



The Shooting Star

NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

October 2012

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

INPS 2012 Annual Meeting

See photos from the event on our facebook page at

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.508570642487809.90034313.128013787210165&type=1&l=3adcf53ff8>



The Rare Plant Hunter Strikes Again!



By Chris Benda: Several times this season I have shared stories and photos of rare plants found in flower in southern Illinois. My search to photograph every species of flowering plant in southern Illinois is a challenging one, and although it is getting late in the season there are still rare plants to be found. Recently I went to the Cretaceous Hills Nature Preserve in southern Pope County to photograph a rare Meadow-beauty (*Rhexia mariana*) in bloom. I missed catching that rare plant flowering, but I was able to find another rare plant in bloom! Narrow-leaved Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) is a rare species in southern Illinois. Like many plants in this region, the species is at the edge of its range here and is only documented from three Illinois counties.

INPS 2012 CALENDAR

Upcoming 2012 Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
October 6 th - Clifftop		<i>Hike to Mill Creek</i>	Rockwood, IL
October 16 th - Dr. Nancy Garwood		<i>Ranunculaceae Family</i>	CTH
October 28 th - Chris Benda		<i>Hike to Boss Island</i>	Vienna, IL
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
May 15 th - ISST - Bruce/Kevin	<i>Coordinated Control of Invasives</i>	CTH
June 2 nd -3 rd - Mike Murphy	<i>Sedge ID Workshop I</i>	SUIC
June 19 th - Shawnee NF	<i>Fire and Land Management</i>	CTH
July 17 th - Chris Benda	<i>The Wonders of Camp Ondessonk</i>	CTH
August 3 rd & 4 th - Dr. Gordon Tucker	<i>Sedge ID Workshop II</i>	SIUC
September 18 th - Dr. Andrew West	<i>The Sand Hills of Nebraska</i>	CTH

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St. Carbondale, Illinois.

Related October Events

- **Saturday, October 13th:** In celebration of National Wildlife Refuge Week, Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge will provide guided canoe tours along the Old Cache Channel. The area provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife and an opportunity to fish, hunt, canoe, and watch wildlife. Reservations are required for the canoe tour; reserve your spot beginning September 13th. For more information call Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge at (618) 634-2231.
- **Saturday, October 20th:** Illinois Audubon Shawnee Chapter field trip to the Snake Road in LaRue Pine Hills Natural Area. Tony Gerard will be our guide as we walk Snake Road at the base of the bluffs adjacent to LaRue Swamp in the LaRue Pine Hills Natural Area. Email or call Ann at 618-564-2079 for details regarding the exact start time (approximate start time 9:00 AM) and location to meet. Start time will depend upon the temperature--check the website for updates.
- **Saturday, October 27th:** The SIU student chapter of the Natural Areas Association is having a campout at Panther's Den Wilderness Area. Meet in the LSII parking lot @ 11am then head out to Panther's Den for a hike led by Chris Benda. We will set up camp, cook food, and enjoy the scenery. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of dinner. This is open to anyone so invite friends! RSVP by October 19th to Laurel (lrwilson@siu.edu) or Karen (kjackson@siu.edu).
- **Saturday, October 27th:** Sustainable Living Expo at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center near Dixon Springs, IL from 9AM-4PM. Spend the day learning about basic gardening, organics, beekeeping, cooking and food preservation, home energy efficiency, conservation and renewable alternatives. Other topics will include solar ovens, geothermal, windmills, composting and recycling. Learn about wildlife habitat and timber management, hunting leases, soil and water quality, pond management, disaster preparation, farm safety, and much more. Free Admission and open to the public. Contact: www.SLEexpo.org - or call (618) 638-6954.

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



INPS OCTOBER PROGRAM



The Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society is pleased to host a presentation by Dr. Nancy Garwood entitled:

Southern Illinois *Ranunculaceae* (The Buttercup Family) in a Global Perspective

**October 16th, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Carbondale Township Hall
217 East Main St., Carbondale, IL**
(please enter from the back alley)

The *Ranunculaceae* (Buttercup family) is diverse and complicated in its floral biology. It includes many common wildflowers like Wild Columbine, False Rue Anemone, Larkspur, Monkshood, Doll's Eyes, Thimbleweed, and Goldenseal. *Ranunculus* means "little frog" and refers to the moist habitats these plants occupy. A family of 1700 species, there are 60 genera distributed worldwide.



INPS OCTOBER EVENT



Hike to Boss Island, Cache River SNA

October 28th, 2012

Meet at Noon at the Wildcat Bluff parking lot

(from Vienna, take highway 45 south and turn right (west) on the first Ballowe Church Road. Follow to Hawkins Road and turn right. At the T, turn left on Wildcat Bluff Road, parking lot is at the end of the road.)



Boss Island is a remarkable feature in the heart of the Cache River State Natural Area. Cypress swamps juxtaposed with rocky uplands make this a truly unique area. Views of Little Black Slough abound from the cliffs around Boss Island, and this time of year one can see one of the best wildflower explosions in southern Illinois. Nodding Bur Marigold (*Bidens cernua*), in the sunflower family, can be seen in full glorious bloom, if our timing is right. Either way, this is a lovely walk on what will hopefully be a beautiful Sunday afternoon.



Green Earth Native Plant Sale – Volunteers Needed!

Green Earth will be hosting a Native Plant Sale, Saturday October 6th 8am-4pm in the Murdale Shopping Center parking lot. They will be offering a wide selection of native shrubs, perennials, grasses, and sedges.

The INPS Southern Chapter will have a booth at the sale and is **looking for volunteers** to hand out materials and answer questions in two-hour time slots between 8am and 4pm. It is a great way to show your support for

native plants, Green Earth, and the Illinois Native Plant Society. Please contact southernillinoisplants@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. This event is in conjunction with Keep Carbondale Beautiful's Annual Tree Sale, and this year they have gone native too!!! Come shop and improve the ecological health of your neighborhood by planting natives. You will also be raising money to further Green Earth's mission of preserving natural areas for future generations in Carbondale.



HIKE to MILL CREEK NATURAL AREA – Randolph County

Saturday, October 6th. One of Illinois' geologic jewels, with canyons, gorges and sandstone cliffs, this area will now be protected in perpetuity under a recent deal announced by Clifftop and HeartLands Conservancy. The two nonprofit land trusts worked jointly to purchase a unique tract of land in Randolph County. Meet at the Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve parking lot at 10 AM. From route 3 near Rockwood, take Hog Hill Road (County Road 20) north to Degognia. Continue and turn on Piney Creek Road (follow the signs) to Piney Creek Ravine NP. Bring a snack and water. Registration required at clifftop@htc.net or 618-458-467. For more information visit <http://www.clifftopalliance.org/mill-creek-natural-area/>

It's a Gem...

"Strategic Jewel" Protected in Randolph County

One of Illinois' geologic jewels, with canyons, gorges and sandstone cliffs, will now be protected in perpetuity under a recent deal by Clifftop and HeartLands Conservancy. The two nonprofit land trusts worked jointly to purchase a unique tract of land in Randolph County. Meet at the Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve parking lot at 10 AM. From route 3 near Rockwood, take Hog Hill Road (County Road 20) north to Degognia. Continue and turn on Piney Creek Road (follow the signs) to Piney Creek Ravine NP. Bring a snack and water. Registration required at clifftop@htc.net or 618-458-467. For more information visit <http://www.clifftopalliance.org/mill-creek-natural-area/>

Southwestern Illinois also has three geologic jewels and one spectacular view. One is the Mill Creek Natural Area. The other two are the Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve and the Rockwood State Park. The Mill Creek Natural Area is a 1,100-acre parcel of land, located southwest of Carbondale and just north of the town of Degognia. It is a unique tract of land, with a variety of geologic features, including canyons, gorges, and sandstone cliffs. The area is home to a variety of native plants and animals, and it is a popular destination for hikers and nature lovers. The purchase of the Mill Creek Natural Area is a significant step in the protection of this important natural resource. The deal was announced by Clifftop and HeartLands Conservancy, two nonprofit land trusts that have worked together to purchase and protect natural areas in Illinois. The purchase of the Mill Creek Natural Area is a testament to the power of public-private partnerships in the protection of our natural resources.

Clifftop and HeartLands Conservancy will manage the area, and the public will have access to the area through the Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve. The area is a unique tract of land, with a variety of geologic features, including canyons, gorges, and sandstone cliffs. The area is home to a variety of native plants and animals, and it is a popular destination for hikers and nature lovers. The purchase of the Mill Creek Natural Area is a significant step in the protection of this important natural resource. The deal was announced by Clifftop and HeartLands Conservancy, two nonprofit land trusts that have worked together to purchase and protect natural areas in Illinois. The purchase of the Mill Creek Natural Area is a testament to the power of public-private partnerships in the protection of our natural resources.

For more information, visit <http://www.clifftopalliance.org/mill-creek-natural-area/>

Photo by Tom Hahn, Thomas Hahn Photography

INPS Central Chapter Fall field trip!

If you are anxious to see more fall color, please join us on our Wine and Wetlands field trip on Saturday, October 13. We will carpool to the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge near Havana, arriving around 9am, and participate in their Ride the Refuge auto tour. This 8-mile tour takes us onto the levees and around the south pool of Chautauqua Lake, providing us with a gorgeous view of this floodplain wetland and great opportunities to see migratory waterfowl. The auto tour ends at the Refuge Headquarters where Refuge biologists will be on hand to answer questions and discuss their recent work on invasive plant control.

We will then head to Willett's Winery and Cellar in nearby Manito where we will enjoy lunch at their Ironstone Room and sample their variety of award-winning wines. Visit <http://www.willettswinery.com> to preview their menu and wine selection.

After lunch, we will head across the Illinois River to the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge and hike the Frank Bellrose Nature Trail. This easy hiking trail follows the Spoon River through bottomland forest and is sure to satisfy our fall color cravings! Our field trip should wrap up around 3pm, getting everyone home in time for supper.

If you are eager to enjoy a fun and relaxing day outdoors with friends, contact me by email epiercec@yahoo.com to let me know that you will be joining us. We will arrange carpooling locations and times once our attendee list is set. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you there!

Discount Plants for Sale at Forest Keeling - www.fknursery.com

Forrest Keeling Nursery in Elsberry, MO is having a 50% off sale on some of their older perennials. Here are some of the species they may have: Obedient Plant, Prairie Dropseed, Big bluestem, Little bluestem, Side oat gramma, Carex, Rudbeckia, Ruellia, Solidago, New Jersey tea, Baptisia, Coreopsis, Prairie bundle flower, Echinacea, Rattlesnake master, Sneezeweed, Soft rush, Sunflowers, Iris, Liatris, and Lobelia.

Most pots are normally \$4.25, so these will probably be a couple of dollars. NOTE: these are not perfect plants. They're overgrown and gone to seed, and any given pot may have a few different plants growing in it. There's not a good inventory, and you shouldn't go looking for a specific plant. However, if you're looking for a variety of native plants, this could be a good deal.

They will want to move these plants before the end of the season, so it's best to go fairly soon. You can call them ahead of time to double-check the status of the sale.

Forrest Keeling Nursery, Highway 79 south of Elsberry, MO, 573-898-5571 or 800-356-2401



The Colors of Fall: Are Autumn Reds and Golds Passing Us By?

Climate change, land-use change, introduced pests and diseases altering fall foliage



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

The falling leaves drift by the window, the autumn leaves of red and gold ...

It was 1947 when Johnny Mercer wrote the lyrics to the popular song "Autumn Leaves." Sixty-five years ago, Mercer likely didn't think the reds and golds of fall might someday fade. But that's what's beginning to happen in U.S. Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Autumn colors were different there a century, or even a half-century, ago, and they will likely continue to change...

More at http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=125511&WT.mc_id=USNSF_51&WT.mc_ev=click

Warmer Temperatures Make New USDA Plant Zone Map Obsolete

ScienceDaily (Sep. 13, 2012) — Gardeners and landscapers may want to rethink their fall tree plantings.

Warming temperatures have already made the U.S. Department of Agriculture's new cold-weather planting

guidelines obsolete, according to Dr. Nir Krakauer, assistant professor of civil engineering in The City College of New York's Grove School of Engineering. The new USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map, which predicts which trees and perennials can survive the winter in a given region, was a long time coming. Temperature boundaries shown in the latest version have shifted northward since the last one appeared in 1990. But the true zones have moved even further, according to Professor Krakauer's calculations. Read more at

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/09/120913151130.htm>



FYI -- Indian Lotus, *Nelumbo nucifera*. In news brief from IDNR.

Request for assistance in determining distribution of new invasive plant found in Lake Vermilion. *Nelumbo nucifera* (sacred or Indian lotus) has been found covering a substantial portion of Lake Vermilion in Danville, IL (just east of Champaign). The recently discovered population is most likely an aquatic garden escapee. Illinois Department of Natural Resources is trying to determine if this is an isolated population or if other populations of this species exist in the state. Some identifying features of the plant: native lotus have yellow petals and nearly round seeds while the exotic lotus has pink or white petals with seeds that are oblong. If you know of a population please contact Cathy McGlynn (cathy.mcglynn@niipp.net), Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership.



Leave Nature Alone? - A blog essay by Stephen Packard

How much meddling with the ecosystem is too much? Or, to look at the flip side, when does "leave it alone" become shameful neglect? This is a report on the white-fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) at Somme Prairie Grove. It's a drama of a threatened species coming back from the brink.

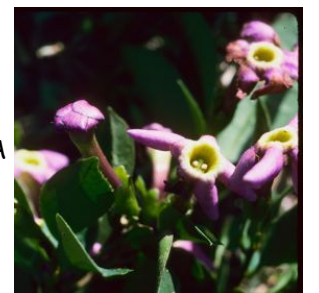
Under modern conditions, neglected populations of this classic prairie species die out. Without our help, this orchid (and many, many species) would soon be gone from the Earth.

My adventure with the orchid began in the late 1970s when I was just starting my career. I got a report that a young fellow had found it in a forest preserve. Rufino Osorio grew up in a rough and crime-ridden inner city neighborhood, but his grandmother in Puerto Rico had introduced him to the love of plants. In Chicago, he figured out that the Montrose Avenue bus would take him to Schiller Woods Forest Preserve along the Des Plaines River. It was an Eden to him, in many ways. But when he found the orchid, he had to tell somebody. Rufino called the Audubon Society, and they put him through to me at the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Read blog at <http://vestalgrove.blogspot.com/2012/09/leave-nature-alone.html>



Genome Run: Andean Shrub is First New Plant Species Described by its DNA

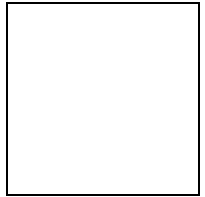
It took a colorful floral species from South America, *Brunfelsia plowmaniana*, to finally break botany's nomenclatural gene barrier. A flowering shrub from the Andean cloud forests made taxonomic history last month. The plant had puzzled botanists for decades as they endeavored to determine whether or not it was truly an evolutionary newcomer. When its DNA revealed this to be true, researchers made the unprecedented move to include the plant's genetic code in its description as a new species. That decision could open the door to future DNA definitions of new botanical species—and heal a rift in the field of botany. More at <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=new-plant-described-dna>



Past INPS Southern Chapter newsletters now available online!

New to the Illinois Native Plant Society southern chapter? Looking for an article you saw in a previous newsletter? Follow this link and you can access past newsletters: <https://docs.google.com/folder/d/0B7zgevAofbxTQXBwVXloMGISRjg/edit>

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
VP: 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