



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.”

September 2011



All of these native wildflower photos were taken at in southern Illinois at Camp Ondessonk, and clockwise from bottom left are Spider Lily, Cardinal Flower, Pennywort, French's Shooting Star, Bellwort, Blue Curls, and Goldenseal. The beauty of southern Illinois awaits you at the this year's annual meeting of the Illinois Native Plant Society. We are entering our 30th year as an organization. Be a part of what is to become a celebration to remember.



Register now for the Illinois Native Plant Society Annual Meeting! Early registration deadline is September 7th. Please help the planning committee and avoid late fees by sending in your registration today!

Last Month's Event

Hike to Wolf Creek Botanical Area

By John Schwegman

The field trip of Saturday afternoon, August 20th to the Wolf Creek area, gave INPS members the chance to see the endangered Yellowwood tree and Big Leaf Snowbell Bush and hear what we know about their biology. The Illinois Native Plant Conservation Program, which I led for the Illinois Department of Conservation (now IDNR), monitored populations of these species on this site from 1987 thru 1990. These four years covered periods of extreme cold and drought. Andy West was District Heritage Biologist for Southern Illinois and helped with the monitoring.



The group also had the chance to observe local rare plants like Cow Parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), which ranges from Southern Illinois northwestward through Canada and Alaska into Siberia. It is the only local plant with such a distribution. We also got good looks at Cucumber Magnolia and a dry barrens community on a south facing slope.

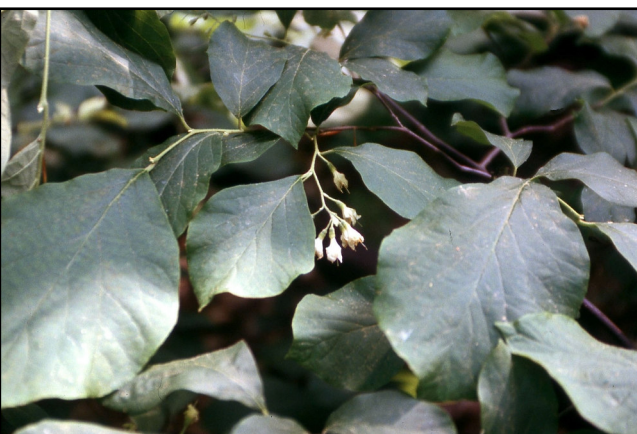
Monitoring indicated that the Yellowwood population was infested with a native fungal disease that attacks stressed plants and over time kills infected stems by girdling them.

New sprouts typically arise from the stumps of killed tree sized stems. Based on the monitoring, it was determined that the moisture stress was probably the cause of the infections and mortality. Yellowwood is a thin barked species, and the presence of fire scars at the base of many trees was taken as evidence that protection from fire was important to conservation of the species as well.

On April 21 of 1981, prior to the monitoring study, the site of the Yellowwood was near totally defoliated by a caterpillar infestation that attacked all tree species except Yellowwood. This indicates that it probably has some chemical protection against grazers.



Yellowwood leaf (*Cladrastis kentukea*)



Big Leaf Snowbell Bush (*Styrax grandifolius*) is known in Illinois only from a single clone at this site. The past monitoring indicated that the clone was probably a single individual, and the species was self incompatible. This was based on the lack of any seed set over the four years of observation even though plants flowered in 3 of the 4 studied years. Our field trip members found a single developing fruit on one of the larger stems which may indicate that sexual reproduction is possible in the species in Illinois. Perhaps moisture stress is a factor in sexual reproductive failure in the species and the excessive rainfall this summer has led to seed production.

Photo courtesy John Schwegman



Have you seen our Mr. Smartyplants photo album on our facebook page yet? Learn how to identify common plants native to our area. 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

From Chris Evans: Please join us for a field day to discuss and view a new invasive rapidly spreading along the Ohio River. Japanese chaff flower (*Achyranthes japonica*) is a perennial herbaceous plant that has rapidly spread throughout bottomland forests along the Ohio River. It has the potential to form dense stands and chaff flower seeds spreads easily via water or clinging to clothing or animal fur. This species is expanding its range at an alarming rate and has the potential to show up anywhere in southern Illinois, Missouri or Kentucky.

Early detection is going to be a key component of managing this plant, so correct identification is a must. Attendees will learn to identify Japanese chaff flower, see first hand how it invades forestlands, and hear about the rapid spread of this species

Japanese Chaff Flower Field Day

When: September 8th, 9am to noon

Where: Barkhausen Wetlands Center, near Cypress, IL

Directions to the Wetlands Center: The Wetlands Center is located at 8885 State Rt. 37 South Cypress, IL 62923. It is 9 miles south of West Vienna on rte 37.

We will meet at the Wetlands Center at 9am, view some slides and samples of chaff flower and then car pool out to Chestnut Hills Nature Preserve to tour an invaded site and learn the history of invasion. If time will allow, we may also view a site along the Cache River.

The River to River CWMA has developed a Species Alert for Chaff flower that can be view at: <http://www.rtrcwma.org/Japanesechafffloweralert.pdf>

Additional pictures of chaff flower can be found at: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subthumb.cfm?sub=14211>

If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Chris Evans at 618-364-7261 or rivotriver@gmail.com

Related September Events

- September 8th: Sierra Club presents Biologist John Palis "Amphibians and Reptiles of Southern Illinois : A report from the field." Thursday, September 8 at 7:30 PM at the Carbondale Township Hall.
- September 17th: Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge Cleanup from 8:00 to 12:00. Free lunch and T-shirt. Please call (618) 997-3344 Ext #1 to register or for more information.

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

Join the newly formed SIU Chapter of Natural Areas Association

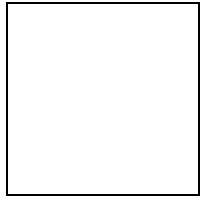
1st Meeting: September 14th, 4pm in Ag 209

Guest Speaker: Chris Benda presenting "Natural Areas in Southern Illinois"

If you wish to be added to the listserv send email to: listserv@siu.edu

Insert this in the text body: **SUB NATURALAREAS-L** firstname lastname

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



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



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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The Southern Chapter of the INPS thanks **John Schwegman** for his presentation and hike highlighting **Rare and Little Known Plants of Illinois** last month!

INPS 2011 CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
September 23-25 th – INPS 30 th Anniversary Celebration in Ozark, IL			
October 15 th – Scott Schuette		<i>Bryophyte Foray</i>	Giant City State Park
November – TBA		<i>Natural Area hike</i>	TBA
December – TBA		<i>Holiday Dinner</i>	TBA

TBA = To Be Announced

Conservation Success: Tennessee Purple Coneflower Delisted

Thanks to the efforts of many partners who have worked together for more than 30 years to expand and protect this sunflower's colonies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is removing the Tennessee purple coneflower from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants in 30 days, by September 2, 2011. This plant is found in the limestone barrens and cedar glades of Davidson, Rutherford, and Wilson Counties. Read more at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/news/2011/11-053.html>