



The Shooting Star NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

May 2012

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

Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month

May has officially been proclaimed Invasive Species Awareness Month in Illinois. Thus, let us take a moment to discuss invasive species and their impact on native plants. All of us have a fondness for native plants and the unique communities that occur down here in southern Illinois. Why else would you be involved in the Native Plant Society! This shared interest is evident in our discussions during meetings and in our choices of field trips and events. We seek out locations to see rare native species and intact natural communities, take and post pictures of native species found during our excursions, and call each other excitedly when we see a stand of a native species in FGB (Full Glorious Bloom). We speak to each other in strange code-like talk filled with latin binomials and obscure references to past plant sightings that is completely unintelligible to the uninitiated.

It is precisely this passion for native species that causes us to be concerned about invasive species. To prove this point, we could easily spout off statistics of the percentage of rare species threatened by invasive species or the billions of dollars of economic impact invasive species are having in the United States. Instead, we want you to think back to a stand of native species that you've seen gradually being invaded or imagine how you would feel if your favorite natural area was being overrun by an invasive species, losing its character and uniqueness. The rapid spread of invasive species, such as Japanese stiltgrass and bush honeysuckle throughout southern Illinois has been alarming and frightening and new invaders are on the way.



Stiltgrass seeds on hiker's boot



Green trillium surrounded by Japanese honeysuckle

Knowing and caring about what we are at risk of losing is the first step to gaining awareness of invasive species. For this Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month, we are hosting a talk by the Southern Illinois Strike Team at 6:30pm on May 15th at the Carbondale Township Hall (see flyer page 3). Please join in the efforts underway across the state to let everyone know that invasive species are a problem. Please visit www.illinoisinvasives.org to learn more about Invasive Species Awareness Month and ways you can help stop the spread of invasive species in Illinois.



Do you like Southern Illinois Natural Areas? Please see our web album on our facebook page featuring photos of many of the premier natural areas of our area! 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

INPS 2012 CALENDAR

Upcoming 2012 Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
May 15 th - ISST - Bruce/Kevin		<i>Coordinated Control of Invasives</i>	CTH
May/early June - TBA		<i>Sedge ID Workshop I</i>	TBA
June 19 th - Shawnee NF		<i>Fire and Land Management</i>	CTH
July 17 th - Dr. John Van Dyk		<i>Flora Updates to Crab Orchard NWR</i>	CTH
July 21 st - Dr. John Van Dyk		<i>Hike at Rocky Bluff</i>	Crab Orchard NWR
July/August - Dr. Gordon Tucker		<i>Sedge ID Workshop II</i>	TBA
September - TBA			TBA
October 16 th - Dr. Nancy Garwood		<i>Ranunculaceae Family</i>	CTH
October 27 th - Chris Benda		<i>Hike to Boss Island</i>	Vienna, IL
November - TBA			TBA
December - TBA		<i>2012 Holiday Dinner</i>	TBA

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012.

Past 2012 Events:

January 17 th - Damon Lesmeister		<i>Conflicts in Conservation</i>	CTH
February 4 th - Josh Nickelson		<i>Winter Tree ID</i>	SIU campus, Ag bldg.
February 21 st - Dr. Doug Tallamy		<i>Replay slideshow talk from Feb 2011</i>	CTH
March 23 rd - Chris Benda		<i>Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois</i>	CTH
March 24 th - Chris Benda		<i>Degognia Canyon</i>	Degognia, IL
April 22 nd - INPS So. Chapter		<i>2012 Spring Social</i>	Goreville, IL

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

We are in the process of scheduling the SEDGE ID WORKSHOP for May or early June 2012. We will inform you of the details as soon as they are finalized.

Related May Events

Please visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm>

Embroidered INPS polo shirts from Silkworm Inc. and aluminum water bottles are available for sale!



New Illinois Native Plant Society polo shirts are available in 3 colors; sand, Carolina blue, and gold. Shirts are only \$25 and come in sizes from small to 2XL. Water bottles are available for \$6. Items are available at INPS monthly meetings.





INPS MAY PROGRAM



What is being done about invasive species in Illinois?

**Please join the
Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society
for a presentation entitled
“Coordinated Control through the Southern Illinois Invasive
Species Strike Team”**



DETAILS: For more than 3 years, the Southern Illinois Invasive Species Strike Team (ISST) has been controlling invasive-exotic plant species in 36 natural areas across 11 counties in Southern Illinois. The ISST is comprised of two outstanding biologists, Bruce Henry and Kevin Rohling. Employed by The Nature Conservancy, they work tirelessly to combat non-native plant species using various techniques like burning, mechanical removal, and herbicide application. The presentation will detail the extensive work they have performed regarding invasive species, with focus on collaborations, prioritization, control techniques, accomplishments, and future directions.

**May 15th, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall
217 East Main St., Carbondale, IL
(please enter from the back alley)**



BIO: Bruce Henry is from Geneseo, Illinois and has always been active in the outdoors. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign in forest ecology and restoration. Bruce has five years of experience in natural resource management and has worked on a variety of projects, including the last two years on the Invasive Species Strike Team, working to control invasive species in southern Illinois.

BIO: Kevin Rohling earned a B.S. in Geography with a Biogeography Specialization and an Environmental Science Minor from SIUE and is working on his Master's Thesis, “A Spatial Analysis of Small Road-killed Vertebrates.” Kevin has lots of biological field experience which include studying Mojave Desert Ground Squirrels in California, conducting butterfly surveys in Rocky Mountain National Park, and surveying for desert tortoises in the Mojave Desert. Kevin has also worked at The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Pine Butte Swamp Preserve in Montana and TNC's Nachusa Grasslands in northern Illinois.

(photos provided by the ISST)



Last Month's Event INPS Spring Social 2012



Hay-scented fern – *Dennstaedtia punctilobula* Spikenard – *Aralia racemosa*

After taking a year off, we held our 2nd Spring Social at Round Bluff Nature Preserve in Ferne Clyffe State Park on April 22nd, 2012. The skies were foreboding and the temperature was a bit cool, but we managed to stay dry and have a splendid time at the Lakeside Shelter.

This is a premier Nature Preserve and we were lucky to have the man responsible for protecting this outstanding area attend the event. John Schwegman was the first employee of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and back in 1970 he dedicated this site for its remarkable plants that grow on the north-facing Sandstone Cliff and south-facing Sandstone Glade.

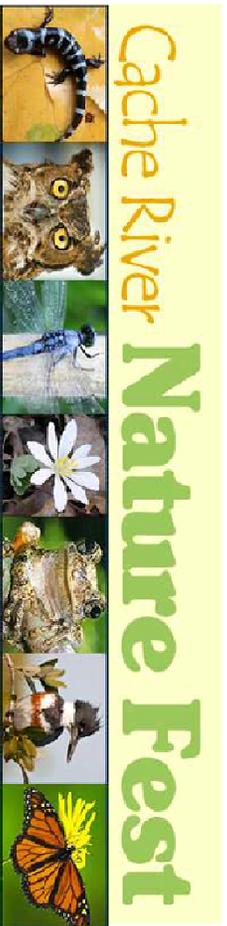
Many rare plants occur at this site and John was able to show a few to the participants. Along the cliffs at the north side of the preserve occur some uncommon plants like fire pink (*Silene virginica*), spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), spinulose woodfern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*), and cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomea*). We saw the state endangered hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*), and John showed us where he collected the rare plant screwstem (*Bartonia paniculata*). This is also one of only two locations in southern Illinois where Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*) occurs and fameflower (*Talinum parviflorum*) is abundant on the sandstone glade.



Spinulose woodfern – *Dryopteris carthusiana*

John Schwegman identifying ferns

Fire pink – *Silene virginica*



Cache River Nature Fest

Come Experience the Beauty of the Cache River Watershed!!!

All Event Activities are FREE to the Public!

Saturday, May 12, 2012

8:00 am - 4:00 pm *Rain or Shine!*

Cache River Wetlands Center
 (8885 State Route 37 South, Cypress, IL 62923)

Events and Outings Will Include:

- Guided Hikes & *Canoes Tours
 - + Exhibits & Film featuring Cache River Cultural & Natural History
 - LIVE Wildlife Exhibits!
 - Eagle Viewing
 - + Nature Games & Activities
 - Fried Asian Carp Taste Testing
- and MUCH MORE!**

*Pre-Registration required for canoe tours,
 Call 618-634-2231 starting April 12th)



Live Music, Food & Fun at
 Rustie Hin Winery
 (8595 New Highway 51 N,
 Cobden, IL 62920)
 Spend an Evening with the FRIENDS of the
 Cache River Watershed!

Saturday Evening Social
 5-8:00 pm

Lawn Chairs and Blankets are Encouraged!
 Free appetizers while supplies last & a Silent Auction to help raise money for wetland restoration efforts in the Cache River Watershed.

For more information on the event, please visit: www.cachevernaturefest.org

The USFWS is committed to providing access to this event for all participants. Please direct all request for sign language interpreting services or other accommodation needs to Liz Jones at 618-657-2064
 For questions contact: Cache River Wetlands Center at 618-657-2064
 Or Oypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge at 618-654-2231.

The Cache River Nature Fest is supported and organized by:



CITIZENS FOR SOUTHERNMOST ILLINOIS
Save our businesses, our family farms and our unique environment.



The Citizens for Southernmost Illinois have serious concerns with the purpose, planning and development of I-66. The negative impacts simply outweigh any questionable benefits for the people who live and recreate here. We can't afford to gamble away our remaining economic and natural resources. CSI is dedicated to promoting and protecting our rural lifestyle and the rich natural environment that is part of our home and livelihood.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS FROM THE PROPOSED INTERSTATE 66

GOVERNMENT WASTE: \$4.5 million dollars just to study a feasible route. \$3.6 million per mile to construct an Interstate highway.

LOSS OF AGRICULTURAL LAND: Acquired through eminent domain, thousands of acres of quality farmland can be taken out of production and removed from the tax rolls. This will not only impact family farms and private land but could result in restricted drainage and increase flooding.



DRAIN TO LOCAL ECONOMY: Business and jobs continue to be lost in the area and the addition of another interstate will add to this exodus. Local businesses owners have indicated that the proposed interstate will detrimentally impact their operation by taking potential customers away from the area

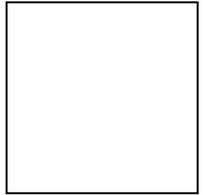
LOSS OF TOURISM: Interstate 66 will take tourism through the state instead promoting tourism to the state. Why stop in Southernmost Illinois when you can go on to the highly promoted Paducah, KY or Cape Girardeau, MO for cheap gas, shopping, gambling, or a nice dinner?

INCOMPATIBILITY WITH OUTDOOR RECREATION: The biologically rich and diverse environment of Southernmost Illinois has made it a destination with a reputation for high quality outdoor recreation experiences such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, canoeing, hiking, nature photography and much more. The environmental devastation resulting from yet another Interstate highway in this area will have dire consequences for the natural resource-based recreation and economy of the region.



Please visit our website at <http://citizensforsouthernmostillinois.org> and sign our petition to support our efforts to stop Government waste.

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



southernillinoisplants@gmail.com
www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
 French's Shooting Star

Board Members

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

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!!!



Join us!

- New member
- Renewal
- Address Change only

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Dr. _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Number _____ Membership Year _____
 Email _____

Check here if you want to receive newsletters by postal mail*

Membership Categories

- Student.....\$13.00
- Individual.....\$20.00
- Family (new category).....\$30.00
- Institutional (nonvoting).\$20.00
- Supporting.....\$30.00
- Patron.....\$55.00
- Life.....\$300.00

Chapter Affiliation

- Central (Springfield)
- Forest Glen (Westville)
- Northeast (Chicago)
- Southern (Carbondale)
- Quad City (Rock Island)
- Irene Cull (Peoria)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society
 Mail to:
 INPS Southern Chapter
 P.O. Box 271
 Carbondale, Illinois 62903