us out in the field sometime this year, and we'll do our best to set up those plant walks at sites throughout the Chicago Region to make it easier for folks to join us closer to home (even

though our trip destinations are generally cool enough to be well worth a farther drive)!

Thank you so much for your interest and support this past year and we'll look forward to seeing you in 2016. Have a happy and healthy new year!

-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. 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](#)!

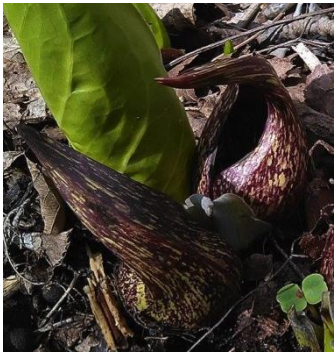
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2015: Year in Review

The Northeast chapter of INPS saw a number of changes in 2015. With a board of mostly new (or new to the region) members, and the resurrection of the monthly newsletter, we kept busy both inside and out. Outings began in January with a trip to **Morton Arboretum** to see the Plant Hunters exhibit and to see if any skunk cabbage was making an early appearance. We also had a fantastic tour of the conservation research labs at The **Chicago Botanic Garden** in February.



Skunk Cabbage
(photo: Daniel Lopez)



Scarlet Indian Paintbrush
(photo: Andy Olnas)

While we didn't see skunk cabbage in January, we did on our trip to **Trout Park Nature Preserve** in April. Additional field trips included **Black Partridge Woods** in April, **Montrose Beach Dunes** (with the great *Utricularia* find) and **Ball Horticultural** restoration areas in August. We rounded out the season with a trip to **Hidden Fen in Glacial Park**. Other noteworthy regional events include the **DuPage County Bioblitz** (see summary) and the annual **INPS gathering at Forest Glen Preserve**.

DuPage County Centennial Bioblitz Summary

We weren't able to coordinate a NE-INPS team to participate in the Bioblitz, but most of you are surely interested in what was found! You can download a copy of the full report [here](#). The bioblitz focused on a cluster of large preserves near Warrenville. Plants (and organisms traditionally treated as plants) were well represented. A total of 439 species were observed

including 6 ferns. The vast majority of the vascular plants observed were native (312 species, 71%). Although the majority of the species documented were vascular plants, none were new to the district. Also found: sixty-four species of lichen, 25 species of mosses and 4 liverworts! A number of these were new to the district. Forty-seven fungi were observed including thirteen species new to the district. This could be interpreted as a reflection of our enthusiasm and dedication to vascular plants. Next time you are out in the woods remember to make note of the ferns, fungi, and non-vascular plants. The list is pretty short. You could learn most of them in a (good) season, and vastly expand our knowledge of the communities you visit! Happy hunting.
- Linda



Common Bladderwort
(photo: Daniel Lopez)



Obedient Plant
(photo: Daniel Lopez)



Sedge identification at Hidden Fen. (photo: Daniel Lopez)

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Native Plant Excursions

Visit our FaceBook page for more info!

UPCOMING

Cook County

Learn weeds in the winter at Crabtree Nature Center (Jan 3) or sharpen your winter tree ID skills by going on a winter hike (Sat Jan 23). Many additional hikes are available. Check out the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's [web page](#) for more ideas.

DuPage County

There are a number of outdoor activities planned including Snowshoe Hikes and Forest Fitness Walks. Check out the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County's [web page](#) for complete listings.

Kane County

There is a Winter Tree Identification workshop (Jan 30) at Creek Bend Nature Center that includes an indoor and field component. Download the latest [Tree Line Newsletter](#) for more information.

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, McDonald Woods, or Independence Grove. Check out the Lake County Forest Preserve's [web page](#) for complete details.

McHenry County

There are a number of opportunities to visit Volo Bog (most Saturdays & Sundays). Visit the McHenry County Conservation District [web page](#) for details.

Cook County

Check out a Master Gardener workshop on planting perennial peonies (Tue, Jan 12) or forcing winter branches (Sat Jan 23, 30, and 31). Learn about **starting native seeds** at the Trailside Museum of Natural History (Sat Jan 16). Visit the Forest Preserve web site for locations and schedule details.

Don't forget to check out the [lichen exhibit](#) at [The Field Museum](#).

7th Annual MLK [Food Justice and Sustainability](#)

Weekend will be held Jan 15-17 at KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation. This year the focus is on climate change and native food. There are a number of great talks including ones on native plants and pollinators. If you are available to help staff our NE-INPS booth, please contact Jason Zylka at jasonzylka@yahoo.com.

Kane County

Consider joining the new Nature Book Group for a chance to discuss ecology, conservation and more. A list of the current reading and meeting schedule is available in the [Tree Line Newsletter](#). First up in 2016 is *The Nature Principle* by Richard Louv on Feb 17.

McHenry County

There will be a rugged, [off-trail hike](#) in Glacial Park South (Jan 30) to see recent the effects of recent resource and wildlife management actions.

Further Afield

Ecology and Physiology of Plants in Winter: Surviving the Big Chill

Friday, Jan 8, 9:00 a.m. – Saturday, Jan 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

Friday, Jan 15, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – Saturday, Jan 16, 2016,

Other Regional Plant Events

UPCOMING

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2:00 p.m. [\[corrected dates\]](#)

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).

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.

Kane County

Restoration Workdays at Creek Bend Nature Center at the LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve on Sat Jan 16 and Feb 13. Call 630-444-3190 or email programs@kaneforest.com to register.

Lake County

Lake County Forest Preserve [web page](#).
Options include: **Restoration Workdays** at the Native Seed Nursery or in a variety of communities. 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 |
| Sun Jan 3 | Winter Weeds |
| Fri–Sat, Jan 8–9 | Surviving the Big Chill |
| Tue Jan 12 | Planting Perennial Peonies |
| Fri–Sat, Jan 15–16 | Restoring Native Ecosystems |
| Fri–Sun, Jan 15–17 | Food Justice & Sustainability |
| Sat Jan 16 | Native Seed Starting |
| Sat Jan 23, 30 & 31 | Forcing Winter Branches |
| Sat Jan 30 | Winter Tree ID Hike |
| Sat Jan 30 | Glacial Park South Hike |

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

REMINDER!

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

And if you are able, make additional donations.
Any amount is appreciated!

INPS NE Chapter 2016 Officers:
President: Andy Olnas
Treasurer: Jason Zylka
Secretary: Christina Pierce
Social Media: Daniel Lopez
Newsletter Editor: Linda MacKechnie