



The Shooting Star

March 2019

Newsletter

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

Inside this issue:

President's Message 2

Feature Plant of the Month 2

Events Calendar 3

Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium 4

Summary of Past Events 5

Native Plant Sale 5

Local Events & Announcements 6-9

Invasive Species Corner 9

Contact Us 10



Finding Rare Species Through Species Distribution Modeling (SDM): Stryax grandifolius
Tuesday, March 19th at 6:30 p.m.
Carbondale Township Hall
216 E. Monroe St. Carbondale, IL

Stryax gradifolius (bigleaf snowbell) is an endangered rhizomatous shrub occurring in southernmost Illinois. One population from Alexander County has been well known for decades; the discovery of another in Pope County has sparked interest in potentially locating additional populations in Illinois. Species Distribution Modeling (SDM) is a powerful method of predicting species occurrence based on environmental factors, which can aid in discovering previously unknown occurrence localities for countless species.

Presenter, Marisa Szubryt, is a Master's student studying plant systematics and natural history at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Her work largely focuses on phylogenetics and evolution with the *Asteraceae* in North American various evolutionary research collaborations. This program is free and open to the public!



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Another month has flown by and maybe that's not surprising, since it's the shortest month of the year! I am anxiously awaiting spring and I am sure you are as well. Today I photographed the aptly named Harbinger-of-Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*) at Giant City State Park and with the temperatures at 55 degrees, it seemed like spring is around the corner. But by this weekend it will be cold again, but that's the way it typically goes in the spring.

Our next program will feature board member Marisa Szubryt, who will speak about using computer software to generate species predictability maps. This project was spurred by the discovery of a new population of *Styrax grandifolius* in Pope County. The maps created for rare species could suggest sites to focus on to search for rare plants. More about the program on page 1.

At the state level, the board met recently in Springfield to have our biennial board retreat. We discussed many issues, like our grants program, publication schedules, and increasing membership. Special thanks to Floyd Catchpole for organizing the retreat.

The next *Erigenia* issue should be on its way shortly. This is highly anticipated since the last issue was released in 2013. We hope to publish yearly after this issue with the addition of Dr. John Taft as editor. Submission guidelines will be available soon.

Also, don't forget about our annual Indigenous Plants Symposium and native plant sale on April 5-7. We are partnering with Green Earth Inc. and Southernwood Gardens again this year to offer quality native plants. Registration is available on our website (<https://ill-inps.org/2019-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium/>). Admission to the plant sale only is free.

I'm looking forward to spring and I bet you are too! ~ Christopher David Benda

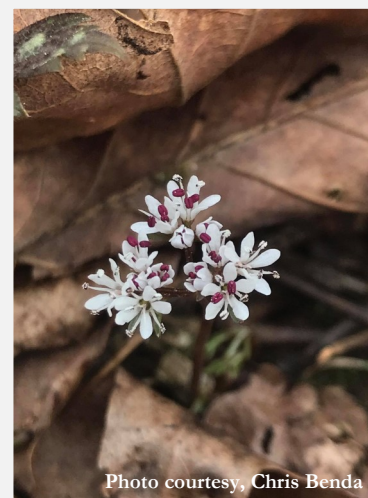


Photo courtesy, Chris Benda

"Don't forget about our annual Indigenous Plants Symposium and native plant sale on April 5-7. We are partnering with Green Earth Inc. and Southernwood Gardens again to offer quality native plants."

Feature "Plant" of the Month

Dog lichen,
Peltigera spp.

Peltigera is a genus of approximately 91 species of foliose (leaflike) lichens. Dog lichen is a common name for this grouping. They often grow on soil, but can also occur on moss, trees, and rocks. Lichens may be overlooked, but have a unique setup. They are a complex organism, combining a fungus with an alga or cyanobacterium in a symbiotic relationship on a solid surface. Their main body is called the thallus, which is constructed of the fungal filaments and photosynthetic algal or cyanobacterial cells. Their forms can be leaflike, crusty, or branching shrub-like structures. Lichens contribute to the weathering of rocks and have also been used in natural dyes. They are not exactly a plant since they do not have roots, stems, or leaves (not to be confused with mosses), but should not be forgotten.



Photo courtesy,
Chris Benda

2019



Southern Chapter

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Calendar of Events

March 19	Marisa Szubryt	Species Distribution Mapping: A Case Study	CTH
April 5-7	various	Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium: Understanding the Research Behind Local Conservation	John A. Logan College
May 11	Nick Seaton	<i>Styrax</i> Search Party	Pope County, IL
May 25-26	TBD	Spring Sedge Extravaganza	Southern IL
June 18	TBD	TBD	TBD
June 21-23	Gary Sullivan	INPS Annual Gathering	North Central IL
July 16	TBD	TBD	TBD
Aug. 20	Nick Seaton	River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area	CTH
Sept. 17	Marisa Szubryt	From Aster to Symphyotrichum: Why?	CTH
Oct. TBD	Abel Kinser/ Chris Benda	Workshop: Asters and Goldenrods	TBD
Nov. 19	TBD	TBD	TBD
Dec. TBD	TBD	INPS Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony	TBD

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* 2019 INPS Annual Gathering, June 21-23, Illinois Valley Community College
"An Examination of the Plants and Ecosystems of the Hennepin Bend Area"**

Call for student posters, submissions due March 29
Contact Dr. Nancy Garwood at ngarwood@plant.siu.edu

Registration Deadline is April 2, 2019



Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium

Understanding the Research Behind Local Conservation

April 5-7, 2019

John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL

Keynote: Chris Evans
Closing: Justin Schoof

Guided Hikes
April 5 - Atwood Ridge
April 7 - Rocky Bluff

Native Plant Sale on
Saturday, April 6

Register online: <https://ill-inps.org/2019-illinois-indigenous-plants-symposium/>



Summary of Past Events

February Program, Winter Tree Identification by Chris Benda

Our February program featured chapter president Chris Benda who spoke about winter tree identification. Chris instructs workshops on the topic throughout Illinois and we were glad he shared his knowledge with our members.

Trees, shrubs, and vines are collectively called woody plants and there is a surprising diversity in Illinois, despite being called the prairie state. There are very few evergreen trees or gymnosperms in Illinois, most are deciduous flowering plants. When trees drop their leaves in the fall, it can make identification difficult, unless you know what to look for.

Chris explained basic terminology focusing on twigs and showed the audience some of the characteristics to look for when identifying woody plants. Bark, buds, and fruits are also very useful clues to use to identify plants in the winter. Many of these characteristics are present year-round and not just in the winter. Learning to key in on these features can make woody plant ID easy and fun. A vast selection of labeled twigs were present for the audience to look at after the program and handouts are available upon request.



Flowering dogwood
Cornus florida
Photo courtesy,
Chris Benda



greenearth 

Native Plant Sale

April 6th, 2019
8:00am to 2:00pm

Sale will occur outside at
John A. Logan College in Carterville, IL
Building H - Workforce Development
in conjunction with the Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium
(admission to the plant sale is free)

Green Earth and the
Illinois Native Plant Society
are offering high quality nursery stock
Native Perennial Wildflowers,
Ferns, Grasses, and Shrubs
From Southernwood Gardens
a local grower in Alto Pass

Questions? Contact
director@greenearthinc.org or
southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

Local Events & Announcements

Keep Carbondale Beautiful

Native Tree and Shrub Sale, Carbondale Town Square Pavilion

Saturday, March 23rd, 9 am– 2 pm

Keep Carbondale Beautiful partners with Forrest Keeling and Tabor Nursery to provide species that are most appropriate for this region. Pre-orders are highly recommended, must be received by March 17. Cost is \$25-30 per tree, \$20 per shrub. For list of available species and more information, visit <http://www.keepcb.org/tree-sale.html>, or contact Sarah Heyer at 618-525-5525, keepcb1326@gmail.com.

Green Earth Inc., Pyles Fork Clean-Up

Saturday, March 16th, 9 am– 12 pm

Green Earth Inc. and Keep Carbondale Beautiful partner together for this bi-annual clean-up to clean out litter from the preserve and creek. Volunteer workdays are family friendly, no special skills necessary. Tools, gloves, bug spray, snacks, and water will be provided. Long-sleeve shirts, pants, and sturdy close-toed shoes are recommended. Meet at the Attucks Park Pavilion (400 N. Wall St.) for sign in and brief instructions. For more information, contact Stephanie Eichholtz at 618-201-3774, director@greeneearthinc.org.



Cache River Wetlands Center

Slide Tour: Spring Wildflowers and Birds of the Great Smoky Mountains

Saturday, March 16th, 10—11 am

John Schwegman will be our guide to explore outstanding natural areas with vacation driving distance of southern Illinois, no passport needed! The diversity of wildflowers in Great Smoky Mountains National Park, just a six-hour drive away, is unique in eastern North America. See trilliums, violets, and much more, along with a variety of nesting and migrating birds, including the rare Swainson's warbler. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064.



Giant City State Park

Beginning Watercolor Painting with Spring Wildflowers

Saturday, March 16th, 1– 3 pm

An introduction to using landscape and nature themes in watercolor by local artist, Marie Samuel, will cover several ways to simulate texture in a two-hour guided step-by-step lesson suitable for all levels of experience. Dry brush, wet into wet, use of salt and rubbing alcohol for unusual textures, and wax resist will be explored as well as an impressionistic way to simulate wildflowers. This program is free, but registration is required. Please call 618-457-4836 for more information or to register.

First Day of Spring Full Moon Hike

Thursday, March 20th, 6:30 – 8 pm

The trails at Giant City close at dusk unless you are attending a guided hike with the Natural Resource Coordinator! It's the first official day of spring and what better way to enjoy it than hike under the magical glow of the full moon. Listen for the occasional call of the barred owl and the chirps of the spring peeper as we hike along the 1/3 mile Stonefort Trail. For more information and to register call 618-457-4836.

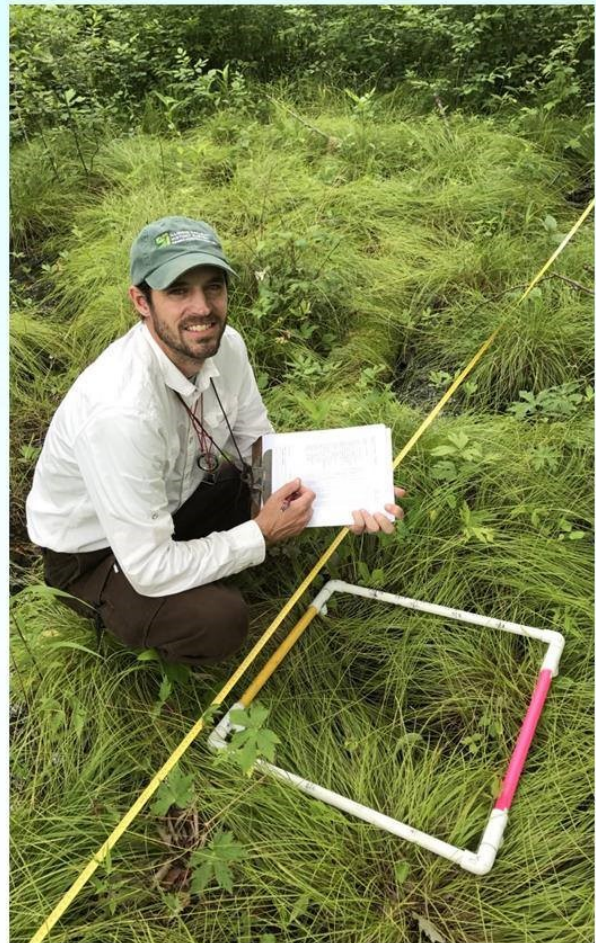


A Day in the Life of a Field Biologist



Giant City State park
Sunday, March 10
1-3pm

Ever wonder what life is like as a field biologist? Join botanist Chris Benda as he presents a program about the challenges and rewards of working outside in nature for a living. No reservations required. Please call 618-457-4836 for more information.





Timber Harvest Field Tour

March 30, 2019 1pm-4pm
Eddyville, IL

Join the Illinois Forestry Association and the University of Illinois Extension Forestry Program on a Timber Harvest Field Tour. The tour will view a managed forest with a recent timber harvest. Topics to be discussed include tree selection, seedling regeneration, post harvest management, best management practices, invasive species, and others.

Program is free and open to the public, but please RSVP by calling the University of Illinois at 618-695-2441 or emailing cwevans@Illinois.edu



Directions to site:

*Tour will be entirely outdoors and involve walking through rough uneven terrain. If you need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event inform the University of Illinois when registering. For more information contact Chris Evans at 618-695-3383 or cwevans@Illinois.edu

- From Route 145 in Eddyville, take Eddyville Road south towards Golconda.
- Go approximately, 2.5 miles and turn north (left) on Ragan Road.
- Take the first right on Ragan Road (approximately 0.5 mile)

Invasive Species Corner

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>
<http://www.facebook.com/rtrcwma>

Please look at the following resources for the latest in Invasive Species news.

FRST Volunteer Workday Schedule for March

Saturday, March 23rd, 1-4 pm, Dennis Niemann
10859 Saraville Road, Marion IL, 62959

This workday will primarily involve bush honeysuckle and autumn olive removal, performing cut-stump treatments.

Please wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy close-toed footwear. Water, tools, bug spray and snacks are provided. Please bring a water bottle to fill from our cooler.

RSVPs are greatly appreciated but not required. For more information, contact Nathan Speagle at volunteerfrst@gmail.com or Nick Seaton at rtrcwma@gmail.com.

Homes For Monarchs

The monarch butterfly's population has dropped 90% since 1996. Monarchs are important pollinators. 75% of all flowering plants and 35% of global food production depend on pollinators like butterflies and bees. Please consider signing a petition to support Illinois' efforts to grow native flowers on roadsides, gardens, and unused lands across the state. For more information, visit <https://www.bit.ly/homes4monarchs> or e-mail Peter Gordan at homes4monarchs@gmail.com.



Save Endangered Species Protections in Illinois

We need your help to prevent the Illinois Farm Bureau from gaining oversight of Illinois' Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB). HB 2425 & SB1336 would permanently weaken Illinois' ability to protect its endangered wildlife by proposing three troubling changes to the ESPB:

- Removes qualified scientists from the nine-member Board and replaces them with members of the Farm Bureau. The Farm Bureau opposes all non-voluntary measures to protect nature and wildlife, including Rusty-patch bumblebees and Monarch butterflies
- Adds a burdensome public hearing requirement when Illinois wants to designate Federally-endangered species as State-endangered species. Adding an unnecessary public hearing will slow down time-sensitive efforts to protect critically imperiled wildlife, and it may result in their exclusion from receiving critical protections in Illinois

Defers State authority to regulate destruction of endangered species habitats to Federal agencies. Under the Trump Administration, we can expect Federal agencies to be irresponsibly lax in their enforcement of protections.

For more information, visit <https://openlands.salsalabs.org/illinoisespb2018/index.html>.



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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Chris Benda
VP: Jean Sellar
Secretary: Erin Medvecz
Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Nick Seaton
At-large: Jody Shimp
At-large: Marisa Szubryt
Newsletter: Jennifer Behnken

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☐ Renewal ☐ Additional Donation

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☐ Business.....\$125.00
☐ Life.....\$500.00
☐ *Iliamna* (life).....\$1,000.00
☐ *Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
☐ *Erigenia* (life).....\$3,000.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society
INPS, Membership, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

The Harbinger Newsletter is sent electronically by email.

☐ Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

Erigenia, our scientific journal, is now available digitally as well as in print.

Please indicate your preference for receiving the journal.

☐ Email only ☐ Postal Mail only ☐ Both

Chapter Affiliation

- ☐ Central (Springfield) ☐ Northeast (Chicago)
☐ Forest Glen (Westville) ☐ Quad Cities (Rock Island)
☐ Grand Prairie (Bloomington) ☐ Southern (Carbondale)
☐ Kankakee Torrent ☐ Other/Uncertain _____

I would like to help with:

- ☐ Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level)
☐ Leading Field Trips & Tours
☐ Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars

- ☐ Giving Workshops &/or Seminars
☐ Public Speaking
☐ Fund Raising
☐ Website Assistance/Management

- ☐ Public Media/Communications
☐ Writing/Submitting articles
☐ Photography
☐ Other: _____

My area of expertise: _____