



The Shooting Star

NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

January 2012

“...dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois.”

Message from the Board Please become an INPS member!

It has been quite a year our chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society. We would like to take a moment to highlight this past year's accomplishments.

Last February, we hosted a dynamic speaker of national interest. Dr. Doug Tallamy, author of the acclaimed book *Bringing Nature Home: How to Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants*, came to Southern Illinois University to spread the word about the importance of using native plants in private landscaping. No yard is too small and you can do your part by creating habitat that supports native animals and healthy food webs simply by gardening with native plants.

Additionally, INPS Central Chapter member Ken Schaal traveled from Hillsboro, Illinois to give a presentation about his 30-year old prairie restoration and our favorite naturalist John Schwegman gave a talk and an outing regarding Rare and Little Known Plants of Illinois.

The year culminated with a big 30th anniversary celebration at Camp Ondessonk in Ozark, Illinois. Larry Stritch, National Botanist for the US Forest Service, gave the keynote address and local plant biologists led outings to many of the spectacular natural areas in southern Illinois. The event was also a very successful fundraiser for our local chapter. Many thanks to all who made it a success!

We also have another big year planned for 2012! We will feature programs from professionals, graduate students, and amateurs. The goal is to have one program and one outing each month. In the spring, we will hold a social at a local state park. The goal will be to get people outside to make new connections with fellow plant enthusiasts and others in the local conservation community. We also received a grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to print southern Illinois wildflower posters and to hold two sedge identification workshops! We hope to hold the workshops in May and August. Please look for more details in the near future.

Great things are planned for the upcoming year and we want you to be a part of it! Please consider joining or renewing your membership in the Illinois Native Plant Society! Application is on page 5.



Do you like Southern Illinois Natural Areas? Please see our web album on our facebook page featuring photos of many of the premier natural areas of our area! Copy the web address below into your internet browser and you can view the photo albums without having to sign up...or if you have a facebook profile, please click on the “like” button to add to your favorite pages. www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants



INPS JANUARY PROGRAM



We are please to present Damon B. Lesmeister, SIU graduate student, to present a program titled “Potential Conservation Conflict Through Forest Restoration Practices: Eastern Spotted Skunks and Red-cockaded Woodpeckers”

January 17, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall (please enter through the back alley)

Although examples are rare, conflicts between species of conservation concern can result from habitat restoration that modifies habitat to benefit a single taxon. A forest restoration program designed to enhance habitat for endangered red-cockaded woodpeckers (*Picoides borealis*) may be reducing available habitat for the eastern spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), a forest-adapted sympatric species of conservation concern that occurs in the Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas. At small scales, eastern spotted skunks select early successional forest with structural diversity, whereas red-cockaded woodpeckers prefer mature pine (*Pinus* spp.) habitat. We surveyed for eastern spotted skunks at 50 managed forest stands, modeled occupancy as a function of landscape-level habitat factors to examine how features of restoration practices influenced occurrence, and compared known occupied forest stands to those where active red-cockaded woodpecker nesting clusters were located. The most-supported occupancy models contained forest stand age (negatively associated) and size (positively associated); suggesting eastern spotted skunks primarily occupy large patches of habitat with dense understory and overhead cover. Red-cockaded woodpecker nesting clusters were located in smaller and older forest stands. These results suggest that increased overhead cover, which can



reduce risk of avian predation, enhances occupancy by small forest carnivores such as eastern spotted skunks. Management activities may enhance the value of habitat for red-cockaded woodpeckers, but may reduce the occurrence of eastern spotted skunks.

BIOGRAPHY: Damon received a BS degree in Biology from the University of Central Missouri and a MS degree in Wildlife Science from the University of Missouri. He is currently a PhD candidate in the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory, Zoology department at SIU. His research focuses the relative importance of bottom-up (habitat) and top-down (interspecific interactions) forces in structuring the carnivore community in southern Illinois. He expects to graduate in 2012 and move on for a post-doctoral position.



JANUARY OUTING



No outing scheduled for January

Past Event

2011 Holiday Dinner

Another year has come and gone and that is reason to celebrate! This December was our 3rd annual Holiday Dinner! This year's social was hosted by Jerry and Judy Demspey at their home near Pomona, Illinois. Lasagna was the featured dish along with garlic bread, salad, and many delicious desserts. Jerry made us all laugh by impersonating Elvis with a fake ID and Rob Rothrock provided refreshments to take the edge off! It was a nice, warm, and sunny afternoon for sharing with good friends and good food. Thank you to our hosts and we look forward to next year's event!



Related January Events

- January 1st: Sierra Club presents Polar Bear Alert! Brave the Cold! Defy the Elements! from 11am to 3pm at Shelter No. 2 in beautiful Giant City State Park for a potluck picnic featuring hot soup to warm your cold hands! This event is free and open to the public. Call Barb at 529-4824 for more details.
- January 15th: Sierra Club hosts a hike at Wolfe Creek Scenic Area near Pomona, IL from 12:30pm to 4pm. This site is private. RSVP required to Bob Tyson at 618-684-5643.
- January 16th: Shawnee Audubon presents "Turkeys, Bobwhites, and Grassland Birds in Illinois" by Dr. Clay Nielson, SIU professor, from 7pm to 9pm at the Carbondale Township Hall.
- January 28th: Four times between February and June, volunteers gear up with thermometers, clipboards, and data sheets to venture out into the evening to conduct frog and toad audible surveys in the Cache River watershed. Volunteers who want to take part in this state wide monitoring program can join us at this orientation from 1pm to 3pm to learn more about the population trends of Illinois' frogs & toads. For more information, call the Cache River Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.

Visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm> for more!

2012 SINPS Ballot

ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SOUTHERN CHAPTER 2012 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Term length = 1 year Jan - Dec

PRESIDENT – Chris Benda (incumbent) or _____(write in vote)_____

VICE - PRESIDENT – Chris Evans (incumbent) or _____(write in vote)_____

TREASURER – Rhonda Rothrock (incumbent) or _____(write in vote)_____

SECRETARY – Karla Gage

BIOGRAPHY: Karla Gage is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in plant ecology at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, where she studies the ecology and fitness implications of herbicide resistance in the agronomic weed *Conyza canadensis* (marehail or horseweed). She received her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Biology from the University of Memphis in 2000 and 2006, where she developed a love for plants in the bottomland hardwood forests of West Tennessee, while doing vegetation surveys along the Wolf and Forked Deer Rivers as an undergraduate. She enjoys research and teaching, and has taught Environmental Issues in the Contemporary World and Principles of Ecology at SIUC.



She is a member of the Illinois Native Plant Society, the SIUC Restoration Club, and the Ecological Society of America. She plans to pursue a career in invasive plant management in natural environments with the goal of preserving the biological diversity of native species. She resides in Carbondale with her husband, Philip Harville, twin daughters, Mayah and Norah, and three cats.



AT-LARGE MEMBER – Nancy Garwood (incumbent) or _____(write in vote)_____

AT-LARGE MEMBER – Jody Shimp (incumbent) or _____(write in vote)_____

Profiles for incumbent board members can be found online on our facebook page in the INPS BOARD MEMBERS photo album, www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants



Join us!

- New member
- Renewal
- Address Change only

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Dr. _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____ Membership Year _____
Email _____

Check here if you want to receive newsletters by email*

Membership Categories

- Student.....\$13.00
- Individual.....\$20.00
- Family (new category).....\$30.00
- Institutional (nonvoting).....\$20.00
- Supporting.....\$30.00
- Patron.....\$55.00
- Life.....\$300.00

Chapter Affiliation

- Central (Springfield)
- Forest Glen (Westville)
- Northeast (Chicago)
- Southern (Carbondale)
- Quad City (Rock Island)
- Irene Cull (Peoria)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society
This membership application / renewal form is intended to be folded in thirds with a check enclosed and stapled shut or use a label sticker or just use an envelope!

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!!!

Membership Benefits include:

- Quarterly issues of The Harbinger - the statewide newsletter
- One yearly issue of Erigenia - the official journal of the Illinois Native Plant Society
- Your chapter's newsletter with pretty wildflower photos and valuable information regarding plant conservation and events
- An invitation to the Annual INPS Meeting
- A vote on official Society business

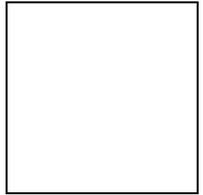


Dodecatheon frenchii

Place
postage
here

Illinois Native Plant Society - Southern Chapter
P.O. Box 271
Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
P.O. Box 271
Carbondale, IL 62903-0271



southernillinoisplants@gmail.com
www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Chris Benda
Vice-President: Chris Evans
Secretary: Sara Koropchak
Treasurer: Rhonda Rothrock
At-large: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Jody Shimp



Special thanks to Judy and Jerry Dempsey for hosting this year's Holiday Dinner!

INPS 2011 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
January 17 th	- Damon Lesmeister	<i>Conflicts in Conservation</i>	CTH
February 21 st	- Dr. Doug Tallamy	<i>Replay slideshow talk from Feb 2011</i>	CTH

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012.

Past Events:

November 13 th	- Chris Benda	<i>Stoneface hike</i>	Stoneface NA
December 11 th	- Judy and Jerry Dempsey	<i>Holiday Dinner</i>	4648 Hwy 127

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

Acid Rain Poses a Previously Unrecognized Threat to Great Lakes Sugar Maples

The number of sugar maples in Upper Great Lakes forests is likely to decline in coming decades, according to University of Michigan ecologists and their colleagues, due to a previously unrecognized threat from a familiar enemy: Acid rain. Read full story at http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=122644