

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

MARCH 2016

A few words from the president

Hi Northeast Chapter!

I hope March is treating you well so far. This morning I noticed that daffodils are starting to poke out of the ground outside my apartment here in Urbana and I heard some calls from red-winged blackbirds and a cardinal, too. I'm betting that the Chicago region isn't far off from these signs of spring, if you haven't observed them already- I have seen photos that show Chicago area skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) is already on its way up! Check out the attached photos of one of my favorite patches of skunk cabbage from a few years back, this one at Grunwald Farms Forest Preserve in Elburn (Kane County).



In addition to those natural signs of spring, I'm always made aware of this season by the numerous seasonal job announcements posted for positions working in natural resources. Instead of talking at length about how fortunate we are to have so many opportunities for employment in our field in the Chicago region (which I tend to do often) I'd like to highlight a current opening for a job I had a while back that went a long way toward exposing me to the plants of Illinois.

In the summer before I graduated from college, I worked as a field assistant to professional botanists of the Critical Trends Assessment Program of the Illinois Natural History Survey. We traveled throughout the state from May through August and conducted plant surveys (identifying plants to species and quantifying their abundance) in forests, wetlands and grasslands. I learned a ton of new plants, got to travel all over Illinois for the first time, and was able to add items to my resume that I know helped me get each of my jobs thereafter. I'd highly recommend it as great summer job for anyone that likes plants, traveling, and field work. Champaign-Urbana is a nice place to spend a summer and it's pretty easy to find a place to sublet. Additional information can be found at the following link and please forward it to anyone who might be interested: [Assistant Botanist Position](#).

One last sign that spring is almost here is that we're offering our first field trip of the season, a winter tree identification workshop and hike. We're calling it a winter tree ID hike because we'll focus on teaching some twig, bud, and bark features that can help folks identify trees to species without the help of leaves. Clear your calendar for a **March 26 hike at 1 PM!** We are finalizing our destination and will send that information out in an email to the Chapter once we get that straightened out. We hope you can join us and please stay tuned for info on more events to come!

– Andy

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Survey Says...

What do you want from your Northeast Chapter? More field trips? Additional content in your monthly newsletter? We will be sending out a survey in the next week to gather input on how we can best serve our members and the Chicagoland area. Please watch your email for a link to the survey and take a few moments to help us improve our Chapter.

In The News

[Illinois Exotic Weed Act](#)

Effective 1 February 2016, it is illegal (except by permit) to buy, sell or distribute plants identified on an updated listed of exotic weeds.



Lonicera japonica
(www.fcps.edu)



Lonicera reticulata
(www.illinoiswildflowers.info)

The complete list is provided here:

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), saw-toothed buckthorn (*Rhamnus arguta*), dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*), Japanese buckthorn (*Rhamnus japonica*), Chinese buckthorn (*Rhamnus utilis*), kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*), exotic bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera*

maackii, *Lonicera tatarica*, *Lonicera morrowii*, and *Lonicera fragrantissima*), exotic olives (*Elaeagnus umbellata*, *Elaeagnus pungens*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*), salt cedar (all members of the *Tamarix* genus), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), giant hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), and lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), teasel (all members of the *Dipsacus* genus), and Japanese, giant, and Bohemian knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*, syn. *Polygonum cuspidatum*; *Fallopia sachalinensis*; and *Fallopia x bohémica*).

Native Plant Excursions

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

UPCOMING

TBD! The first NE INPS Field Trip of the season! We are planning a **Winter Tree ID walk for March 26**. Watch the Facebook pages for more information.

Cook County

With spring in the air, learn about sugaring (maple syrup making) at the River Trail Nature Center on Mar 5, 6, 12, 13, 19 or 20. Check out the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's [web page](#) for more ideas.

DuPage County

Have a sweet time on [Maple Syrup Sunday](#) at Fullersburg Woods (March 13). \$10 fee. Visit the [DuPage County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

Kane County

You can learn about maple sugaring on a hike in LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve on March 12 & 13. Hike Big Rock Preserve in search of Skunk Cabbage on Mar 26. Get a preview of spring wildflowers on Thursday March 3 (10 am–12 pm) in the Creek Bend Nature Center, and if the weather is good, head outside to see what's already up. Other early season walks include the Sugarin' Time hike (March 12-13) or a hunt for skunk Cabbage (on

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March 26). Download the latest [Tree Line Newsletter](#) for more information.

Lake County

Spring is in the air with a number of Maple Syrup hikes! Visit the [Lake County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

Other Regional Plant Events

UPCOMING

Cook County

[The Orchid Show](#) at The Chicago Botanic Garden, Through March 13. A number of special events are associated with this annual event.

[Chicago Flower & Garden Show](#) (March 12–March 20) at the Navy Pier.

Need more maple? Head to the Taste of Maple Syrup Fest on Mar 17 or the 44th Annual Maple Festival on Mar 20. Learn about garden design that is environmentally friendly (Mar 6). Get recommendations on replacement species for your ailing Ash tree (Mar 12). Spring hikes abound. Visit the [Cook County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

INPS President **Chris Benda** is the keynote speaker on Saturday, March 19th at The Field Museum as part of their Volunteer Appreciation Day (presented by the Habitat Restoration Program)! Contact [Robb Telfer](#) for more information.

Peggy Notebaert Museum. Get in free on Saturday March 12 by signing up through the Smithsonian Institution's [Museum Day Live](#) webpage!

DuPage County

[Plant Hunters](#) at Morton Arboretum. Last call! This special exhibit closes March 31. While you are there, stop by the [Sensational Seeds](#) tabletop tour. You can even get in free on Saturday March 12 by signing up

through the Smithsonian Institution's [Museum Day Live](#) webpage!

Further Afield

Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium

Native Landscapes: Landscaping with Natives

Fri April 1 – Sun April 3, 2016.

700 Logan College Dr, Carterville, IL 62918

This symposium focuses on native plants in the landscape at a variety of levels (in natural areas, around the home, etc.). Co-sponsored by INPS, Southern Illinois University, and U of Illinois Extension Service. Pre-registration required closing on March 27. **NO ONSITE OR WALK-IN REGISTRATION.** Visit this [website](#) for more information.

Society for Ecological Restoration – Midwest Chapter

Overcoming Challenges to Ecological Restoration in the 21st Century.

Fri April 1 – Sun April 3, 2016.

This year the SER Midwest Chapter meets at Indiana University in Bloomington. The three day meeting includes two plenary sessions focusing on restoration challenges and partnerships, three symposia, and two workshops (one on sedge ID and the other on data quality control check). Registration is required, and early bird registration closes March 17. For more information, follow this [link](#).

Illinois Invasive Species Symposium

(more information in future newsletters)

Thursday May 26, 9:30 am–4 pm

Champaign, IL

INPS Annual Gathering

June 3–5, 2016.

Carbondale, IL

This year the annual gathering is being hosted by the Southern Chapter of INPS!

24th North American Prairie Conference

From Cemetery Prairies to National Tallgrass Prairies.

July 17–20, 2016.

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

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Four days and over 70 presentations covering many aspects of prairie ecology, restoration, management, and more. Registration required. Early registration deadline is July 1, 2016.

For more information, follow this [link](#).

Virtual Events

The Great Basin Fire Science Exchange (Reno, NV) is coordinating a **webinar series** based on the National Seed Strategy moniker to *put the right seed in the right place at the right time!* The series runs from January to May with 3-4 presentations per month. Although the series is run out of Reno, several of the themes are universal for land managers and may be of interest:

March – Pollinators and Insect Predators

April – Seed Production, Purchase, and Contracting

For more information, please visit the BGFSE [website](#).

Selecting the Right Native Seed for your Restoration Project (webinar). Wednesday March 9, 12–1 pm. Ohio Prairie Nursery experts, David Riddell, Bob Kehres, and Jennifer Davit will speak on native seed selection. Topics covered will include: pure live seed – vs- bulk seed, habitat creation, regionally adapted species, species selection, nurse crops, and fitting a native seed mix into a budget. They will also highlight site preparation, installation, and management techniques to ensure a successful project! Offered through the Society for Ecological Restoration. Register [here](#).

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the various Forest Preserve web pages for listings 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).

Plants of Concern Training Workshop.

Saturday March 19, April 9, or Sunday April 24, 9:30 am–3:00 pm. For more information or to register, visit [Plants of Concern](#).

Beaubien Woods Habitat Restoration on March 5 and Egger Grove Habitat Restoration on March 12 (10:00 am–1 pm). Sponsored by The Field Museum. More information is available [here](#).

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

Help out in the native plant gardens at Creek Bend Nature Center (Saturday, March 26; 1:30-2:30). 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]

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Events At A Glance:

Most Weekends	Maple Syrup hikes
March 26	NE-INPS Winter Tree ID walk
Thru March 13	The Orchid Show
March 13-20	The Chicago Flower Show
Thru March 31	Plant Hunters
April 1-3	Indigenous Plants Symposium
April 1-3	SER – Midwest Chapter
May 26	IL Invasive Species Symposium
June 3-5	INPS Annual Gathering
July 17-20	24 th NA Prairie Conference

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

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: Illinois Native Plant Society,
Membership, P.O. ox 271, Carbondale, IL
62903-0271*

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

INPS NE Chapter 2016 Officers:

President: Andy Olnas

Treasurer: Jason Zylka

Secretary: Christina Pierce

Social Media: Daniel Lopez

Newsletter Editor: Linda MacKechnie