



The Shooting Star

NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

“...dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois.”

December 2011

2011 INPS Holiday Dinner

December 11, 2011 at 1pm

This year's dinner will be hosted by Judy Faulkner-Dempsey and her husband Jerry at their home in rural Murphysboro. The dinner will begin at 1pm. If you want to bring a dish to share, a salad, veggie tray, bread, or dessert are suggested. The main dish includes several types of lasagna.

Directions to the Dempsey residence:

From the Junction of Old Route 13 and Hwy 127 S. (towards Jonesboro) Turn south onto Hwy 127 going towards Jonesboro, IL. Travel 6.0 miles south on 127. At 6 miles you will be going up a steep hill (Tomcat Hill). Going up the long hill there are two sets of guard rails on the left or east side of the road. Immediately past the end of the second guard rail is Judy's gravel driveway. You cannot see the house from the road. Turn left onto the driveway. Travel up the driveway until you see the rustic house in the clearing. There are no other houses on this road.

If you prefer, you can come across Chatauqua to get to Hwy 127. At this junction you will travel 3 miles south instead of 6 miles south and follow the above directions from there.

Please join us for a nice meal!



You can see more photos on our facebook page. Copy the web address below into your internet browser and you can view the photo albums without having to sign up...or if you have a facebook profile, please click on the “like” button to add to your favorite pages.
www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Online Resources and Articles

New Rapid Color Guide - Common Goldenrods of the Chicago Region

The goal of the Rapid Color Guides is to provide free tools to help individuals quickly and accurately identify species in the field. The guides often concentrate on a limited geographic area and may fill gaps in the published literature. The guide can be viewed and downloaded at:

<https://docs.google.com/open?id=0BxmyzGJIFY0pZDBjMGI1N2MtYzdjYS00OGRmLTkxMTEtOWE1NzdlYzQ3Njcz>

Report Offers Help in Japanese Stiltgrass Battle

Almost 100 years ago, the theory goes, a company in Knoxville, Tenn., received a shipment that contained a fateful packing material. It wasn't long before the bushy Japanese Stiltgrass that cushioned the goods was growing along a nearby stream bank. And growing, and growing...

Read story at <http://news.siu.edu/2011/11/112211tjc11098.html>



Scientists Discover First Night-flowering Orchid: *Bulbophyllum nocturnum*.

Read story at <http://www.npr.org/blogs/thetwo-way/2011/11/22/142664419/scientists-discover-first-night-flowering-orchid?sc=fb&cc=fp>

Related December Events

- December 8th: The Mysteries of Easter Island. Sierra Club will host a program by Susan Pinter, a lecturer in the Geology Department at SIU at 7:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall.
- December 19th: Cypress Creek Annual Christmas Bird Count. Please register by calling the Refuge office at 618-634-2231.

Visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm> for more!

Call for Nominations!!!

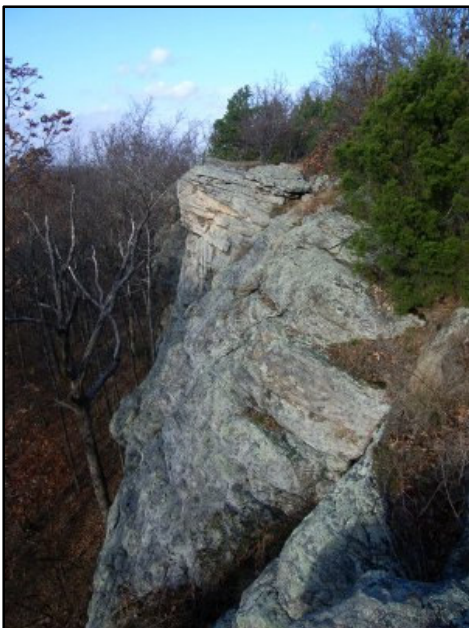
It is the time of year when we need to elect board members for 2012. We have one resigning member this year, our current Secretary, Sara Koropchak, will be moving to Virginia to join her fiancé. If there is anyone you would like to nominate for this position for 2012, please contact the board at southernillinoisplants@gmail.com.



Past Event

Hike to Stoneface Natural Area

Story and photos by Chris Benda: On a nice warm, but windy November Sunday, a small group of people made the hike to Stoneface Natural Area near Harrisburg in Saline County, Illinois. This unique site features a large rock escarpment with a portion of rock that looks like a human face. Even this late in the year there were still many plants to identify and talk about. The rare plant called Wild Stonecrop (*Sedum telephioides*), was encountered in full bloom, clinging precariously to its small perch on the rock face. An inconspicuous orchid called Nodding Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*) was observed in flower and many springtime plants were putting out fresh growth in preparation for winter. The late autumn sunshine radiated off the rock and onto our smiling faces as we followed the dirt path through the cedar trees, stopping often at rocky overlooks to gaze across the vast expanse of flat land to the west, an area known as Glacial Lake Harrisburg. After pondering the landscape of the geologic past we turned around and headed back to the parking lot, ending another splendid Illinois Native Plant Society hike in the Shawnee National Forest.



Rock escarpment



Wild Stonecrop



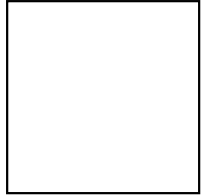
Nodding Ladies' Tresses Orchid

Southern IL Strike Team 2011 Final Report Available Online

The southern Illinois strike team has made significant progress toward protecting natural areas in southern Illinois from the threat of invasive species. From October 2010 to September 2011, the team surveyed and treated a total of 1,659 acres of invasive plants, including 25 The 2011 Annual Report for the Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team is now available online at:

http://www.rtrcwma.org/ISSTFinal_Annual_Report_2011.pdf.

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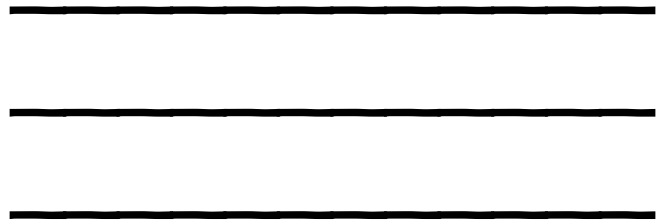
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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Chris Benda
Vice-President: Chris Evans
Secretary: Sara Koropchak
Treasurer: Rhonda Rothrock
At-large: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Jody Shimp



INPS 2011 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
December	Judy and Jerry Dempsey	<i>Holiday Dinner</i>	4648 Hwy 127

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012.

Past Events:

September 23-25 th	– INPS 30 th Anniversary Celebration	in Ozark, IL
November 13 th	– Chris Benda	<i>Stoneface hike</i> Stoneface NA

Biodiversity Can Promote Survival on a Warming Planet

TBA = To Be Announced

Whether a species can evolve to survive climate change may depend on the biodiversity of its ecological community, according to a new mathematical model that simulates the effect of climate change on plants and pollinators. The findings, published in the early online edition of *Evolutionary Applications*, are important because some species that have survived large climatic change in the past might not be able to survive current and ongoing climate change. .More at http://nimbios.org/press/FS_biodiversity