



The Shooting Star

October 2017

Newsletter

“Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities in Illinois.”

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Assessing Pollinator Diversity in Southern Illinois

Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St.

Tune into this month’s program, exploring the diversity and relationships between native pollinators and natural communities. Dr. Sedonia Sipes will discuss these affiliations, delving into her research. By sampling different habitats across the flowering season and recording floral associations and other ecological information, the project aims to explain patterns of pollinator diversity in southern Illinois. The project’s first field season is currently finished with the help of her students who are identifying and recording the first year’s results.

Dr. Sipes is an associate professor of plant biology who has researched specialist bee ecology, rare plant breeding systems, and bee evolution during at Utah State University where she completed a master’s and a doctoral degree. She currently is conducting a pollinator inventory of southern Illinois focused in the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge and Shawnee National Forest regions.



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Well it doesn't look like it will be the most colorful autumn, but it has been nice to have some cooler temperatures. Leaves are turning brown and starting to fall and I am reminded that living in the woods is messy! There are lots of leaves along with acorn and hickory nut fragments all over my deck!

I'm getting ready to teach the final tree identification workshop of the year and it reminds me to ask our members what workshops they would like to see in 2018. We have studied sedges, grasses, ferns, and

bryophytes in recent years and all workshops were well attended. We will be working on the programming schedule for 2018 soon so let us know what types of programs you would like to see.



Fall colors are beginning

"We will be working on the programming schedule for 2018 soon so let us know what types of programs you would like to see."

Last month, we strayed a little from our usual content and hosted a talk by Mark Motsinger. Many new folks were in attendance as Mark gave the audience a tour of the many stone fortifications in southern Illinois. It was a fascinating talk and you can read more about it on page 4.

Our next program will feature Dr. Sedonia Sipes, professor of Plant Biology at Southern Illinois University. Dr. Sipes will speak about pollinators in southern Illinois. Her lab is undertaking the massive effort to inventory all the pollinators that inhabit natural areas in the Shawnee National Forest. Please see more information about the program on the cover page.

We have begun planning programs for 2018! The annual Indigenous Plants Symposium will be held on April 6-8 and the Annual Statewide Gathering will be on June 8-10, hosted by the Kankakee Torrent Chapter. If you have any suggestions for programs for 2018, please let us know by writing southernillinoisplants@gmail.com.

I hope to see you soon at one of our many events! ~Christopher David Benda

Feature Plant of the Month

**Purple Mistflower,
*Conoclinium coelestinum***

There are still pops of brilliant color as plants make their journey towards winter dormancy. Pollinators still buzz from flower to flower, savoring fall nectar sources, making this species no exception. Mistflower, also known as wild ageratum or blue bonset, belong in the aster (or daisy) family. It is a perennial that can spread aggressively by rhizomes and self seeding. Its coarsely-toothed, ovate-deltoid leaves can be up to three inches long, the plant itself reaching heights of one to two feet. The flowers bloom from late summer to early autumn. One can find this specimen in wet areas, such as low wet woods, along streams, ponds, and ditches, and bases of bluffs. Mammals tend to leave this plant alone due to the bitterness of the leaves.



Photo courtesy,
Jennifer Behnken

2017



Southern Chapter

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Calendar of Events

Oct. 17	Dr. Sedonia Sipes	Southern Illinois Pollinator Inventory	CTH
Nov. 7	Kevin Rohling, Matt Mangan	Managing Forests for Bats	CTH
Dec 4	INPS	Holiday Dinner	The Haven

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale IL at 6:30 pm; TBD = To Be Determined
For more information visit <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/southern-chapter>



SAVE THE DATE

Illinois Native Plant Society
Southern Chapter

Annual Holiday Dinner

Monday, December 4th at 6:00 p.m.

The Haven in Cambria

10289 Haven Rd., Carbondale, IL

(located along the causeway of Route 13
on Crab Orchard Lake)

The event will be catered, stay tuned
for more info!



Native Orchids of Illinois

Thursday, October 12th at 6 p.m.

Salem Garden Club, U of I Extension Office
1404 W. Main St., Salem IL

A Week of Hiking Southern Illinois

November 5th—10th

Camp Ondessonk, Ozark, IL

Please check out upcoming events at
<http://illinoisbotanizer.com/schedule>.



Summary of Past Events

September Program, *Mysterious Stone Fortifications of Southern Illinois, by Mark Motsinger*



In September, we hosted Mark Motsinger, high school history teacher at Carrier Mills and avid archeologist. Mark teaches at a small school where there never seems to be any extra money so he came up with unique curriculum. He took his students to the nearby town of Stonefort to learn why the town got its name. This led to a fascination with the stone fortifications of southern Illinois. Mark found one of the stoneforts himself.

There is a lot of history in southern Illinois, but one of the claims to fame is the stoneforts. Other adjacent states have them as well, but not as many. There are several characteristics shared by most of the stoneforts of this area.

1. Walls built at the neck of the peninsula surrounded on 3 sides by steep bluffs
2. Situated on dominating topographic features
3. Poor water access
4. No consistent orientation
5. Stone walls were once at least 6 feet tall
6. Not mortuary sites
7. Abandoned by time of Mississippian culture
8. Vandalized

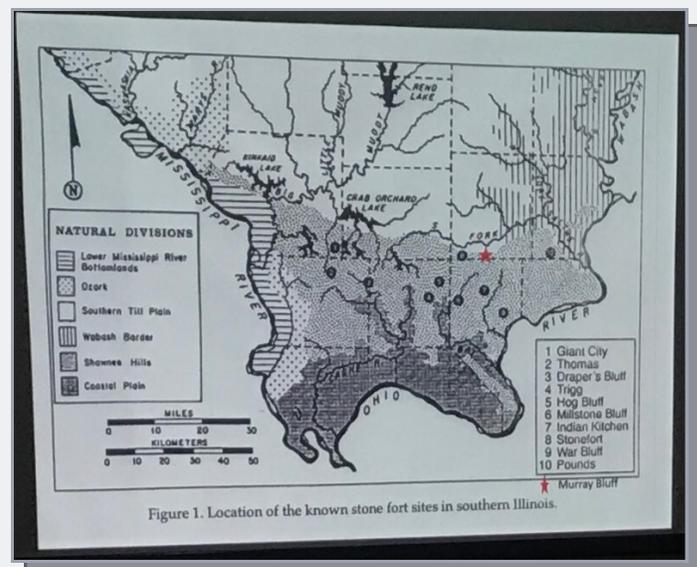


Most these stoneforts were built around 300-800 AD. Many early pioneers used the rocks to build chimneys. It was easiest to get rocks from a nice pile that had already been stacked, plus it was easier to pull an empty wagon up a hill and bring it down the hill full of rocks. Rocks in the stoneforts were also moved by earthquakes. The 1807 land survey describes the stonefort in the town of Stonefort as the only one before new Madrid earthquake. The others were unknown to settlers at that time. A map and article was published in the 1972 Outdoor Illinois magazine issue.

Most of the stoneforts have been dismantled. The CCC dismantled the one at Giant City probably looking for gold. It was reassembled later and is the only one to be reconstructed.

The stoneforts are of the Late Woodland period and this is determined by pottery remnants. Mark believes the purpose of the stoneforts is ceremonial, but the truth is not known. They remain fascinating features in southern Illinois. Here is a list of the 11 Stoneforts.

1. Kerr Canyon
2. Drapers Bluff
3. Giant City State Park
4. Trigg (Cornish Bluff, by Cave Spring)
5. Hogg's Bluff
6. Millstone Bluff
7. Lusk Creek (Indian Kitchen) one of the most visible ones and only one with water access
8. War Bluff (most visible of all, lots of stone)
9. Stonefort Bluff
10. The Pounds (Rim Rock) easiest one to access
11. Murray Bluff (the one Mark discovered)



Local Events

Cache River Wetlands Center

Guided Walk to Heron Pond and Little Black Slough,

Saturday October 14th, 9 am—12 pm

Enjoy a colorful fall walk Saturday, October 14, 9:00- noon, along the Heron Pond and Little Black Slough trails. Learn more about the area's natural and cultural history. The walk will include a state champion tree, a bald cypress log cabin, and color filled view of Little Black Slough. Meet at the Heron Pond Trail parking lot. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.



Giant City State Park

Campground Nature Program

Saturday, October 7th 7 pm—8 pm

Stop by the Giant City Campground shelter to meet fellow campers and participate in an interactive park led program! Topics will vary. For more information and to register, call the visitor center at (618) 457-4836.

Winter Tree ID

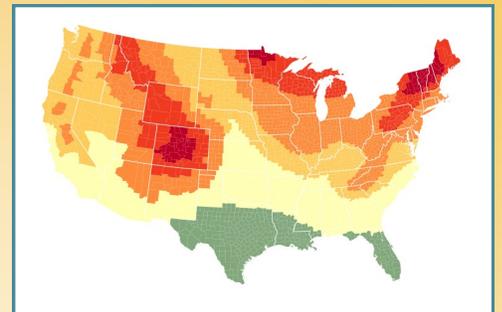
Sunday, November 5th 1 pm—3 pm

Identifying trees in winter is a snap when you know what to look for. Join NRCS Soil Conservationist, Margaret Anderson, as she shares easy and fun tips to discover trees in the winter! We will be hiking the 1-mile Giant City Nature Trail. This program is free and open to the public. We will be meeting at the Visitor Center; please register by calling 618-457-4836.



Fall Foliage Prediction Map

The 2017 Fall Foliage Map is the ultimate visual planning guide to the annual progressive changing of the leaves. While no tool can be 100% accurate, this tool is meant to help travelers better time their trips to have the best opportunity of catching peak color each year.



Why do autumn leaves change their color?

Leaves produce their green color through the presence of chlorophyll, the key component for a plant's ability to turn sunlight into glucose, or food. Millions of these cells saturate the leaves, making them appear green to the eye. As autumn sets in and trees prepare for their winter slumber, chlorophyll halts production and disappears, revealing other compounds in the leaves, namely carotenoids and anthocyanins. Beta-carotenes produce orange hues, anthocyanins produce red hues, and flavonol produces yellow hues.

To learn more about this process, how trees prepare for winter and fall color progression, visit

<https://smokymountains.com/fall-foliage-map/>

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” - Albert Camus

An Introduction to **Grass Identification**

Thursday, October 26th | 2:00-4:00pm
Barkhausen Cache River Wetlands Center

Presented by Erin Medvecz, Conservation Education Rep
Erin earned her M.S. degree in Plant Biology from SIU. She specializes in grassland plant identification.

Join us for a two hour program to learn how to identify 30 grasses found in southern Illinois grasslands and woodlands. Learn tips and tricks on what characteristics of inflorescences and leaves are helpful in identifying grasses. The one hour presentation will be followed by a walk to identify grasses around the wetlands center using the knowledge just learned.

Please register in advance through Wetlands Center: 618-657-2064



Wildflowers and Grasses of the Prairie



Presenter John Schwegman is a retired botanist and career conservationist. In retirement, he is an active member of the Illinois Native Plant Society and is a consultant for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. He authored *The Natural Heritage of Illinois*.



7:00 p.m. Mon, Oct. 23, 2016
216 East Monroe, Carbondale, IL
(Green door on the alley, in back of Newell House)

Wild Ones mission is to educate and share information with members and the community to promote biodiversity and environmentally sound practices. It has a diverse and enthusiastic membership interested in natural landscaping using native species in developing plant communities in home gardens, school projects, and community landscaping.

 **Wild Ones**
NATIVE PLANTS. NATURAL LANDSCAPES
TUPELO

Free and open to the public.

Trail Building Workshop

October 14th, 9am–4pm, Dixon Springs Ag Center

The University of Illinois Extension is hosting a Trail Building Workshop on October 14th 9am-4pm at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center.

The course will be led by Kelly Pearson, Shawnee National Forest Wilderness and Volunteer Coordinator. Kelly coordinates the award-winning trails program for the Shawnee National Forest and brings years of trail building experience to the workshop to help teach landowners about how correct design and installation can help maximize the longevity and usefulness of trails while minimizing future maintenance needs.

This workshop will utilize both classroom presentations and hands-on training. Attendees will have the opportunity to practice trail design and installation through helping to install a new trail at the Ag Center.



There is a **\$10** fee for this workshop, lunch is included.

To Register—

http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/calendar_event.cfm?ID=75653

or Call 618-695-2441.

For more information:

Chris Evans— cwevans@illinois.edu, 618-695-3383

University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences— United States Department of Agriculture.—Local Extension Councils Cooperating provides equal opportunities in programming and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact the Dixon Springs Ag Center, 618-695-3383.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
EXTENSION

Extending Knowledge Changing Lives

Dixon Springs Ag Center

354 State Hwy 145 North

Simpson, IL 62985

October 14, 2017

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

U of I Extension Forestry Volunteer Program

U of I Extension Forestry at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center is seeking volunteers to assist with several projects. This would be a great opportunity to get some training and experience or just enjoy helping restore our forests and getting some fresh air! Please let us know if you have any questions, or if you are interested in assisting us in one or more of these programs (Contact info below).

1. Bluebird house construction and monitoring program. We need people interested in constructing bluebird houses, and people to help monitor the nesting success of the bluebirds once they are established in the field.
2. Bat box construction and installation. Plus, monitoring bat boxes for use and counts once they are placed in the field. Two threatened and endangered bat species can be found in the vicinity of Dixon Springs Ag Center. Help us help the bats!
3. Native seed collection for prairie plantings and for assisting partner organizations in restoration and establishment of native plants. Includes collection of seeds, documenting locations, and processing seeds in preparation for planting.
4. Greenhouse maintenance and seed propagation for use in plantings and for outreach to promote interest in native plant gardening, landscaping, and restorations.
5. Trail construction is needed in our demonstration forest. An upcoming field day will be held on **October 12** at DSAC to teach the basics and build some trail. Contact us for more information.
6. Forest restoration is ongoing and we could use some help. We are in the midst of creating a demonstration forest to highlight different management options, and we are working to improve forest health across the DSAC. We will be conducting tree thinning, invasive removal, and prescribed fires. Come help us out and learn about plant identification, safe chainsaw handling, and much more!
7. Social media assistance to help create content for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts. There's a lot going on here at DSAC and we need to get the word out. We are engaging the public and need some support!

Kevin Rohling
Forestry Technician, UIUC NRES
(618) 695-3383
krohling@illinois.edu

Chris Evans
Extension Forester, UIUC NRES
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[UIUC Extension Forestry, NRES](#)
Dixon Springs Agricultural Center
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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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Erigenia, our scientific journal, is now available digitally as well as in print.
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- Central (Springfield) Northeast (Chicago)
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 Kankakee Torrent

I would like to help with:

- Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level) Giving Workshops &/or Seminars Public Media/Communications
 Leading Field Trips & Tours Public Speaking Writing/Submitting articles
 Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars Fund Raising Photography
 Website Assistance/Managment Other: _____