



Illinois Native Plant Society — Southern Chapter

The Shooting Star

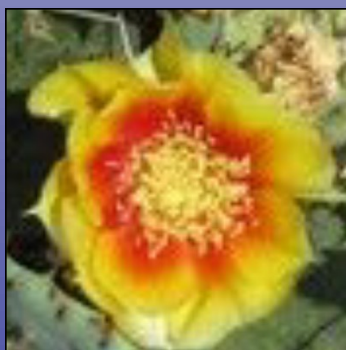
September 2020

Newsletter

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

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Cactus in Illinois?

So you're thinking this is what comes after murder hornets, right?

Illinois is actually home to a native cactus.

Join the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society to learn about the native cactus that is almost as prickly as hornets, but much less intimidating.

On Tuesday, September 22 at 6:30pm, Dr. Lucas Majure of the University of Florida will speak on prickly pear biology with an emphasis on Illinois. Recent studies have shown that their classification in North America has been problematic.

Please register to view this FREE event at:

<https://tinyurl.com/vylkxwuw>



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

This summer has definitely been one of the strangest that I have ever experienced. While our lives have been interrupted with many normal activities put on hold, I take a lot of comfort in realizing that the natural phenomena all around us continue unperturbed by the pandemic. Flowers continue to be pollinated. Fruit are formed. Ecological interactions happen without regard to social distancing!

I continue to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to enjoy nature and learn more about the incredible diversity of native plants we have here in southern Illinois. I had the fortunate opportunity to take a deep dive into aquatic plants (pun intended!) while preparing for the INPS Kayak Botany Tour held in August. We ran two sessions, each with 8 attendees and got to see over 40 different species! Recently, my family has been racing against squirrels and other wildlife to find ripe pawpaws, one of the largest and tastiest native fruits in Illinois! I am happy to say we won enough of those races and acquired enough fruit to make a batch of homemade pawpaw ice cream!

I hope you too are finding new ways to appreciate the natural ecosystems and native plants of southern Illinois. I hope to see you at our next virtual meeting, so we can all learn more about another great group of plants, the prickly pears!

~ Chris Evans

"I continue to encourage everyone to take this opportunity to enjoy nature and learn more about the incredible diversity of native plants we have here in southern Illinois."

Feature Plant of the Month

Spadderdock,
Nuphar advena

This is a good, alternative option for an aquatic plant water instead of American lotus. It is commonly called yellow pond lily, it needs shallow locations in clear to slightly muddy water. The yellow blooms emerge in late spring and last until early fall. This plant's population grows with both self seeding and networks of rhizomes. The bursting of the seed heads spatter the seeds in a broadcast fashion, lending to the common name. The leaves and the flower emerge from separate stalks. The flowers open in the morning and close at night for four to five days. The heart-shaped leaves, or lily pads, can grow over a foot long. Native American boiled the rootstocks for food.



Photo courtesy, Jennifer Behnken

2020



Southern Chapter

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www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

Sept. 22	Lucas Majure	Cactus in Illinois	Zoom
Oct. 20	Kevin Sierzega	INPC Preservation and Protection of Natural Communities on Private Lands	TBD
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>

Invasive Species Corner Japanese Chaff Flower (*Achyranthes japonica*)

Japanese chaff flower is a highly invasive, non-native perennial plant in the Amaranth family. It is well adapted to a variety of ecological sites, preferring moist, partially shaded forest bottomlands and associated with waterways. However, is also infests upland forests, riverbanks, edges of agricultural fields, and roadsides. This species is currently flowering, making it easier to identify and survey populations. Please use EDDMaps to report your sightings: <https://www.eddmaps.org>.

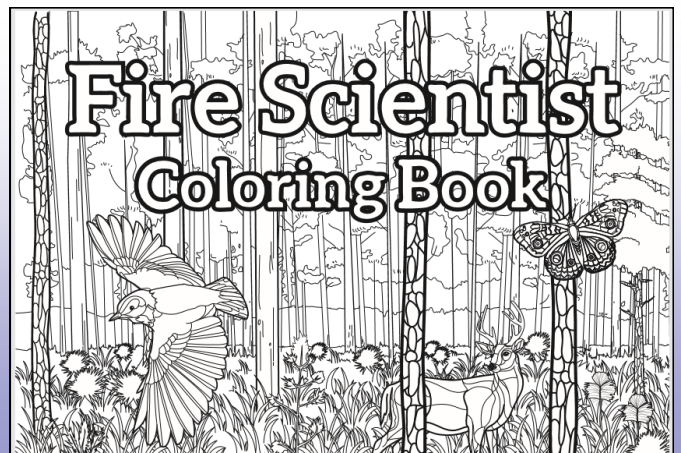


Fire Scientist Coloring Book

<https://bit.ly/3lB3qbp>



In this coloring book, explore how foresters and fire scientists literally fight fire with fire, thanks to the collaboration between the Forest Service and FIND Outdoors. Enjoy learning about the ecological benefits of fire, both for kids and adults.





Summary of Past Events



July Program

Virtual Guided Hike of Leisure City - Nick Seaton

Shedding Light on What Happens in the Dark: Plant-Moth Interactions - Breanna Whitley

After the success of our first virtual meeting, the chapter held its second virtual meeting in July. Nick Seaton returned to share an overview of Leisure City Natural Area in Pope County. Nick shared plants he had found along the way and suggested eight different botanical activities to do along the way. Leisure City is located in the lesser Shawnee Hills Natural Division, which is characterized by limestone glades with prairie species. Nick identified 137 species, with Asteraceae, Fabaceae, and Poaceae families most represented.

Breanna Whitley, Master's Student at SIU, spoke about plant-moth interactions to shed light on what happens in the dark as national moth week was wrapping up. She focused on moths that pollinate at night, since nocturnal moths make up over 75% of Lepidoptera species. She discussed the importance of remembering that flowering plants and Lepidoptera evolved in synchrony: in order for plants to have reproductive success, they had to adapt reward and attraction systems to attract their pollinators. She also put in context the importance of preserving pollinators of our endangered and threatened plants to aid in their conservation.



Left: Geometer Moth

Right: Virginia Creeper
Sphinx Moth

Photos courtesy,
Erin Garrett





Summary of Past Events

August Program, Kayak Botany Tour, presenters Chris Evans and Kevin Rohling by Jennifer Behnken



INPS took the reins of maintaining social distancing while providing a unique experience with this month's program. U of I Extension foresters Chris Evans and Kevin Rohling gave a botany tour (one in the morning and one in the afternoon) by way of kayaking, meandering the shore lines and waters of Devil's Kitchen Lake, a favorite stomping grounds and a fun paddle site according to Chris Evans. Participants brought their own kayaks and personal equipment, including wearing face masks while touring.

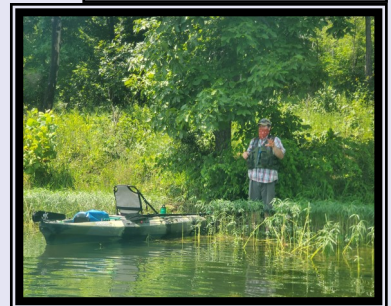
This 810-acre lake was constructed in the 1940s. The land was clear cut before submerging the area; in some up places, the water is up to 90 feet deep. The end result is navigating amongst the remnant tree tops, the last evidence of where a forest once stood. This history lends to the unique diversity of vegetation in and around the lake, ranging from aquatic and shoreline familiar plants to others found commonly on the bluffs and upland areas.

The three-mile paddle began on the south and west part of the lake meandering along the shore lines. Plants were classified as rooted, submerged, or floating aquatic, shoreline plants, emergent, grasses, sedges and rush, vines, shrubs, and trees. Observations started with muskgrass (*Chara/Nitella spp.*), which as can be imagined, gives a distinct impression from its scent. Some participants referenced an herbal/medicinal fragrance while others found it to be less than savory. There were many species noted, including spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*), floating water primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*), winged monkey flower (*Mimulus alatus*), orange jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), dotted smartweed (*Persicaria punctata*), fog fruit (*Phyla lanceolata*), Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), American pondweed (*Potamogeton nodosus*), water willow (*Justicia Americana*), nodding bulrush (*Scirpus pendulus*), and elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*). We even saw water hemlock (*Cicuta maculata*), not a plant to mess with.

See Chris or Kevin for a full list of species, as we observed quite a few while enjoying the sunshine and fresh air off the lake. Overall, it was remarkable experience by this method of transportation, with special thanks to Kevin and to Chris, taking his birthday to provide us with this opportunity!



Floating water primrose,
Ludwigia peploides



Muskgrass,
Chara/Nitella spp.

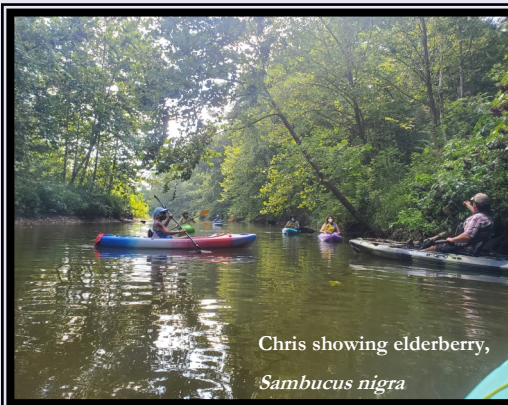


Dotted smartweed,
Persicaria punctata

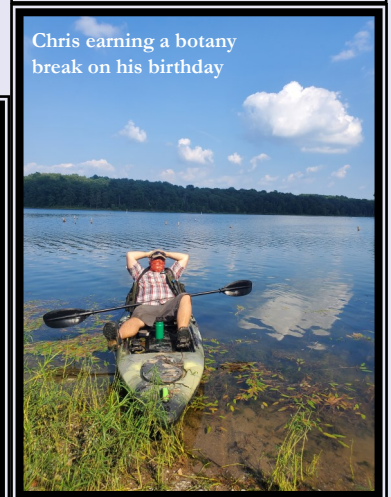


Tree tops in Devil's Kitchen Lake

Photos courtesy, Jennifer Behnken



Chris showing elderberry,
Sambucus nigra



Chris earning a botany
break on his birthday

Local Events & Announcements

2020 Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop

The third annual Southern Illinois Conservation Workshop has been converted to a week-long, virtual webinar series this year. This workshop brings together professionals with expertise on different aspects of landowner conservation to offer an opportunity for local land managers and landowners to learn, make connections, and ask questions.

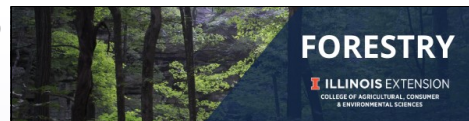
Join us online via Zoom, **September 21-25, 2:00pm-4:00pm CDT** each day. If you cannot attend the in-person webinars, they will be recorded and posted to YouTube for later viewing.

Registration is free and open to the public!

*Presentations are focused on the southern Illinois area, but much of the information is applicable to other areas of Illinois and nearby states.

Please send questions about the workshop to Erin Garrett emedvecz@illinois.edu or Chris Evans cwevans@illinois.edu and questions about registration to Brenda Hileman hileman@illinois.edu.

For more information and to register, visit <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=22467>



Part 1: Monday, September 28
10-11:30 AM: Basics of Grass ID & Woodland Grass ID
Part 2: Wednesday, September 30
10-11 AM: Prairie Grass ID
Part 3: Friday, October 2 |
10-11 AM: Nuisance Grass ID

Giant City State Park, check out the latest videos:

August in Giant City State Park

https://youtu.be/Zojq_yAt1bE

Moment of Zen at Giant City State Park

<https://youtu.be/p3RkqmrCtQ>

Hiking Trails of Giant City State C



Cache River Wetlands Center

Introduction to Orienteering Saturday, September 26th, 1—3 pm

This workshop will introduce children and adult to basic orienteering concepts: how to use a compass, how to measure distances with paces, and how to traverse an orienteering course. Participants will be provided the use of a compass and course map. They will have the opportunity to practice their newfound skills along the predetermined course adjacent to the Wetlands Center and Egret Slough. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.



One Shawnee Community Survey <https://www.oneshawnee.com/community-survey>

Please help with the vision for revitalizing the Ohio River and Shawnee National Forest regions of southernmost Illinois by taking this survey by September 25th.



Giant City State Park Journey of the Monarch



Entire month of September, 8am-2pm

Every fall thousands of Monarch Butterflies migrate south to central Mexico! Giant City State park is a great stopping point for these small creatures. Come out and help the University of Kansas track these insects by participating in a tagging program.

Program Directions



1. *Call the Giant City Visitors Center to reserve a time slot to check out butterfly catching equipment and instructions.*

618-457-4835

Time slots are available 7 days a week from 8am-2pm.

Participants must return to the Visitor Center before 3pm.

- *Make sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring insect spray, sunblock and water. The fields often have long grass and no shade.*

2. *Pick up equipment, instructions and a map at the Giant City Visitors Center at 235 Giant City Road, Makanda.*
3. *Head out to the designated field to catch Monarchs or, any butterflies and insects that you wish to identify.*
4. *Bring the butterflies/insects back to the visitor center to identify and tag. (Only Monarchs will be tagged)*
5. *Release your butterflies/insects.*
6. *Pick up an information packet and coloring book before you go.*



Fall Native Tree and Plant Sale

With Trees Provided by
Tabor Wholesale Nursery &
Forrest Keeling Nursery

Keep Carbondale Beautiful has
Native Trees (\$30) and Shrubs (\$20)
Tree orders received by Sept 29 (\$25)
www.keepcb.org



Upcycled Planters
will also be for sale



Green Earth is offering
high quality nursery
stock Native Perennials,
Grasses, & Ferns from
Southernwood Gardens.
www.greenearthinc.org

Saturday. October 3rd
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Town Square Pavillion

Invasive Species Corner

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

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>
<https://www.frstillinois.com>
www.sipba.org

INVASIVES CONTROL CORNER, Japanese Stiltgrass, by Jean Sellar

Stilt Grass (*Microstegium vimineum*) is one of southern Illinois' worst invaders. It started as adventive in disturbed moist soil in floodplains and streamsides but now rapidly takes over – everywhere.

Despite being a grass, Stilt Grass is relatively easy to identify. Leaves usually have a distinct white midrib set in a short broad blade, and the alternate leafed stems somewhat sprawl, branch near the base, and often root again at the nodes. There is a hairy throat collar. The inflorescences are delicate, terminal spikes and bloom July through October. Unfortunately, it also may set cleistogamous (self-fertilized) blooms earlier in the year.



Each plant may produce up to 1,000 seeds. The multitudinous seeds persist in the soil for years and provide little benefit to animals. Dead plants form a matted thatch that smothers native plants beneath it. Stilt grass thrives in dense shade, especially if it is moist, but happily grows in full sun and mesic conditions

Stilt grass probably entered the U.S. as packing material in lieu of straw and was first identified in Tennessee in 1919. It particularly spreads on hiker's boots and clothing, but is known to be reduced by the boot cleaning brushes that have been installed at some trail heads. Washing and brushing personal gear after a hike also is effective.

Stilt Grass can be controlled manually, but only in the early stages of an infestation. It also may be necessary if small numbers grow within a stand of high-quality native vegetation that needs to be preserved. Fortunately, as an annual, it is easy to pull, but control is best started early because of the cleistogamy. Because of the persistent seed bank, it will germinate several times within the growing season, so manual or chemical treatments often must be repeated. Light frost will not kill it.

Glyphosate at 4-5% is effective, and so are the grass specific weed killers at the recommended dosages. Many other herbicides available to professionals also work. Fire or close mowing during the growing season may kill the plant, but the seed bank will germinate again.



Photos courtesy, Chris Evans



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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

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VP: Jean Sellar
Secretary: Erin Garrett
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At-large: Kurt Neubig
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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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☐ *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: _____