



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

February 2020

Newsletter

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

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Cadaver Botany Field Lab
Saturday, February 15th at 9am-12pm
War Bluff Valley Sanctuary
228 Bushwack Rd., Golconda, IL

Learn to identify common plants in their dormant state and renew your appreciation for the winter time woods. War Bluff Valley Sanctuary is an upland forest ecosystem in scenic Pope County. This guided hike will be led by Nick Seaton of the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area.

After the hike, we will have chili and cornbread available to those that want to stay. Bring a dish to share if you like! For planning purposes, please RSVP to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com.

Please consider carpooling, parking is limited.

This program is free and open to the public!



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Hello and happy February everyone! Last month we had a great program with Chris Benda highlighting some of the achievements of the chapter of the last 10 years. I am really looking forward to the Cadaver Botany field trip to War Bluff Sanctuary later this month. I hope a great crowd joins us to hike and identify plants based on the thatch from last year. A fun and useful skill to cultivate! We are putting together a great line up of other programs for the rest of the year as well with a nice mix of presentations, hikes, and workshops.

While some think this month is dreary and not much is going on outside, February is actually a really interesting ecological season here in southern Illinois. It is the transition from the dormancy of winter to the newness of spring. Our earliest blooms, such as harbinger-of-spring, hepatica, and red maple, start in February. The agricultural fields often transform from a dull brown to a bright spring green as winter annuals kick into gear.

Woodcock show up and start their mating rituals. Every year, I delight in the first time I hear the unmistakable 'Peent' of a male woodcocks displaying in the fields behind our house. Spring peepers, chorus frogs, and crawfish frogs also all start calling in ponds and wetlands throughout the region. As you find new plants in bloom or see spring starting, feel free to share it with the Native Plant Society by posting those sightings on our Facebook page.



Erigenia bulbosa,
Harbinger-of-Spring

Photo courtesy, Chris Benda

"Every year, I delight in the first time I hear the unmistakable 'Peent' of a male woodcocks displaying in the fields behind our house."

Please take advantage of any nice days yet this winter to explore southern Illinois, look for plants, and listen for spring as it is awakening all around us! I hope to run into you on a trail somewhere in southern Illinois this spring. If so, stop by and let's look at some plants together! ~ Chris Evans

Feature Plant of the Month

Beech Drops,
Epifagus virginiana

Roam the woods in the realm of beech trees to hunt for this particular plant. Its existence has a very unique relationship in that it is solely dependent on beech trees to grow. The plant is parasitic, meaning it does not produce any chlorophyll on its own, extracting the nutrients it needs from the roots of beech trees. This is the reason why it has no green color, but when active, has cream color stems and purple-striped flowers. This time of year, look for dried brown stems poking out among the leaf litter at the base of beech trees, resembling a more skeletonized appearance. Native Americans used to make a tea made from the fresh plant as a remedy for diarrhea, dysentery, mouth sores, and cold sores.



Photo courtesy, Jennifer Behnken

2020



Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

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www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

Feb. 15	Nick Seaton	Cadaver Botany Field Lab	War Bluff Sanctuary
March 17	Chris Evans	Rarest Illinois Trees	CTH
April 3-5	various	Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium	John A. Logan College
May 19	Tricia Bethke	Oak Diseases and Pests	CTH
June 21-23	TBD	INPS Annual Gathering	Normal, IL
June TBD	Paul Marcum	Sedge Workshop	TBD
July 21	TBD	TBD	TBD
Aug. 18	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sept. 22	Gretel Kiefer	Plants of Concern	CTH
Oct. 20	Kevin Sierzega	INPC Preservation and Protection of Natural Communities on Private Lands	CTH
Nov. 17	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>



**Stay tuned as annual INPS
programs are updated!**





Summary of Past Events

January Program, 2009-2019: Reflections on a Decade of Service, by Chris Evans

Former and current Southern INPS presidents

Outgoing president Chris Benda gave the presentation for the January meeting. A great crowd came to hear him give highlights from the ten years he has served as president of the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society. Chris started with the history of the southern chapter and how the entire state organization started down in southern Illinois and, later, the chapters in other regions of the state branched off from us. The southern chapter went through ups and downs over the years, included a period of inactivity. It was ten years ago that a group got together, included Chris, and decided to revive the chapter since there was a lot of interest in native plants and natural ecosystems in the area.



Early on, the chapter focused on informal field trips and presentations as events. We toured rare plant sites, natural areas, and listened to presentations from local experts. Chris noted some memorable field trips such as the trek through Wolf Creek Natural Area to view

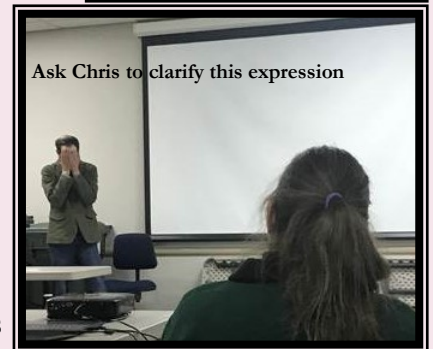
yellowwood trees and bigleaf snowbell bush and the canoe tour to look at aquatic plants on a private marsh. A tradition evolved in the chapter of meeting together and

sharing a holiday meal. This started in member's homes and transitioned to meeting at other locations, including most recently at Scratch Brewery. We've also had potlucks and cookouts with accompanying hikes.

As the chapter grew and developed, so did our program offerings. There was a desire from many members for opportunities to improve their identification skills, so the chapter started holding workshops on a variety of plant groups. We've held workshops on sedges (both *Carex* and non-*Carex*), grasses, ferns, and mosses. The chapter has produced two wildflower hike guides (Spring and Summer) to highlight some of the best places in southern Illinois to view wildflowers. We've hosted two state INPS meetings in southern Illinois and started an awards program to honor those that are doing great work for native plants and natural areas.

Lastly, we've started the Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium, now an annual event that focuses on native plants, natural areas, and management. Working with Green Earth, Inc., a native plant sale is held on the same day as the symposium.

Chris did a great job highlighting all that we've accomplished over the last ten years. It was amazing to sit back and realize the influence this chapter has had on southern Illinois and the opportunities it has provided for enjoying and learning about native plants.



Local Events & Announcements

Cache River Wetlands Center

Hummingbirds of the World

Saturday, February 15th, 10—11 am

John Schwegman will share photos of 77 of the 345 or so known hummingbird species of the Americas, such as the hermit hummers of the tropics, the giant hummingbird of the Andes Mountains, and the bee hummingbird of Cuba.

Butterflies and the Plants They Need

Saturday, March 14th, 1—2 pm

Metropolis Garden Club President and Master Naturalist, Anne Parmley, will show photos of common southern Illinois butterflies taken by amateur photographer, William Parmley. She will also talk about necessary larval food plants and preferred nectar plants. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.



Native Prairie Strips Integrated with Row Crops

Strips of native prairie of varying sizes have been planted on experimental and commercial farms. The strips are often employed in concert with other “regenerative agriculture” techniques such as cover crops and no-till practices. (Regenerative agriculture seeks to capture carbon in soil and aboveground biomass to reduce greenhouse gas accumulation and support soil health, water quality and native wildlife.) After several years of data collection, the STRIPS team found that including even a small amount of native prairie on a farm substantially improves water quality and nutrient retention, reduces erosion, and generates other benefits. For more information, visit

<https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/content/about-strips>.



The Shawnee National Forest Turns 80!

Special Exhibit at the Southern Illinois University Museum

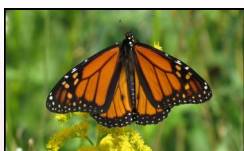
1000 Faner Drive, Carbondale, IL

To celebrate the Shawnee National Forest’s 80 anniversary, the Southern Illinois University Museum is hosting a special exhibit featuring historic photos taken in the 1930s and 1940s during the popular Ozark Tours hosted by L. O Trigg. The exhibit runs through February 21, and is free and open to the public. SIU Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10am-4pm, and Saturday, 1-4pm. A number of special evening lectures have been schedule in February. For more information, please call the museum at (618) 453-5388.



SIU Southern Illinois University

Guide to Monarch Habitat in Gardens



The Pollinator Partnership is excited to announce the official release of 4 new habitat guides. These new technical guides include information on how to create monarch habitat on farms, corporate lands, right-of-way passages, and in person or public gardens. Download your own copy by visiting <https://bit.ly/2vpqvs2>.



Loess Hill Prairie/Savanna Mgmt Video: <http://www.iowapbs.org/iowalandandsky/story/31380/loess-hills-prairie-burn>



ILLINOIS INDIGENOUS PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

Putting Theory into
Practice:
Ecosystem Restoration
& Management

April 3-5, 2020

John A. Logan College, H Building
Carterville, IL

April 3 @ 2pm - Guided Hike at Simpson
Barrens

April 4 @ 8am - Symposium & Native
Plant Sale at John A. Logan College

April 5 @ 10am - Guided Hike at Trail of
Tears State Forest

Join us for a day
of learning from a
wide range of
speakers!
Four concurrent
sessions will
follow a keynote
address.

Interested in
being a vendor?
Contact
southernillinois
plants@gmail.com



ILLINOIS
Extension

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SIU Southern Illinois
University
CARBONDALE

Registration will open online on March 2, 2020.



Green Earth
and the Illinois Native Plant Society
are hosting their annual

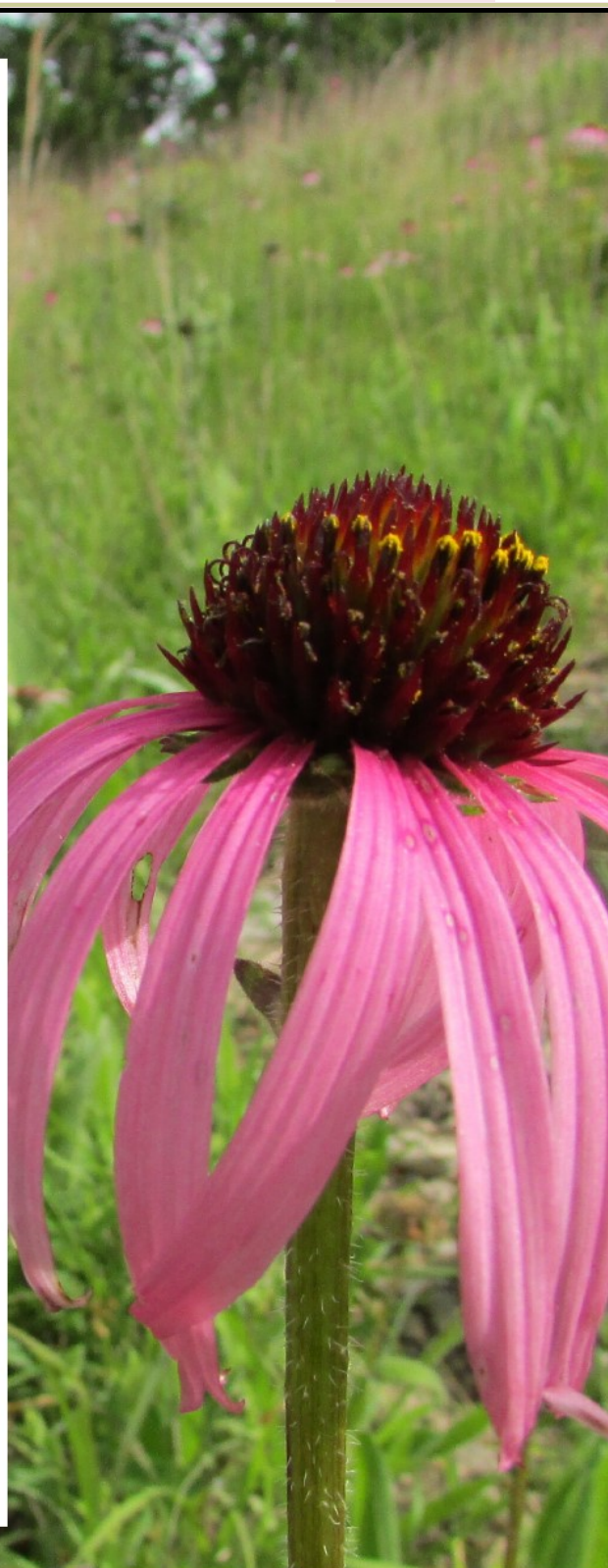
NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 4, 2020
8:00am - 2:00pm

John A. Logan College, Carterville, IL
Building H
in conjunction with the
Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium
(admission to the plant sale is free)

There will be high quality nursery
stock **native perennial wildflowers,**
ferns, grasses, and shrubs from
Southernwood Gardens, a local grower
in Alto Pass

Fundraiser sale
Prices start at \$10



Questions?

Contact Green Earth at director@greeneearthinc.org
or the southern chapter of INPS at southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

Barbara Racana Memorial Invasive Species Removal Day

Giant City State Park
Saturday, March 7th
9am-Noon



Friends
of
Giant City

Join us as we remember park volunteer and friends member, Barbara Racana, by pulling invasive species in the Fern Rocks Nature Preserve. Barbara was passionate about controlling invasive species and Giant City State Park, so what better way to honor her! Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center at 9am. Make sure to wear clothes to get dirty in. After the pull, join us in the Visitor Center for sandwiches and chips provided by the Friends of Giant City.

Please register by calling 618-457-4836.



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 February

Saturday, February 22nd, 9am—12 pm, Lucia Meijer
526 Shiloh Rd., Cobden, IL

This volunteer workday will focus on removing autumn olive and bush honeysuckle from a beautiful wooded property near Giant City State Park. Shiloh Road can be accessed from Makanda with Lucia's a couple miles to the south. Her driveway is on the north side of Shiloh Baptist Church. RSVPs are appreciated, but not necessary.

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

For more information, contact Nathan Speagle at volunteerfrst@gmail.com, 217-553-1405,
or Nick Seaton at rtrcwma@gmail.com.

Grantsburg Swamp Ecological Area Cleanup

Join us in cleaning up southern Illinois' unique natural areas! Help reduce pollution that harms wildlife and plants and diminishes the natural beauty of our region.

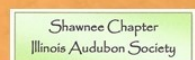
Participants will meet at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (354 State Highway 145N, Simpson, IL) at 12:30PM, Saturday, February 22 for hot cocoa and coffee, then carpool to the Grantsburg Swamp site along Flat Woods Road at 1:00PM. We'll return around 4:00PM with more cocoa and coffee for those who would like a warm-up!

To carpool from Carbondale, please contact Patty Weyhrich pweyhrich711@hotmail.com

We will have trash bags, gloves, and grabbers. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, but will have the option of working on dry ground or in wetter areas where rubber boots would be advised. Pre-registration is appreciated, please contact Kevin Rohling with questions or to register at 618-695-3383 or krohling@illinois.edu



Photo of spider lily, Grantsburg Swamp, courtesy Chris Evans



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
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www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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VP: Jean Sellar
Secretary: Erin Garrett
Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Nick Seaton
At-large: Kurt Neubig
At-large: Jen Harris
At-large: Rhonda Rothrock
Newsletter: Jennifer Behnken

Know someone who would like to receive our newsletter? Please have them send their email address to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our distribution list!



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- ☐ New Member ☐ Address Change only
☐ Renewal ☐ Additional Donation

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Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$15.00
☐ Individual.....\$25.00
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☐ Patron.....\$100.00
☐ 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, Attn: Dr. Nancy Garwood
Life Science II—Mailcode 6509 Southern Illinois University 1125 Lincoln Dr. Carbondale, IL 62901

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: _____