



The Shooting Star

NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

February 2012

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

Where have all the honey bees gone?

The following is based on a lecture by Dr. May Berenbaum hosted by the Southern Illinois Audubon on January 28th, 2012 about the colony collapse disorder of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*).

I went to a lecture by Dr. Berenbaum because I wondered where have all the honey bees gone? Their importance to the ecosystem is well understood, and care about them, almost everyone would.

Some seek to exploit them just to make money, others know the true value of their honey. Easy to domesticate, they are magical pollinators, and the word made it all the way to the legislature.

“Oh tell us how to reverse the damage!” they cried along to that old adage. Hysteria was unleashed and Bee-apocalypse it was called, all were looking for the problem to be solved. So the scientific experts were all called in, knowing it could be due to anything, including pollen. There were certain things they knew it was not, like cell phones, aliens, or the ozone rot.

More likely culprits included insecticides, parasites, and neo-nicotinoids, so studies were designed for those to avoid.

The results failed to provide the answer, the evidence was as hard to pin down as a skilled tap dancer.

Could it be a problem with their enzymes? Can they not metabolize the pesticides? Although honey bees evolved in a chemically benign world, man-made influences could not be curtailed.

Along came the viral meta-genomic analysis, and perhaps with it a solution to the crisis. Interaction between viruses and ribosomal RNA the data did yell, because they are the protein factories of the cell.

Ribosoma-what! The press could not understand, the quest for logic, they continued to ban.

Unfortunately, the reason is still not clear, but I'll let you know more information I hear.

Poem by Chris Benda



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 FEBRUARY OUTING



Please join the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society for a tree identification workshop led by SIU Forestry student Josh Nickelson!

February 4th, 2012 at 1:00pm on the campus of Southern Illinois University (meet under the breezeway of the Ag bldg.)

Meet at 1:00pm under the breezeway of the Ag building to learn how to identify some of the over 140 species of trees that occur on the beautiful SIU campus, by characteristics other than leaves (leaf scars, bark, etc). All are welcome and the event is free.



BIOGRAPHY: Josh is a senior from Pleasant Plains, Illinois studying at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in Forestry with a specialization in forest hydrology. His love of the outdoors and appreciation of flora and fauna led him to the diverse forests of Southern Illinois to further his education after high school. Upon graduating in May, Josh plans on starting graduate work here at SIU and hopes to serve as a teacher's assistant in Forestry 202 (Tree Identification Lab). He is active in the forestry department and is currently the Forestry Club President. Josh served as a tutor for two students in Tree Identification last fall and is very knowledgeable in dendrology.



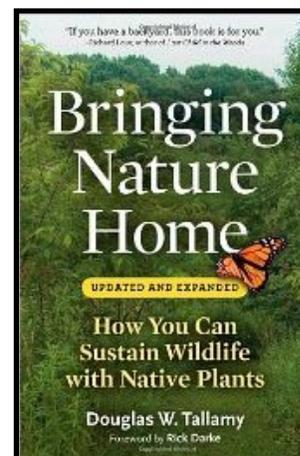
FEBRUARY PROGRAM



Please join us for a video showing of the presentation by Dr. Doug Tallamy from last year!!! All are welcome and the event is free.

February 21st, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall (please enter from the back alley)

If you missed this event last year, this is your chance to see this wonderful presentation by a dynamic speaker of national interest! The talk stresses the importance of using native plants and is well illustrated. We recorded the slideshow and audio from the presentation by Dr. Doug Tallamy that was held last February. Dr. Tallamy is the author of the acclaimed book **“Bringing Nature Home – How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants”** and is professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology and Director of the Center for Managed Ecosystems at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware, where he has authored 73 research articles and has taught Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, and other courses for over 20 years. His book was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 Silver Medal by the Garden Writer's Association.





A snowy, rocky, winter scene at Simpson Township Barrens from February 2011..

Related February Events

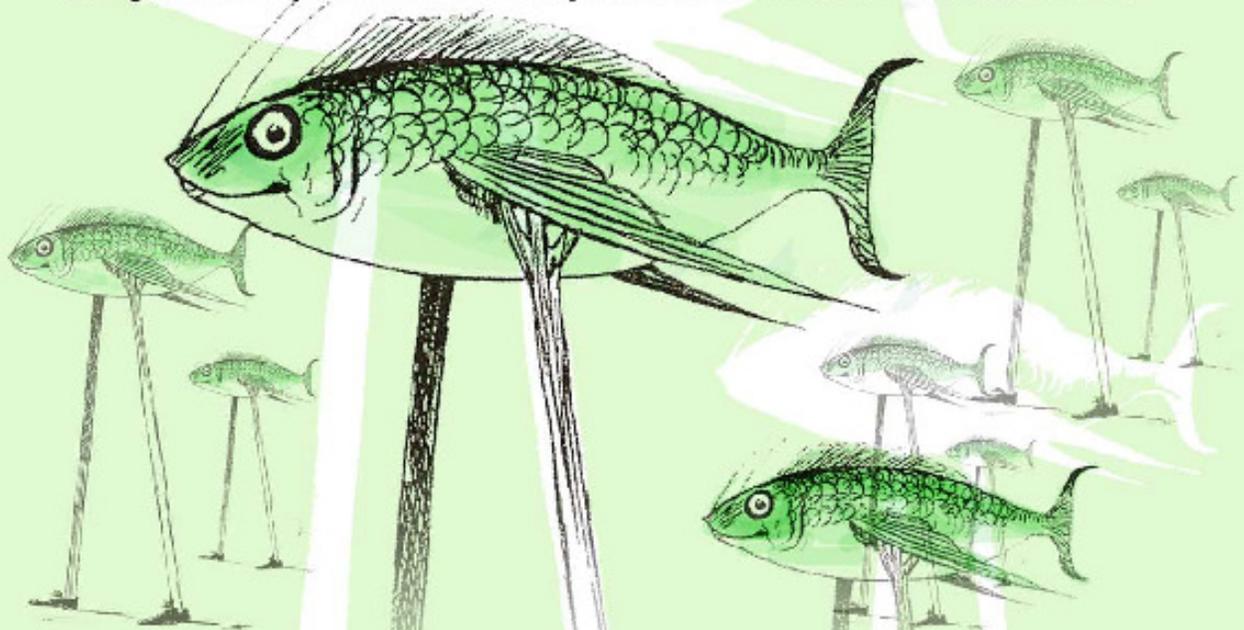
- February 2nd: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director, Marc Miller, will be in southern Illinois on for a forum entitled: Envisioning a Healthy, Sustainable DNR. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. The meeting will take place at 7:00 pm at John A. Logan College, Building H, Room 127.
- February 4th: Exploring Alaska and the Inside Passage, a bio-travelogue with biologists Michael Jeffords and Susan Post through their journey to Alaska and the Inside Passage via stunning photos and firsthand accounts from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the Cache River Wetlands Center in Cypress. For more information, call (618) 657-2064.
- February 6th: Forestry graduate seminar series hosts a presentation by Dr. John Groninger titled "Community Based Natural Resource Management in Afghanistan" from 12:00 - 12:50 in room 209 of the Ag bldg at SIU.
- February 7th: The Friends of the Cache River Watershed will hold a board meeting at 7:00pm at the Shawnee National Forest Hidden Springs District office in Vienna, Illinois.
- February 18th: Home Sweet Home! Learn how to build a bird nesting box and learn how to identify bird species based on nest construction. Event will take place at the Cache River Wetlands Center from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. For more information, call (618) 657-2064.
- February 23rd: The Science Center of Southern Illinois will present the spring series of Science Cafés beginning with the presentation of "Unraveling a Mystery: 2010-2011 Excavations at the Hickory Hill Site in southern Illinois," at 7:00 pm in the Science Center in University Mall. Mark Wagner, of the SIU Carbondale Center for Archeological Investigations, will discuss the "Crenshaw House" -- a site also known as the "Old Slave House" -- which was owned by the Crenshaw family (1834-1864). Admission to the event is free and a complimentary cup of coffee will be provided by Gloria Jean's.
- February 25th: "Prehistoric Peoples of Southern Illinois and how they lived" from 10:00 am to 11:30am at the Cache River Wetlands Center in Cypress. For more information, call (618) 657-2064.

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

The Darwin Day Foundation and the University Honors Program Present
SPRING 2012 UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM LECTURE SERIES
Free and open to the public | Sign-language interpreted

“Nonsense on Stilts”

why it's important to separate science from bunk”



MASSIMO PIGLIUCCI

AUTHOR, PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY, EDITOR OF *PHILOSOPHY & THEORY IN BIOLOGY*

Thursday, February 9th @ 7:30pm
Student Center Auditorium

SUMMARY: "Science is the most effective way humanity has invented to discover how the universe works. And yet it is much abused and vilified, largely by people who either dismiss it in favor of some fuzzy mystical notion or by those who wish to abuse it to advance their own political or social agenda. It is very important for our personal lives and for the benefit of our open society to be able to tell science from bunk, to see why alleged scientific "controversies" (evolution, global warming, HIV-AIDS connection, vaccines and autism link) are indeed, as philosopher Jeremy Bentham famously put it, nonsense on stilts."

University Honors Program

Morris Library 110 | 453.2824 | www.honors.siu.edu

Co-sponsored by:

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SIU Southern Illinois University
carbondale



Spring-blooming marsh marigolds (*Caltha palustris*) are common in Isle Royale's wetter areas

The Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Association (IRKPA) is sponsoring its sixth

ISLE ROYALE BOTANY WORKSHOP!

11-16 June 2012

Experience four days in Lake Superior's Isle Royale National Park and learn to identify the diverse native plants of this incredible island!

- This special botany workshop is open to anyone with beginning/intermediate knowledge of plant identification who would like to learn to identify the early season plants of Isle Royale. You'll learn to use such tools as a dichotomous key and hand lens to identify plants. Plant communities, rare species, ecology, and invasive species will be discussed.
- The instructor, botanist Janet Marr, has had many years of experience studying plants across Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Isle Royale. She is co-author of Island Life, an Isle Royale Nature Guide recently published by IRKPA. Janet has taught five Isle Royale botany workshops as well as many botany, aquatic, and wetland plant workshops in Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula.
- Workshop activities will take place primarily outdoors. Field trips will be in the vicinity of Rock Harbor and will include Tobin Harbor, Scoville Point, and Raspberry Island. You should be able to walk up to seven miles a day with a daypack sometimes on steep, rocky trails and slippery bedrock shore.
- Participants may camp for free at a Rock Harbor group site, or stay in the Rock Harbor Lodge or housekeeping units at their own expense.

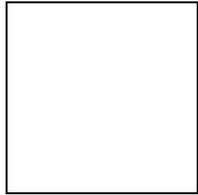
Botany Workshop fee:

- Total cost for the botany workshop is US\$675 per person if registered by March 5, 2012 (\$25 discount for IRKPA members; see <http://irkpa.org/> for information on becoming an IRKPA member).
- After March 5, 2012 the cost is \$699 (\$25 discount for IRKPA members).
- A \$200 deposit is required in reserve your place in the workshop and may be sent to the Isle Royale & Keweenaw Parks Assoc., Attn: Kristine Bradof, 800 East Lakeshore Dr., Houghton, MI. The balance is due by April 17, 2012.
- A cancellation fee of \$75 will be charged for cancellations between May 1 and May 31, 2012. There will be no refund for cancellations made on or after June 1, 2012.
- Workshop fee covers instruction, camping, meals on the island, and transportation to and from Houghton, Michigan, on the Ranger III (participants may travel from Grand Portage, Minnesota, on the Voyager at their own expense).

Enrollment is limited to 12 participants so be sure to register soon to guarantee a spot in the workshop. Contact Kristine Bradof at 906-482-7860 or kbradof@irkpa.org for more information.

A four-day long photography workshop taught by professional photographer Bob Guiliani immediately follows the botany workshop. Contact Kristine Bradof at 906-482-7860 or kbradof@irkpa.org for information on the photography workshop.

INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French’s Shooting Star

Board Members

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



Special thanks to **Damon Lesmeister** for presenting the program
“**Conflicts in Conservation**” at January’s monthly meeting!

INPS 2011 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events: SPEAKER PROGRAM LOCATION

February 4th – Josh Nickelson *Winter Tree ID* SIU campus, Ag bldg.

February 21st – Dr. Doug Tallamy *Replay slideshow talk from Feb 2011* CTH

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012.

Past Events:

November 13th – Chris Benda *Stoneface hike* Stoneface NA

December 11th – Judy and Jerry Dempsey *Holiday Dinner* 4648 Hwy 127

January 17th – Damon Lesmeister *Conflicts in Conservation* CTH

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

Scotts and National Wildlife Federation: Toxic Partners? For the past few days, the National Wildlife Federation - who describe themselves as working “to inspire Americans to protect wildlife for our children’s future” - has been weathering a firestorm of criticism for their decision to partner with Scotts Miracle-Gro - who describe themselves as “the world’s largest marketer of branded consumer lawn and garden products.” This might seem like a natural fit, until you realize that a significant portion of those branded consumer lawn and garden products are toxic environmental pollutants. Read the article here
<http://nativeplantwildlifegarden.com/scotts-and-national-wildlife-federation-toxic-partners/>