



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.”

October 2011

Annual Meeting a Great Success!



You can see more photos from the annual meeting 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

2011 Annual Meeting

From John Schwegman: The 15 members of the Indian Kitchen Field Trip endured an hour long hike on a muddy trail to reach this very scenic and botanically rich sandstone gorge. Our first task was to eat lunch in the "Indian Kitchen", a small rock shelter in the wall of the gorge almost 100 feet above Lusk Creek. We just barely all fit in, but the ground was dry there so we could sit while we ate with the fabulous scene of the gorge right in front of us. After lunch we saw habitat that supports the threatened French's Shooting star in spring but it was not visible now. We then ventured down the trail where we saw the endangered *Calamagrostis inspirata* and the threatened *Carex willdenowii* as well as Blue Curls. We walked through the prehistoric Indian wall and then searched the north facing ledges where we found the endangered *Dennstaedtia punctilobula*, and the threatened *Sedum telephioides* (in flower). We were prevented from viewing the threatened clubmoss (*Huperzia porophila*) by wet and slick footing on the ledge leading to it and we were unable to find the Yellow Honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*) where it formerly grew. A special treat was seeing the beautiful, blooming *Gentiana andrewsii* arching out from the north facing ledges. It was one of the final sights of a very enjoyable botanical outing.

Conservationist of the Year - Judy Faulkner-Dempsey

The Illinois Native Plant Society is proud to present the Conservationist of the Year Award to Judy Faulkner – Dempsey. Judy is a pioneer in natural areas conservation and was hired in 1979 by the Natural Land Institute to work on behalf of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Only one of three biologists specialized to work with private landowners of natural areas, Judy's initial responsibilities covered the southern 1/3 of the state. This took her to a large diversity of natural areas including hill prairies, swamps, barrens, and ponds.

For 32 years, Judy successfully negotiated the protection of 113 sites, totaling remarkable 20,000 acres! Convincing landowners to dedicate their land as a nature preserve, protected by law for eternity, can often take years and it is not a profession for someone impatient. Judy recognized the necessity of cultivating relationships with landowners and has earned the respect of her constituents and colleagues alike.

Another big part of Judy's career was spent working with the Shawnee National Forest (SNF) on preserving and stewarding natural areas under Federal ownership. Not long after she was hired, Judy organized a group of professionals and then later, a grassroots effort to work with the SNF on their 1983 Forest Plan to specially designate Natural Areas for protection. She organized SNAP (Shawnee Natural Areas Preservation) and this strategy resulted in protection of 82 natural areas (21,887 acres) of Shawnee Natural Areas. To celebrate this success, inform the public, and garner support for more protection efforts, Judy and a group organized the LaRue Pine Hills Appreciation Day. This is a large public event held on site to showcase and inform people of this incredible natural area. Judy headed up eleven of these celebrations from 1985-2002.



Thank you Judy for your efforts to save some of the best places in Illinois!

We would like to thank Dr. Larry Stritch, US Forest Service National Botanist, for traveling from Washington D.C. to present the keynote address. A former Illinois biologist and student of Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock, Dr. Stritch shared many stories from his notable career and recognized those who were instrumental to his success.

Message from the INPS southern chapter board: No October Monthly Meeting

Related October Events

- October 6th: The Influence of Body Size on the Structure and Function of Large Herbivore Communities
Dr. Johan du Toit of Utah State University, will present the lecture at the Fall 2011 SIUC Zoology Seminar Series on Thursday, October 6th at 4:00pm. The presentation will be held in the Life Sciences III auditorium.
- October 7th: Fall Feast Celebration!
Be sure to reserve a seat at the table for this season's premier local food event! Make reservations online at eatsouthernillinois.org. The reservation deadline is Wednesday, October 5. We're fortunate to have the talented chefs at Cristaudo's to create and present a locally sourced, multi-course meal complete with local wine pairings. The entire five-course meal can be enjoyed for a suggested donation of only \$50 per person, with all proceeds going to support farmer training and the Southern Illinois Farming Network programs administered by Food Works.
- October 13th: Plants and Pollinators: A Natural Partnership
Dr. Sedonia Sipes, Associate Professor of Plant Biology at SIU, will discuss plants and their pollinators, especially the many species of native bees, on Thursday, October 13 at 7:30 pm. The presentation will be held at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 East Main Street. Entrance is at the rear; parking is available behind the building on Monroe Street between Washington and Marion Streets. Free and open to the Public. Sponsored by the Shawnee Group, Illinois Sierra Club.
- October 22nd: Cache River Field Trip: Lower Cache River Access
Meet at SIU at 9am on Saturday October 22nd, and the field trip will return to SIU by 4:00pm. Canoe the lower Cache River Trail (10 canoes are available for us to use, but if you want to use your own, you are welcome to bring it). After a lunch cookout, there will be a hike at nearby Wildcat Bluff Natural Area. Please email jodivan@siu.edu if you are interested. Sponsored by the Natural Areas Association SIU Student Chapter.
- October 22nd: Sustainable Living Expo
This year's Expo is being held at the Dixon Springs Ag Center, located on Hwy 145 south of Harrisburg on Saturday October 22nd, from 9:00am to 4:00pm. Go to <http://tiny.cc/pzrto> for announcements and photos of exciting additions to this year's program!! Become a fan today for the latest updates. For more information and to pre-register, visit www.SLEexpo.org.
- October 28th: Biodiversity of the Cache
John Schwegman, naturalist and retired IDNR biologist will give the slideshow presentation about the plants and animals that inhabit the Cache River and its environs on Friday, October 28 at 7:30pm. The presentation will be held at the Carbondale Township Hall, 217 East Main Street. Entrance is at the rear; parking is available behind the building on Monroe Street between Washington and Marion Streets. Free and open to the Public. Sponsored by Southern Illinois Audubon Society.

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

From Chris Evans: A new short article on fall identification of invasive shrubs has been placed up on the CWMA website and blog. You can view the article at:

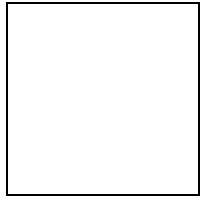
<http://rtrcwma.blogspot.com/2011/09/fall-is-time-to-identify-many-woody.html>

Also, you can follow the CWMA and get articles and updates on its Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/River-to-River-Cooperative-Weed-Management-Area/235391093158845>



RIVER TO RIVER
Cooperative Weed Management Area

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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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The Southern Chapter of the INPS thanks everyone who donated items for the silent auction at the **2011 Annual Meeting at Camp Ondessonk** last month!

INPS 2011 CALENDAR

| Upcoming Events: | <u>SPEAKER</u> | <u>PROGRAM</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| October | | No Programming | |
| November – TBA | | <i>Natural Area hike</i> | TBA |
| December – TBA | | <i>Holiday Dinner</i> | TBA |
| Past Events: | | | |
| September 23-25th – INPS 30th Anniversary Celebration in Ozark, IL | | | |

TBA = To Be Announced

Over the Hump: Ecologists Use Power of Network Science to Challenge Long-Held Theory

For decades, ecologists have toiled to nail down principles explaining why some habitats have many more plant and animal species than others. Much of this debate is focused on the idea that the number of species is determined by the productivity of the habitat. Shouldn't a patch of prairie contain a different number of species than an arid steppe or an alpine tundra? Maybe not, says an international team of scientists that pooled its resources to re-evaluate the ...More at

http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=121691&WT.mc_id=USNSF_58&WT.mc_ev=click