



The Shooting Star

NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

March 2012

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

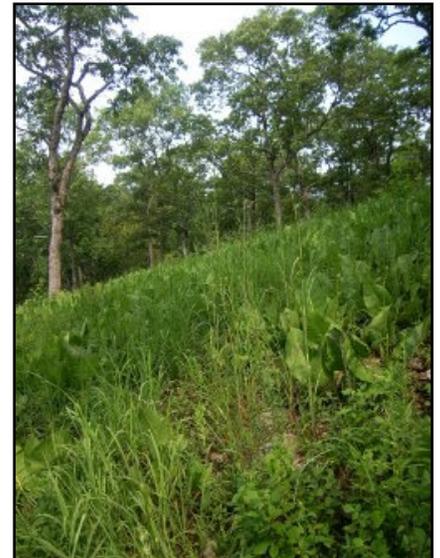
A Message from the Board of Directors

Do you like to explore the woodlands, wetlands, glades, and cliffs of southern Illinois? Then our upcoming March events are for you! Southern Illinois is blessed with more public land than any other part of the state from the Shawnee National Forest to the Cache River State Natural Area to the Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge. These areas and more display the remarkable diversity and incredible beauty found at the extreme southern tip of Illinois.

Most of us have heard of the Garden of the Gods, Heron Pond, and Little Grand Canyon, yet there are acres and acres of hidden canyons, scenic waterfalls, and undisturbed natural communities scattered about southern Illinois. Prairie-like limestone glades adjacent ancient Cypress swamps, deep sandstone canyons filled with glacial relict plants, and dry barrens with twisted and stunted old-growth oak trees can all be found within the southernmost eleven counties in Illinois.

On March 23rd, chapter president and natural areas ecologist Chris Benda will share some of the secret spots he's found through his work with the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory over the past four years in a presentation titled “The Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois That You've Never Been To.” These places are located across southern Illinois from Panther Hollow on the east side to Horseshoe Bluff on the west.

On March 24th, Chris will lead a hike to Degognia Canyon, a mesic sandstone cliff in the Shawnee National Forest in northwestern Jackson County. This will be a long and rugged hike over steep and rocky terrain. There are no facilities and no trails. Parking is limited so we ask that participants meet at 1pm at the small gravel lot along the west side of Route 3 where it intersects Route 151 and we can arrange to car pool from there (see flyer next page).



Limestone glade near the Cache River



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



Degognia Canyon – Shawnee NF

Coming this month!

**The Southern Chapter of the
Illinois Native Plant Society
and the
Southern Illinois
Audubon Society**

are pleased to present



Phantom Canyon – Camp Ondessonk

“The Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois That You’ve Never Been To”

Friday, March 23rd, 2012 @ 7:30pm

Carbondale Township Hall

217 East Main St., Carbondale, IL

Companion hike to Degognia Canyon

Saturday, March 24th, 2012 @ 1:00pm

Email southernillinoisplants@gmail.com for directions

Presentation & hike by Chris Benda
Events are free and open to the public



Chris Benda has spent the last four years as Regional Ecologist for the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update. This work took him throughout southern Illinois, tasked with finding the most undisturbed plant communities left in the state. The talk will feature the best kept secrets in the Shawnee National Forest and beyond. The following day, Chris will lead a hike to Degognia Canyon in northwest Jackson County, one of the featured areas. Chris is serving his third term as President of the Southern Chapter of the INPS and currently teaches biology and geography at Shawnee Community College.



The program and outing are sponsored by the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society and the Southern Illinois Audubon Society.



Last Month's Event Tree Identification



Last month we sponsored a tree identification outing led by Southern Illinois University Forestry student Josh Nickelson. Despite the light rain, the moderate temperatures brought out a diverse crowd of students, professionals, and amateurs. In three hours, we learned how to identify 50 species of woody plants by characteristics other than leaves. All the species were located in Thompson Woods on the SIU campus. Take the quiz below to test your knowledge! (answers bottom of page)



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



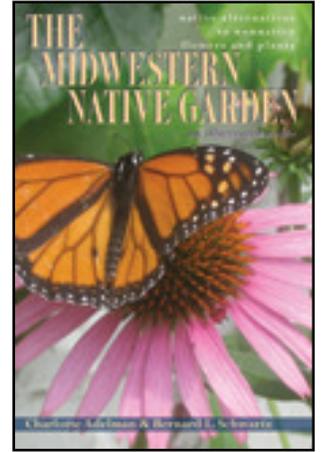
6. _____



Please support this organization by joining the Illinois Native Plant Society or renewing your memberships today!

Answers to tree identification quiz: 1. *Carya cordiformis* – bitternut hickory, 2. *Fraxinus americana* – white ash, 3. *Gymnocladus dioica* – Kentucky coffeetree, 4. *Asimina triloba* – Paw-paw, 5. *Ulmus americana* – American elm, 6. *Liriodendron tulipifera* – Tulip Poplar

New Book: **Midwestern Native Garden** **Native Alternatives to Nonnative Flowers and** **Plants, an Illustrated Guide**



“At last, an idea whose time has come! This is the only book I know of, for the Midwest, that systematically suggests native plants of similar appearance and growing requirements, to replace non-natives we might otherwise plant in our landscapes. Importantly, The Midwestern Native Garden alerts the reader to the natives’ unique roles in attracting and sustaining increased biodiversity in our gardens.”

Maryann Whitman, Editor — Wild Ones Journal

<http://www.ohioswallow.com/book/The+Midwestern+Native+Garden>

Related March Events

- **March 3rd: Native Plant Seminar - Saturday, 8am-3pm at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center.** Dave Tylka, respected native plant enthusiast and author of “Native Landscaping for Wildlife and People” will be our featured guest speaker. Registration required and begins February. Missouri Wildflower Nursery will again be at the Center with native plants and seed for sale. They accept pre-orders. Send them your personal order by Wednesday before the sale and they will bring the seeds/plants to the Center for pick up. Visit their website at <http://www.mowildflowers.net/index.htm> for seed and plant pricing and pre-ordering instructions. For more information call 573-290-5218.
- **March 3rd: Long Forestry is hosting a Japanese Honeysuckle Pull from 10am to 1pm at the Brush Hill Preserve** owned by Green Earth. The preserve is located on Park St. by the fire station. A BBQ cookout will follow the honeysuckle pull.
- **March 9-10th: 4th Annual Naturally Illinois Expo at the University of Illinois in Urbana/Champaign.** The Expo is a two-day event where we invite the public to come to the University to learn about all that we do through upwards of 50 interactive and hands-on exhibits and demonstrations. Friday is attended primarily by K-12 school groups, while Saturday sees more families, and interested general public. Please check out the Expo webpage at <http://www.prairie.illinois.edu/expo/>
- **March 10th: Free Again Wildlife Rehab** will be presenting a live Barn Owl at the **Barn Owl F.U.N. Program from 10:30am - 12:30pm at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge** Visitor Center, in Marion, IL.
- **March 17th: Pollinators: Not Just Honey Bees Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to Noon.** Bees, butterflies, moths & wasps are just a few of the insects that play a critical role in pollinating farm crops, orchards, vegetable and flower gardens. Join us to learn about the “workers”, besides honey bees, that help grow our food and bring flowers to our landscape. Call the Cache River Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.
- **March 19th: The Shawnee chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society will host a presentation by Tony Gerard** titled “Amphibians of Southern Illinois” at 7:00pm at the Carbondale Township Hall.

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



Bringing Nature Home: How to Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.

The Doug Tallamy presentation is now available online! Please share this video with others and spread the word about the importance of landscaping with native plants! See video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2IDQIRQ5Mg>

Sustainable Funding Needed for a Healthy Illinois DNR

Over the past decade, Illinois' Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has seen its budget slashed in half. More cuts are expected in the coming years as the State of Illinois struggles to balance its budget. Most recognize that IDNR's ability to fulfill its broad mission is now strained to the breaking point. To involve the public in a solution to this crisis, IDNR's director, Marc Miller, has begun a series of presentations throughout the state. I attended his talk, "Envisioning a Healthy, Sustainable DNR" on February 2, at John A. Logan Community College, sponsored by "Partners for Parks and Wildlife", a coalition of Illinois conservation groups including Illinois Audubon, the Sierra Club and Ducks Unlimited (see <http://partnersforparksandwildlife.org/> for a complete list).

Miller first reminded us of DNR's broad mandate over natural resources in the state and specific responsibilities – too numerous to list here. (If you're new to Illinois and/or DNR, check out <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx> to see the full range of DNR's essential activities.) INPS members are probably familiar with DNR's oversight of the state parks, museums, and wildlife areas, land acquisition program, protection of endangered species, licensing of hunting, fishing, and boating, and conservation work with private landowners. Fewer may know of DNR's responsibilities for certification, inspection and permitting regarding mine safety, land reclamation, and oil and gas operations.

Then, Office by Office, Miller stepped through budget cuts across DNR over the last decade and dire projections for funds over the next few years that will leave DNR with a deep deficit. Reductions in staff numbers, years of deferred maintenance, and inability to replace infrastructure will soon render DNR incapable of carrying out much of its mandate. The crippling of DNR will lower the quality of life throughout the state and ripple through local economies, especially rural economies such as Southern Illinois. Illinois already ranks low among states (48/50) for access to public outdoor recreational spaces. Closure of DNR-managed sites will make even this unavailable to citizens and visitors alike and push tourism dollars out of state. Delayed inspections and permitting will slow economic development of natural resources and further exacerbate the still unsteady economic recovery.

According to Miller, the solution to the DNR's budget woes lies in developing sustainable secured funding for the agency. At present, only a small portion of the annual budget is self-generated and guaranteed, that is, funds coming from user fees such as hunting and fishing licenses that cannot be clawed back to service the state's bottomless debt burden. Much of the rest comes from annual allocations from the Illinois Legislature, which have been repeatedly cut back year after year. Perhaps it is time for more users of DNR's services to contribute?

Rep. Frank Mautino (<http://www.housedem.state.il.us/members/mautino/index.htm>), D- Spring Valley, a member of the Agriculture & Conservation Committee, is preparing a bill to present to the Legislature this session that would create more sources of sustainable funding for DNR. Unfortunately, the proven revenue source of a small dedicated sales tax (such as Missouri's 1/8 of 1%) is off the table from the beginning as unacceptable to Illinois legislators. However, all potential user fees are on the table for consideration. But, so are charges to industry that has so far escaped paying for mining inspections, oil and gas drilling permits, etc. Hunters and fishers are unlikely to see increased fees, at least in the short term, as they have long shouldered the burden of supporting DNR. When citizens will be able to see a draft bill and comment on it was unclear. No doubt there will be parts of the bill everyone can live with and parts that particular groups will dislike and oppose. But the future of Illinois natural areas will depend on the success of this bill, warts and all, this year – there is no "Plan B".

By Nancy Garwood – Southern Chapter Board Member

Les Winkler wrote two stories for *The Southern Illinoisan* about Marc Miller's talk. Please look at these to see hard figures (\$\$) on DNR's dire budget:

"Director says IDNR needs help after budget halved", February 3, 2012: http://thesouthern.com/news/local/director-says-idnr-needs-help-after-budget-halved/article_e68f526-4e29-11e1-99c7-001871e3ce6c.html

"IDNR still has time", Feb 10, 2012: http://thesouthern.com/sports/outdoors/idnr-still-has-time/article_31b3ac12-53a8-11e1-9d85-0019bb2963f4.html



Tom Ulrich, Nature Photographer

A special presentation at SIUC

Lawson 161

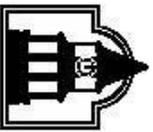
Wednesday, March 7, 2012

7:00 p.m.



Tom's 2012 presentation features hummingbirds of Ecuador and wildlife and scenics of New Zealand and North America, including Glacier National Park.

Tom grew up in Chicago, graduated from SIUC with a degree in biology, and taught for four years before launching a career as a freelance photographer. In 37-plus years as a nature photographer, he has assembled a library of 800,000+ images that includes birds and mammals from all over the world. His photos have been featured in *National Geographic*, *National Wildlife*, *Audubon*, and many other publications. He has published seven books.



Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Sponsored by:
Department of Zoology
Zoology Club
Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Southern Illinois Photographic Society
Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory

Cover Crop Workshop

Wednesday, March 7, 2012

9:00AM-1:00 PM *Lunch will be served at Noon
Campbell Hill Community Center, 213 Dean Street, Campbell Hill, Illinois

SPEAKERS:

TERRY TAYLOR

*Life-Long Farmer
Geff, Illinois*

JOHN PIKE

*Ag & Natural Resource Educator
University of Illinois Extension*

MIKE PLUMER

Retired U of I Educator and Consultant

REGISTRATION FEE

\$10 Per Person

*** Fee Includes LUNCH**

*catered by
Rickey Rover Roster Runners
of Campbell Hill, IL*

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Types Of Cover Crops

Benefits Of Cover Crops

Effects On Fertility • Weed Control

FSA/Crop Insurance



TO REGISTER:
Call The University of Illinois Extension At
618-687-1727

Make Check Out To: University of Illinois Extension

Mail To:
University of Illinois Extension
402 Ava Road, Muncyphosboro, IL 62296

Or Register On-line At:

<http://web.extension.illinois.edu/11pwr/>
Go to Register on-line and click on Cover Crop Workshop

If you need a non-transferable accommodation to participate in this program, contact: Marjorie Kuhn, (315) 424-2424, 402 Ava Road, Muncyphosboro, IL 62296; Ph: 618-687-1727



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ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH NETWORK

National Great Rivers Research and Education Center

Protect Illinois Waterways!

Become a RiverWatch Citizen Scientist!

What: THE ILLINOIS RIVERWATCH NETWORK TRAINING WORKSHOP

When: SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: JOHN A. LOGAN COLLEGE, 700 COLLEGE RD, BLDG H, RM H-127, CARTERVILLE

Who to Contact: NATE KEENER, PROGRAM COORDINATOR – (618) 468-2782 or nkeener@lc.edu



← Field Sampling



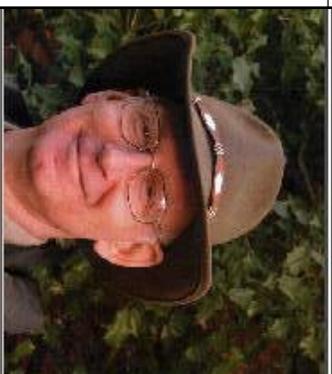
Lab Analysis →

Event Details: The Illinois RiverWatch Network is a statewide, non-profit, volunteer stream monitoring program. Volunteers are trained and certified as "Citizen Scientists" to monitor and protect a local stream. Upon completing training and becoming certified, volunteers adopt a stream site and examine indicators of water quality like stream habitat and the diversity of species such as dragonfly nymphs, beetle larva, midges, and snails. Citizen Scientists play an important role in helping identify potentially degraded waters and areas that may need better protection.

To register, contact Nate at 618-468-2782 or email nkeener@lc.edu. Registration is \$50. Children may attend but must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. The registration deadline is March 17th.

JOHNS & CLARK
COMMUNITY COLLEGE


The National Great Rivers
Research & Education Center



Dr. George A. Feldhamer

**REMARKABLE RODENTS:
Wood Rats and Golden Mice,
Endangered and Threatened
Mammals of Southern Illinois**

Dr. Feldhamer
is Professor of Zoology,
and Director of the
Environmental Studies
Program at Southern
Illinois University

Thursday, March 8 at 7:30 pm
Carbondale Township Hall
217 East Main Street
Carbondale, Illinois
Entrance and parking in rear, off
Marion and Monroe Streets



Free and open to the public!

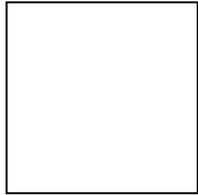
Golden mice are currently considered a state-threatened species, and eastern woodrats are state-endangered in Illinois. The short-term results and long-term prognosis of a 5-year reintroduction program to help re-establish woodrats in Illinois will be discussed. Also, a 4-year project compared site occupancy and relative abundance of golden mice in Illinois-where they are on the periphery of their geographic range-to populations from the core of the range



Sponsored by
the Sierra Club,
Shawnee Group


SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

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
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Treasurer: Rhonda Rothrock
At-large: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Jody Shimp



Special thanks to **Josh Nickelson** for leading the **Tree Identification** outing last month!

INPS 2012 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 23 rd	Chris Benda	<i>Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois</i>	CTH
March 24 th	Chris Benda	<i>Hike to Degognia Canyon</i>	Rockwood, IL
April 17 th	Rachel Goad	<i>Ecotypic Variation in Grassland Restoration</i>	CTH
April 22 nd	INPS Spring Social		TBA
May 15 th	Bruce Henry / Kevin Rohling	<i>TNC Strike Team efforts</i>	CTH

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012.

Past Events:

January 17 th	Damon Lesmeister	<i>Conflicts in Conservation</i>	CTH
February 4 th	Josh Nickelson	<i>Winter Tree ID</i>	SIU campus, Ag bldg.
February 21 st	Dr. Doug Tallamy	<i>Replay slideshow talk from Feb 2011</i>	CTH

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

It's Alive! Pleistocene Plant Blooms Again! A Siberian plant frozen in the permafrost 30,000 years ago has been brought back to life. Fruit seeds stored away by squirrels more than 30,000 years ago and found in Siberian permafrost have been regenerated into full flowering plants by scientists in Russia, a new study has revealed. The seeds of the herbaceous *Silene stenophylla* are far and away the oldest plant tissue to have been brought back to life...read more at <http://news.discovery.com/earth/pleistocene-plant-blooms-again-120221.html>