



# The Shooting Star

## NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

# MARCH 2011

### Next Meeting

March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm

Carbondale Township Hall  
217 East Main St. Carbondale, IL

Ryan Campbell, SIUC graduate and  
Consulting Restoration Ecologist at the  
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, will present  
“Habitat Restoration in Illinois Ecosystems”

*Next Month:*

*Chris Benda, chapter President, will present  
“Treasures of the Shawnee National Forest”  
at the US Forest Service headquarters in Harrisburg, IL*



Fermilab Prairie in Batavia, Illinois

## Upcoming Event!!!

What: Winter Tree Identification

When: March 26: 2 to 4pm

Where: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Please join us for an afternoon of tree identification with SIU forestry professor Dr. Jim Zaczek. This workshop will focus on identifying trees using characteristics such as bark, twigs, and bud scars that are distinguishable in the winter when leaves are not. The University campus has a diversity of trees, both native and introduced. Meet at the Agriculture building in the breezeway, rain or shine, and we will tour the campus. Call (217)417-4145 if you have questions.



*Fraxinus americana* – White Ash

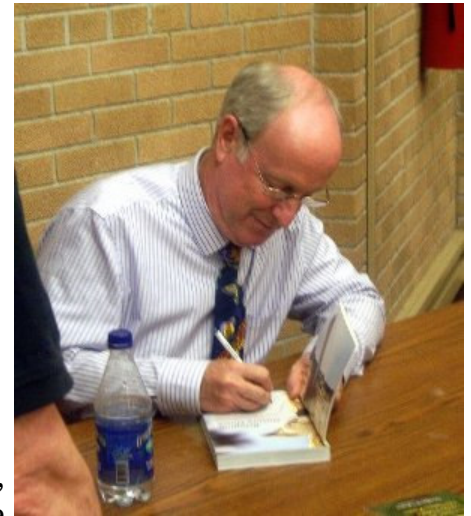
# Bringing Nature Home - A BIG Success!

We are pleased to report that the Dr. Doug Tallamy presentation last month was a huge success! The Browne auditorium on the SIU campus was filled to capacity, with over 250 people spilling into the aisles and doorways. Dr. Tallamy eloquently communicated the necessity and urgency of using native plants in the suburban and country landscape. His slideshow presentation



included a list of the most biologically productive plant genera, practical design plans for landscaping at your home, and beautiful photos of wildlife, particularly caterpillars, all taken at his 10-acre homestead, which started as a pile of dirt and weeds. After the presentation, we sold every book available and many waited in line for their opportunity to have their books signed by Dr. Tallamy. If you missed the talk, I bet you are bummed and you should be! But do not fret, we recorded the presentation and it

will be available for viewing in the near future. We extend the utmost gratitude to our many sponsors who made the event possible. Sponsors include the Illinois Native Plant Society, the US Forest Service, Carbondale Garden Study Club, Evergreen Garden Club, Friends of Giant City State Park, Long Forestry Consultation, the River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area, the Shawnee chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society, the



Shawnee group of the Sierra Club, Southern Illinois Audubon Society, and the SIU Restoration Club. The



next day, several INPS members, including some from the central chapter that came down for the talk, went to Provo Cemetery Barrens in Alexander County. Mark Guetersloh, area Heritage Biologist, met up with us to see the big, gnarly, state threatened Rock Chestnut oaks (*Quercus prinus*) that occur on the steep, acidic, cherty soils there. The field trip was very informative and everyone enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather.

## Where to get native plants?

One of the many questions asked after the Bring Nature Home presentation was "where can I get native plants for my property?" Now that we have learned why it is essential that we use native plant species in our yard landscaping, we need to know where to go to get native plants and how to plant them. Our next goal is to compile a list of sources that sell native plants, a list of publications that explain how to landscape with native plants, and a list of places where people can view gardens and property that have been landscaped with native plants. A special newsletter is in preparation for next month and information will be provided on the Illinois Native Plant Society's updated website, which is currently under development. Look for more information in the next newsletter or contact [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com) if you have suggestions for this special newsletter.

Please note that Missouri Wildflowers is having a native plant sale on March 12th. Visit [www.mowildflowers.net](http://www.mowildflowers.net) or call (573)496-3492 to pre-order plants for pickup at the Cape Girardeau nature center on March 12th. This saves you from having to drive to Jefferson City, Missouri!



We have a beautiful facebook page for the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society! Follow this link and you can browse 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](http://www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants)

## Related March events

- March 8-10: Bottomland Ecosystem Restoration Conference, Collinsville, IL <http://www.ngrrec.org/berc2011>
- March 12<sup>th</sup>: Native Plant Seminar & Sale from 8:30 to 3:00 at the Cape Girardeau Nature Center. Call 573-290-5218 for seminar and pre-order plants at [www.mowildflowers.net](http://www.mowildflowers.net)
- March 12<sup>th</sup>: Friends of the Cache River Watershed presents "Leave No Trace" from 1 to 4pm at the Cache River Wetlands Center in Ullin, Illinois.
- March 14<sup>th</sup>: The Shawnee chapter of the Illinois Audubon Society presents "Winter Birding in Florida" by John and Martha Schwegman at 7pm at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 East Main St.
- March 19<sup>th</sup>: Friends of the Cache River Watershed presents "All About Hummers!" from 10am to 12pm at the Cache River Wetlands Center in Ullin, Illinois.
- April 9<sup>th</sup>: LaRue Pine Hills Appreciation Day, Trail of Tears State Forest, Union County, Illinois.

## \*\*\*Coming this April\*\*\*



*Hydrastis canadensis* - Goldenseal



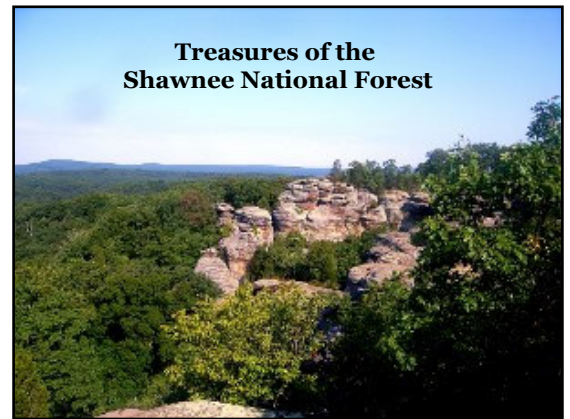
Clymene Moth      Widow Skimmer



*Heterodon platirhinos* - Hognose Snake

Next month, the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society and the Shawnee National Forest, along with a new organization, Friends of the Shawnee National Forest, will host companion events highlighting the many treasures that can be found within the 280,000 acres of federally owned land. At **7pm** on Thursday **April 21<sup>st</sup>**, a slideshow presentation at the Shawnee National Forest headquarters in Harrisburg will highlight the plants and animals that occur within the natural areas

across the Shawnee National Forest in southern Illinois. On Saturday **April 23<sup>rd</sup>**, there will be a hike at the Rim Rock National Recreational Trail in southwestern Gallatin County. Meet at **1pm** at the parking lot of Rim Rock Trail. Trail leader Chris Benda will lead the group on the "wonderfully scenic loop around the rock escarpments" and share stories of its rich history. Directions from Harrisburg: follow Highway 34/145 south 6 miles, then continue on Highway 34 south for 9 miles. Turn east onto Karbers Ridge Road, and follow it 8.3 miles to the Rim Rock entrance road. There is a parking lot and restroom facilities are available at the trailhead. Call (217)417-4145 if you have any questions and please visit [www.snffriends.org](http://www.snffriends.org) for more information about the Friends of the Shawnee National Forest.

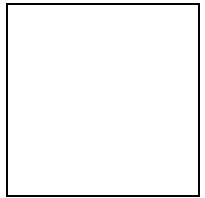


Camel Rock at the Garden of the Gods Wilderness Area

### Treasures of the Shawnee National Forest

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**INPS 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY - 2011 ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SEPTEMBER 23 - 25<sup>TH</sup> at CAMP ONDESSONK, OZARK, IL**

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



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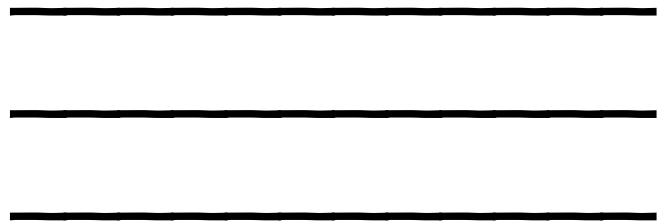
[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



*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



Thank you to all who attended the Doug Tallamy presentation last month!

## INPS 2011 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ryan Campbell	<i>Restoration in Illinois Ecosystems</i>	CTH
March 26 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Jim Zaczek	<i>Winter Tree ID</i>	SIUC campus
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Chris Benda	<i>Treasures of the Shawnee NF</i>	Harrisburg, IL
April 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Chris Benda	<i>Field Trip to Rim Rock Trail</i>	Karbers Ridge, IL
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Evans	<i>Invasive Species Awareness Month</i>	CTH
August 16 <sup>th</sup>	John Schwegman	<i>Rare and Little Known Plants</i>	CTH

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 East Main Street

### Are Invasive Plant Species Really That Special?



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

*Invasive plant species are a serious environmental, economic, and social problem worldwide. Their abundance can lead to lost native biodiversity and ecosystem functions, such as nutrient cycling. Despite substantial research, however, little is known about why some species dominate new habitats over native plants that technically should have the advantage. Read more at*

[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=118397&WT.mc\\_id=USNSF\\_51&WT.mc\\_ev=click](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=118397&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click)