



# The Shooting Star

## NEWSLETTER

of the  
Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

### MAY 2010

#### Next Meeting

**Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm**  
**Life Sciences II Bldg, room 453**  
**SIUC campus, Carbondale, IL**

Please join us in welcoming  
**Debbie Newman**, Ecologist with the  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission about the  
**Hill Prairies of Southwest Illinois.**

*Next Month: No regular monthly meeting*  
*Get outside to one of our many events!*



*Lithospermum canescens* – Hoary Puccoon

#### Upcoming Event!!!

**Invasive Species Awareness Hike May 8<sup>th</sup> @ 10am**  
**Bell Smith Springs, Pope County, IL**

Please help us recognize Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month by joining IDNR Biologist Jody Shimp at Bell Smith Springs for a nature hike. The water should be flowing well through the Devil's Backbone and the trail leader will point out many plants of interest. Please clean your boots and bring plenty of water and a lunch.

**Directions:** From US 45 in Ozark, Illinois go east on Ozark Road (county road 8) and follow the signs to Bell Smith Springs. We will meet at the Hunting Branch Recreation Area, take a right turn off the main road and follow to the bottom of the hill. Note: This is not the main parking area by the stairs.

#### Follow the Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter online!

We now have a FACEBOOK group where event information and photos are posted. You can also contact our board members by emailing [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com) or Write us at INPS Southern Chapter, P.O. Box 271 Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

## \*\*\* Fults Hill Prairie hike \*\*\*

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 @ 8:30am

Led by IDNR District Heritage Biologist Marty Kemper

Fults Hill Prairie is a state dedicated nature preserve which lies on the Mississippi River bluffs overlooking the American Bottoms and Kidd Lake Marsh in Monroe Co. It is located about 10 miles south of Waterloo in the northern section of the Ozark Natural Division of Illinois - the "Illinois Ozarks" which includes the karst/cave region of southwest Illinois.

The 445-acre site is primarily forested, but also includes scenic limestone bluffs, glades, and hill prairies. Our walk will traverse all of these communities on the site's walking trail. Our visit is timed so we might enjoy many blooming species in the hill prairies and glades. The terrain is very steep, so be prepared and carry water. Sturdy shoes and long pants are recommended.

Fults Hill Prairie is home to a number of state endangered and threatened species and hopefully we will get to see some blooming.

Here is a sample of some of the plants: *Draba cuneifolia* (wedge-leaved whitlow grass), *Heliotropium tenellum* (slender heliotrope), *Galium virgatum* (dwarf bedstraw), *Bumelia lanuginosa* (wooly buckthorn), *Rudbeckia missouriensis* (Missouri coneflower), *Hexalectris spicata* (crested coral-root), and *Matelea decipiens* (climbing milkweed). Bring a sack lunch. We can eat after at the little "town" of Fults at the park.

**Directions:** It will take about 1 1/2 hours (or longer) from Carbondale. Please note: There are no toilet facilities. Prairie du Rocher would be a viable pit stop. From Rt 3 going north, just outside of Ruma take Rt 155 west (left) to Prairie du Rocher.

Just outside of Prairie du Rocher at the base of the bluff turn north (right) onto Bluff Road. This is the only north/south road that runs along the base of the bluffs. Continue north on Bluff Road to Fults Hill Prairie sign. Parking is on your right. Start looking for the sign when you pass Kidd Lake on your left (about 1 mile or so).

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### Related May Events

- May is Invasive Species Awareness Month. Go to [www.invasive.org/illinois/Calendar](http://www.invasive.org/illinois/Calendar) for a schedule of events. There are many worthwhile events and activities planned.
- May 7<sup>th</sup> - 7pm to 10pm: Food Works presents the documentary film, Food Fight, a film that challenges conventional thinking about the nation's food system. The film will be projected against an old barn, drive-in-movie style, in a picturesque setting a few miles north of Pomona, right off Highway 127. For more info contact [info@eatsouthernillinois.org](mailto:info@eatsouthernillinois.org) or (217)840-3057.
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> - Noon to 5pm: The Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District is hosting an invasive species eradication day at Fountain Bluff. Volunteers will hand pull garlic mustard and a USFS archeologist will be there to talk about the unique cultural resources in the area. Please contact in advance, [shawneevolunteercorps@yahoo.com](mailto:shawneevolunteercorps@yahoo.com), or (618)687-1731 ext. 125.

### Online Plant Fun!!!

There is an online plant quiz that can be found at <http://biology.clc.uc.edu/courses/bioall/flowers.htm>. Take a moment to test your knowledge of common plants in our area!



# A Message from Chris Benda ~ President

Last weekend was our spring social at the Ozark Hills Nature Preserve in the Trail of Tears State Forest and it was a great time! After a fine lunch, we formed teams and set out to find the 50 species of trees, forbs, and ferns along the trail that were listed on the plant scavenger hunt. Despite light rain for a few minutes in the beginning, everyone really enjoyed this activity. There were many neat ferns such as Grape Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*), Glade Fern (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*), and Silvery Spleenwort (*Deparia acrostichoides*) as well other species in bloom

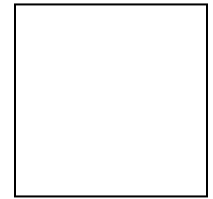


Glade Fern – *Diplazium pycnocarpon*

including Red Buckeye (*Aesculus pavia*), Adam and Eve Orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*), and Doll's Eyes (*Aralia pachypoda*). Priscilla spotted some Pink Azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*) on a hill behind the pavilion and as most were leaving, a few of us scampered up the steep slope to see the Azalea up close. It is a spectacular flower indeed!



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A big **THANK YOU** to Andy West for leading the nature hike at  
**The Snake Road of LaRue Pine Hills** last month.

## INPS 2010 CALENDAR

**Upcoming Events:**

<b>May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Jody Shimp</b>	<b>Invasive Awareness</b>	<b>Bell Smith NA</b>
<b>May 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Debbie Newman</b>	<b>Hill Prairies</b>	<b>SIUC campus</b>
<b>June 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Marty Kemper</b>	<b>Natural Area hike</b>	<b>Fults Hill Prairie</b>
<b>June 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>INPS Members</b>	<b>Annual meeting</b>	<b>Petersburg, IL</b>

**Past Events:**

<b>May 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Everyone</b>	<b>INPS Spring Social</b>	<b>Trail of Tears SP</b>
<b>April 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>INPS</b>	<b>Spring Wildflowers</b>	<b>SIUC campus</b>
<b>April 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Andy West</b>	<b>Snake road hike</b>	<b>LaRue Pine Hills</b>