



# The Shooting Star February 2021

## Newsletter

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

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### *Oaks and Caterpillars: Diversity and Natural History Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Virtual Presentation, Zoom*

Join the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society as we welcome Dr. Jim Whitfield from University of Illinois. Dr. Whitfield will discuss his research on the ecology of caterpillars on plants, along with parasitic wasps that attack caterpillars, with a special emphasis on the caterpillars found on Ozark oaks. Register for this presentation at:

<https://tinyurl.com/y2374.nch>.

This program is free and open to the public!



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## *Message from the Southern Chapter President*

Hello everyone! February is one of those transition months. While the groundhog's recent sighting of his shadow and the deep cold spell we are currently experiencing both seem to indicate that we are still in the throws of heavy winter, we all know that is not the case and that spring is just around the corner! In fact, just two days ago I heard the first 'Peent' the male woodcocks make when displaying. The arrival of woodcocks, to me, is the first sure fire sign of spring. If you take a look at the red maples in southern Illinois, their flower buds are swelling and should be opening up soon as one of the first flowering plants of the year. Harbinger-of-spring, hepatica, and even spring beauties are not that far around the corner!

Photo courtesy, Chris Benda



Harbinger-of-Spring  
*Ergenia bulbosa*

Photos courtesy, Chris Evans



Sharp-Lobed Hepatica  
*Hepatica acutiloba*

This late winter time, just before the eruption of new life in spring, is a great opportunity to knock the rust off of your botany skills by reviewing your plant identification books, internet searching for wildflower pictures and videos, and asking around for recommendations of new locations to hike.

Of course, let's not simply view winter as something to get through on our way to spring. Wintertime in southern Illinois is full of wonderful opportunities for hiking and enjoying the natural resources. As such, I hope we can all enjoy what winter we have left while simultaneously looking forward to the changing of the season!  
~ Chris Evans

**"Wintertime in southern Illinois is full of wonderful opportunities for hiking and enjoying the natural resources."**

### *Feature Plant of the Month*

Sweet cicely,  
*Osmorhiza sp.*

There are several names for this plant, including sweet anise, aniseroot, or sweet chervil, part of the carrot family. This picture depicts either *longistylis* (more common) or *claytonia*, found in moist woodlands and ravines. *Longistylis* will have 7-16 flowers per umbellet (the cluster of flowers) while *claytonia* will have 4-7 flowers per umbellet. The leaves are edible with a mild anise-scented aroma and can be added in salads. The roots can be dried to use as an herb with a taste similar to black licorice. The coarsely toothed leaves have a fern like resemblance, divided into three parts, the lower leaves having longer petioles.



Photo courtesy, Chris Benda

2021



## Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

### Calendar of Events

February 16	Dr. Jim Whitfield	Oaks and Lepidoterans	Virtual
March 16	Ashley Morris	Population and Genetics of <i>Dalea foliosa</i>	Virtual
April 15-17	INPS	Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium	Virtual
May 18	Tricia Bethke	Oak Pests and Diseases	Virtual

### The Illinois Native Plant Society is on YouTube!

A reminder to take some time to check out recorded presentations by visiting <https://bit.ly/35amp1Z>.



### Audubon Plant ID Quiz

Even when lacking characteristic leaves, trees and shrubs can be identified if you examine their twigs and buds for key characteristics. Don't worry if you don't fare well on this quiz, but you'll walk away with a broader understanding of plants that can be used on your next outdoor adventure! Developed by Chris Benda, test your terminology knowledge with this quiz by visiting <https://bit.ly/3oU0HKB>.



### Let the Sun Shine In!, Healthy Oak Forest Video

Let the Sun Shine In! (LSSI) is an innovative conservation program aimed at maintaining and restoring oak dominated forest communities for the benefits of both wildlife and the people of southern Illinois. Check out this YouTube video featuring their work focusing on oak forest health and regeneration: <https://bit.ly/3aHUvAz>.



### Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves are hiring!

This organization is committed to the conservation of the most ecologically important prairies, savannas, woodlands, and wetlands in the state. To support this work, we need many people and many skills, including hiring a Director, Administrator, and Field Representatives. Application deadline is February 15th. For more information, visit <https://www.friendsofillinoisnaturepreserves.org>.



Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

# ILLINOIS INDIGENOUS PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

Putting Theory into Practice:  
Ecosystem Restoration & Management



ILLINOIS  
INDIGENOUS PLANTS  
SYMPOSIUM

## SAVE THE DATE

### April 15-17, 2021

Registration will open in early March

Join us for a three-day  
virtual symposium, including  
evening sessions on Thursday  
and Friday and day sessions  
on Saturday.



ILLINOIS  
NATIVE  
PLANT  
SOCIETY

SOUTHERN CHAPTER



## *Summary of Past Events*



### *January Program, Researching Invasive Plants, by Chris Evans*

January's meeting featured a presentation from INPS Southern Chapter president and University of Illinois Extension Forester Chris Evans. Chris presented updates on several invasive species research projects he is involved in. The first was the use of UAVs (Unmanned Aerial vehicles or more commonly called 'Drones') for detecting and mapping invasive species. UAV technology provides great opportunities to quickly assess lands for invasive species. Extension Forestry's research is looking at both the efficiency and accuracy of using UAVs to map bush honeysuckle in forested settings. This technique has a lot of applicability for finding and delineating large infestations, but work is still needed to refine the technique to better locate individual plants and small infestations.



Chris also presented updates on several invasive plant control projects. The first was looking at timing of herbicide treatments to control garlic mustard. While the conventional wisdom is to halt herbicide treatments when garlic mustard starts flowering, this research indicated that herbicide treatments all the way through the end of flowering, can still be highly effective at rendering the seed produced non-viable. This can extend the treatment window available to landowners and managers in the spring.

The second control project was the use of pre-emergent herbicides to control Japanese stiltgrass. Several different herbicides were tested in different combinations and rates. These herbicides varied in their long-term control of stiltgrass and impacts to native species, but the best performing pre-emergent in this trial was Esplanade Sure applied at 4.5 ounces/acre. This controlled stiltgrass germination for the entire growing season while still allowing for the best recovery of native species.



Lastly, the final update was for research looking at foliar control of bush honeysuckle using different rates and herbicides. This project found triclopyr-based herbicides ineffective at controlling bush honeysuckle, but found that Method 240SL at a spot treatment rate of 1/2-1% an effective option.

## *Winter Tree ID Quiz*

*Test your knowledge in looking at the various tree trunks to see what species they are! Answers are provided below.*

Photos courtesy, Chris Benda



Top row, left to right:  
eastern hophornbeam/ironwood, black cherry,  
sugar maple, black locust,

Middle row, left to right:  
flowering dogwood, yellow/tulip poplar,  
sassafras, white ash

Bottom row, left to right:  
northern red oak, persimmon



*Local Events & Announcements*

**Giant City State Park**

**Forest Therapy Hike**

**Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 10— 11 am**

Slow down and take in some sights, sounds, and smells of the winter forest as park volunteers and nature enthusiasts, Mike and Monique Baltz, give a tutorial on how to get a little “Forest Therapy.” Using all of your senses, take a relaxing walk on the easy, partially paved, 1/3 mile Post Oak Trail.

**Full Moon Hike**

**Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30—7:15pm**

The trails at Giant City close a dusk unless you are attending a guided hike with the Natural Resources Coordinator! Listen for the occasional all of the barred owl as we hike under the glow of the full moon. This will be a moderate 1/3 mile hike on the Stone Fort Trail.



In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 and to help keep program participants safe, all programs will take place outdoors and will have a limited registration of 10 or less people. Please remember to bring a mask. If social distancing of at least 6 feet is not possible, masks must be worn.

**Registration is required for all programs.** Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 for more information or to register.

**All programs are free!**

*Happy Hiking!*

**Cache River Wetlands Center**

**Hummingbird-Winged Jewels**

**Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1—3pm**

Get ready for the spring migration of hummingbirds with added knowledge of one of the smallest birds in North America and suggestions for preparing your yard or garden for their arrival. The right habitat will supply these jewels of the sky with enough food resources and nesting opportunities that they will make their home in your neighborhood. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.



**EEAI, Program Coordinator Position**

The Environmental Education Association of Illinois works towards maintaining a vital network that supports and advances environmental education throughout the state. The Coordinator would manage all EEAI events, seek out new funding opportunities, new partnerships and collaborative projects, and manage the statewide facilitator network. For more information, visit <https://www.eeai.net/job-postings.html>.



**It's Just Resting: How Dormancy Works in Trees**

The biology of dormancy is complex, but we can explain the principles in fairly simple terms. The key feature in dormancy is that not simply a period of rest due to cold weather. Dormancy in a tree bud is determined by day length, not by temperature. Buds become dormant, incapable of continued growth, as days become shorter in autumn. Chemicals accumulate in the bud that prevent growth. A bud is a tightly folded branch, containing the leaves, stem segments, buds, and other structures needed to produce next year's shoot. To continue reading this article, visit <https://www.knps.org/2021/01/08/its-just-resting-how-dormancy-works-in-trees/>.



## Invasive Species Corner

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>  
<https://www.frstillinois.com>  
[www.sipba.org](http://www.sipba.org)

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

### Non-Native Invasive Species Update (NNIS) - Nick Seaton

As winter trudges forward we can look back at some of the work completed controlling invasive species in the woods with a sense of relief and accomplishment. If you haven't yet begun, don't worry, winter's not over. Punxsutawney Phil called for a 6-week extension of the treatment window for woody invasive species.

Now is still a great time to get out and remove any woody invasive species in your woods. If you have invasive species like honeysuckle *Lonicera maackii*, autumn olive *Elaeagnus umbellata*, princess tree *Paulownia tomentosa* or burning bush *Euonymus alata* on your property there are a few different options to get them removed. For more information on management and ID of invasive species the [rtrcwma.org](http://www.rtrcwma.org) has a management and ID guide in the quick-links tab. Both are available for download.



In addition to the woody invasive species you may start notice the basal rosettes of garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* beginning to appear. This is also a good time to start your preparations for control and get a leg up in difficult areas. Garlic mustard is a biennial plant, meaning that it takes two seasons to grow and mature. Taking advantage of this and targeting the basal rosettes extends your control calendar and relieves you of pulling and bagging as much later when siliques are produced.

Another invasive species that is good to get an eye for in the dormant season is chaff flower *Achyranthes japonica*. This is continuing to spread across the Shawnee forest. The plants are bronze colored right now and have recognizable seeds that are easily spread in infested areas by clothes and animals. If you have an infestation of chaff flower try to avoid these areas to avoid seed spread.

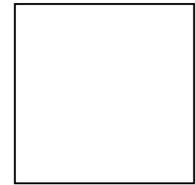


Top: Garlic mustard, Right: Japanese chaff flower, photos courtesy Nick Seaton

**"You may start to notice the basal rosettes of garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolata* beginning to appear. This is also a good time to start your preparations for control and get a leg up on difficult areas [as well as chaff flower, *Achryanthes japonica*]."**



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 271  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0271



[southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)  
[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French's Shooting Star

**Board Members**

- President: Chris Evans
- 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

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- 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

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**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)
- Forest Glen (Westville)
- Grand Prairie (Bloomington)
- Kankakee Torrent
- Northeast (Chicago)
- Quad Cities (Rock Island)
- Southern (Carbondale)
- 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:** \_\_\_\_\_