



# The Shooting Star

## February– March 2022

# Newsletter

“Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities in Illinois.”

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## *Tracking Herbaceous Species, Buck Island on the Mississippi River Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 pm Zoom meeting, Virtual (Zoom)*

Most phenological studies focus on shifts in climate over time. This study focuses on the phenological relationship with flooding along the elevation gradient of the island. Presenter and researcher, Caity Sims, will discuss her tracking efforts on the reproductive phenology of seven native herbaceous plants found on Buck Island and her exciting experiences about researching plants on the Lower Mississippi River. Register here by visiting

<https://zoom.us/j/92306573815>.

This event is free and open to the public!

Stay tuned for the upcoming March program as well. Chris Benda will discuss *Styrax amiercanus* and monitoring the species range in Illinois.

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom (virtual). Register here by visiting <https://zoom.us/j/95875770400>.



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## *Message from the Southern Chapter President*

Happy new year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Thanks to everyone that was able to make it out to the holiday gathering last month at Scratch Brewery. It was fun celebrating the year and activities the Southern chapter hosted in 2022. It's always good to reflect on what we have done. The chapter was very active last year with hikes/presentations and we plan to keep that momentum into 2023.

Earlier this month we had a hike at the Trillium Trail at Giant City State Park to look at plants in their dormant state. This was a good exercise to tune our eyes to what some plants look like when they are out of costume and difficult to identify. For those that missed the presentation on the evolutionary history of Solidagos, don't worry! The recording has been posted to the YouTube channel to view at your leisure. When your done watching that, keep scrolling to watch others!

Much thanks to Dr. Richard Abbott for his presentation on botanical basics about morphology and plant identification. We had a great turnout on zoom and hope to bring him back to share his knowledge on other topics.



There's lots planned for the upcoming year with hikes and presentations and hope that we will see you out, either on zoom or on the trail! Next month we will be hosting a [zoom](#) talk on the flora of Mississippi on 2/21/23 at 6pm. This will be followed by a presentation in March on *Styrax* surveys that were completed by Chris Benda over the last two years throughout the species range in Illinois. These surveys were funded by an INPS grant in 2021 and the presentation is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. Be on the lookout for flyers via email and on Facebook with dates and Zoom links for these talks.

Since last year's spring hike was such a great time, we will meet again in April to look at the wildflowers growing at a botanically diverse location. A planning committee has also been formed to organize the native plant symposium this year. More information and a "save the date" will be shared with members when this is finalized.

INPS is saddened by the passing of Gary Marx. Gary was a longtime member of INPS, along with his spouse Pamela Kelley, and we extend our condolences to his family. The southern chapter of INPS is grateful for the donations received on his behalf. <https://tinyurl.com/muyfnj2k>

Thank you for your support of the plant society and Happy 2023! ~Nick Seaton

### *Feature Plant of the Month*

**Serviceberry,  
*Amelanchier arborea***

Serviceberry, or Shadbush, is a representative from the Rose (Rosaceae) family. It is a small understory shrub that grows in upland forests and edges. The name serviceberry was given to this species because of its blooming time and its association with funeral services from olden times. Serviceberry blooms very early in the spring, usually in late March and early April. When the serviceberry bloomed, it was a sign that the ground had thawed enough to bury those that had passed away during the cold winter and that a "service" could be held for them. Another name that was given to the shrub was shadbush. This is also because of the early blooming time which would signal the timing for the shad to return to their spawning grounds. The shrub grows throughout all states in the east, and north up into Canada.

<http://bonap.net/MapGallery/State/Amelanchier%20arborea.png>

Keep an eye out for this in the woods in early spring!



Photos courtesy,  
Nick Seaton

2023



## Southern Chapter

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### Calendar of Events

February 21	Caity Sims	Tracking Herbaceous Species	Zoom, virtual
March 21	INPS	<i>Styrax americanus</i>	Zoom, virtual
April 15	INPS	Plant Botany Hike	Bell Smith Springs
May TBA	INPS	Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium	TBA
June 24	INPS	Forest Herbaceous Species with Beginning Forest Landowners Program	TBA
July TBA	INPS	TBA	TBA
August TBA	INPS	Back to School Botany	TBA

Please take a few minutes to cast your vote for INPS State Board positions using the Google Ballot form: <https://tinyurl.com/2euhems8>



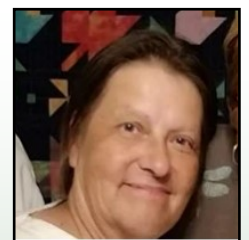
Illinois Native Plant Society

Please also provide valuable INPS member feedback related to your experiences with the Illinois Native Plant Society by using this Google Ballot Form: <https://tinyurl.com/yx8v2wzh>

### Ruth Kelley

INPS pays tribute to the passing of a long-time member of the Illinois Native Plant Society, Ruth Kelley. She was instrumental in volunteering with many conservation organizations, including INPS.

Ruth was born in Princeton, IL and worked as an auditor in Chicago for 22 years. Upon her retirement in 2008, she moved to her dream home near Murphysboro, IL in the Mark Twain National Forrest. There she volunteered at the Giant City State Park and audited many classes at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. She studied and delighted in all things in nature, particularly plants and animals native to southern Illinois. She continued to shop sales and auctions, collecting antiques, quilts, books, and music CDs. Ruth loved nature, reading, listening to classical music, and cherished her cats. INPS is grateful for her dedication and years of passion; she will be missed.



## *Local Events & Announcements*

**Giant City State Park** Register for these events by calling the visitor center at 618-457-4836.

### Hiking 101

**Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 1-2 p.m.**

Southern Illinois has a wide range of hiking possibilities and there are always new trails to discover. Join hiking with Shawn, local Shawnee Forest fanatic, as he discusses what to wear, gear, apps to use, tips for the trail, and hiking trails you might be unfamiliar with! Registration is required.



### Plants of Concern: A Rare Plant Monitoring Program in Illinois

**Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 1-2 p.m.**

The unglaciated terrain of extreme southern Illinois is home to a variety of plant species not found in the rest of the state, making many of them rare to Illinois. Yes the resources available to monitor and protect them are more limited. To alleviate this, the Plants of Concern (POC) program based out of the Chicago Botanic Garden seeks volunteers to help monitor rare plants. Housed in the Gibson lab at Southern Illinois University, coordinator Chris Benda organizes volunteer community scientists to monitor rare plants and report population data. Join us as Chris explains the goals of the program and hopes for the future of the effort. Registration is required.

### 12-Mile Red Cedar Hike

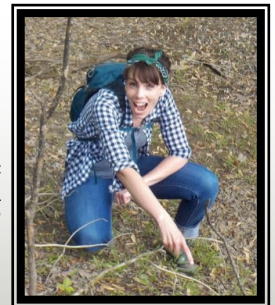
**Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

For the experienced long distance hiking wishing to take on a more guided hike, now is your chance! Join Mary Boehler, park volunteer and master naturalist, as she leads participants along this 12-mile backpacking trail. This hike will take a minimum of six hours to complete and will be very rugged. Registration is required.

**Giant City State Park**  
by **Jennifer Randolph-Bollinger,**  
Site Interpreter

Have you ever been out hiking and hit a spot in the woods that seemed like home? Maybe it was the way the sun was shining through the trees, the way the morning dew was glistening on the grass, or the seemingly perfect combination of rock, water, flora and fauna. On occasion, I'll be hiking along and suddenly get a feeling that this is where I'm supposed to be...in the woods.

I know it may sound weird to some, but outside is my comfort "food" ....it's my pancakes with syrup! What a crazy chaotic world we live in. It's so nice to be able to escape "home" where mother nature is just doing what she always does, it really can give one a sense of well-being.



### Invasive Bradford Pears Trees to be Banned in Ohio in 2023

<https://tinyurl.com/2makx3f4>

The Bradford pear tree was introduced to North America in the 1960s from China and Taiwan, brought by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Soon the medium-sized landscaping tree became the most popular ornamental tree, prized for its glorious blooms in spring and long-lasting colors in autumn. The Ohio DNR has added Bradford pear, to the list of invasive species. As of January 1, 2023, Callery pear will be illegal to sell, grow, or plant in Ohio state. Property owners are not mandated to remove existing trees in their yards, because the new law only applies to banning new trees from being sold and planted. Pennsylvania also banned it earlier this year.





<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/gateway-green-industry-conference-march-8-2023>

You are invited to attend the 2023 Gateway Green Conference being held at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, IL on March 8.

This is a full day event features presentations in three tracks: building sustainable landscapes, conservation stewardship, and tree care..

A variety of green topics will be presented by a variety of speakers including:

\***Wood Decay Fungi** by Chelsi Abbott from Davey Tree Institute

\***Tree Risk Assessment** by Steve Lane, Great Lakes Urban Forestry

\***Dealing with Girdling Roots and Other Below Ground Issues** by Mark Grueber, Missouri Department of Conservation

\***The Gloom of Pest Management** by Fredric Miller, Joliet Jr. College

\***Underutilized Native Trees** by Emily Swihart, University of Illinois Extension

\***Planning and Implementing Prescribed Fire** by Kevin Rohling, University of Illinois Extension

*Plus a number of other classes to choose from.*

[https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2023\\_ggic\\_brochure.pdfnois.edu](https://extension.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2023_ggic_brochure.pdfnois.edu)

For a complete lineup: [Full Brochure](#)

The price for the day is \$80/person [Online Registration](#)

CEU's for Arborists, Park & Rec staff, Golf Course superintendents and Landscape Contractors are available.

For questions about this event please call Patty Stanton, University of Illinois Extension at (618) 344-4230 or e-mail [pstanton@illinois.edu](mailto:pstanton@illinois.edu)

# NATIVE PLANT SEMINAR

March 18

## SATURDAY PROGRAMS

9:30 am - Auditorium  
Native Plants for Wildlife

11 am - Auditorium  
Orchids of Missouri

1 pm - Hike  
Barking Up the Right  
Tree

9 am - 3 pm  
Crafting Corner  
(all ages)

## PLANT SALE

9 am - 1 pm

## VENDORS:

Forrest Keeling  
Nursery

Missouri  
Wildflowers  
Nursery



Serving nature and you

[mdc.mo.gov/southeastevents](http://mdc.mo.gov/southeastevents)

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# EVERYDAY ENVIRONMENT

## Tornado trends

In the Midwest, talk of tornadoes seems to swirl frequently. Are tornadoes really turning up more often these days? Tune in to get the lowdown on tornadoes, twister myths and facts, and tornado trends in the United States.

Join us on **Thursday, February 9 at 1pm CT** for this webinar. Can't make the live session? Sign up anyway! The link to the recorded webinar will be emailed to registered participants after the program.

Presenter: [Duane Friend](#), State Master Naturalist and Climate Change Specialist

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/tornado-trends>

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## About the series

There is never a shortage of new things to learn about your everyday environment! Explore Illinois natural resources with this free monthly webinar series and learn what small changes you can make to have a positive impact. Check out our archive of past programs on [YouTube](#).

<https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/tricky-pollinator-questions-and-answers>

## Save the date for upcoming webinars!

**MARCH 9 | 1PM CT**

[Tricky Pollinator Questions and Answers](#)

Are annual plants “junk food” for bees? Can I help pollinators by not mowing my lawn? How can I help pollinators if I don't have a garden? Learn what the latest science has to say about some of your most challenging pollinator questions. Presented by Brodie Dunn, State Pollinator Coordinator and Extension Specialist

## *Local Events & Announcements*

Do you have an interest in conservation? Would you like to make a difference for nature in southern Illinois? [The Shawnee RC&D is seeking new volunteer Council Members and Officers for the upcoming year.](#)



The Shawnee RC&D is integral to conservation efforts across the southern 16 counties of Illinois providing administration of projects such as the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association, River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area, and Forest Restoration Support Team among others. If you have an interest in helping conserve the natural resources of the region, please consider serving.

A few logistical details: Terms are for 3 years, the full Council meets quarterly. For those interested in Officer positions, (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer all need to be filled) there are additional meetings approximately once every 1-2 months in addition to the quarterly meetings of the full Council. Most meetings run more or less about an hour.

(Service area includes: Alexander, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Massac, Pope, Perry, Pulaski, Saline, Union, White, and Williamson Counties)

Please see the SRC&D website (<https://shawneercd.org/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/shawneercd>), or reach out to our Executive Director, Raymond Bieri ([director@shawneercd.org](mailto:director@shawneercd.org)) to learn more!



Golden Hills is hosting a series of virtual classes with Dr. Cynthia Lane and Dr. Tom Rosburg this winter.

- January 26 - [Introduction to Plant Terminology: The Secret to Identification](#) with Dr. Cynthia Lane
- February 2 - [Lactuca & Prenanthes \(Wild Lettuces\) ID](#) with Dr. Tom Rosburg
- February 9 - [Native Orchid ID](#) with Dr. Tom Rosburg
- February 23 - [Fire Ecology](#) with Dr. Tom Rosburg
- March 2 - [Native Fern ID](#) with Dr. Tom Rosburg
- March 9 - [Persicaria \(smartweeds\) ID](#) with Dr. Tom Rosburg
- March 23 - [Native Seedling ID](#) with Dr. Tom Rosburg

All sessions are Thursdays at 7pm and will last about an hour.

Each class is \$10 and pre-registration is required.

Registrants will receive the Zoom link on the day of the event.

Learn more and register at <https://www.goldenhillsrcd.org/plantid.html>





## Tree planting grants available for Illinois communities!

**Accepting grant applications now through February 24 for spring 2023 planting projects**

Find application details at this link:  
[TreesForever.org/Recover-Replant-Restore](https://TreesForever.org/Recover-Replant-Restore)

Trees Forever is accepting applications for *Recover, Replant, Restore!* tree planting grants now! These grants of \$500 to \$3,000 are available to Illinois communities to diversify their urban forests or recover from natural or man-made disasters - particularly emerald ash borer (EAB).

The grants will also help communities prepare for these disasters by planting more diverse disease and storm-resistant shade trees. Projects may include planting trees along streets, trails, community entryways, schools, public buildings, parks and more. Funding from this grant round must be used for spring 2023 plantings.



**Apply for a grant to help your Illinois town improve its community forests!**

*Recover, Replant, Restore!* grants are available to Illinois communities thanks to a partnership between Trees Forever, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Forest Service.



[Click here more information!](#)

## Invasive Species Corner

*Please look at the following resources for the latest in Invasive Species news.*

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>  
<https://www.frstillinois.com>  
[www.sipba.org](http://www.sipba.org)

### New Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST) Coordinator

We are pleased to announce the Shawnee RC&D has hired a new volunteer coordinator for the Forest Restoration Support Team. Please join us in welcoming Megan Gulik! Megan is a recent graduate of SIUC, attaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. She specialized in wildlife habitat management and conservation and served as the President of the Forestry Club. Additionally, during her time as an undergraduate, Megan was employed as a forestry resident at Touch of Nature Outdoor Education Center and a clerical student worker for the College of Agriculture, Life, & Physical Sciences.



### Battling Invasive Species:

#### Why It's Important and What You Can Do!

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 p.m.

Broadgauge Room, 110 North 7th St. Petersburg Illinois

Are you concerned with honeysuckle and other invasive plant species that have invaded the understory of your woodland or your yard? Would you like to know more about invasive species control? Have you noticed a group of volunteers clearing honeysuckle on Cardinal Ridge at New Salem and wondered what's going on?

If you answered yes to any of the above, then please plan now to attend a special presentation by experts on invasive species and forest management on February 22 at 7:00 PM at Broadgauge, 110 North 7th Street in Petersburg.

Chris Evans, Illinois Extension Forester and Research Specialist, well-known and respected invasive species specialist, will explain exactly what invasive species are, why they are problematic, and why it is imperative that we eradicate them.

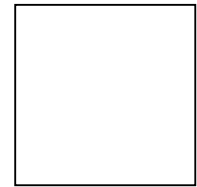
Ray Geroff, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Heritage Biologist serving the Central Region, will talk about the New Salem Habitat Restoration Project, including how Cardinal Ridge was selected and the long term goal of the project.

Terri Treacy, President of Menard County Trails & Greenways will describe the role the organization plays in the New Salem project and how you may get involved.

The presentation will begin at 7:00 PM on the second floor ballroom at Broadgauge. We encourage you support Broadgauge by purchasing a beverage at the bar beforehand to carry upstairs (or even come early and enjoy a fine meal in the dining room!). Questions? Contact the Menard County Trails and Greenways at [medardctg@gmail.com](mailto:medardctg@gmail.com).



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



*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French's Shooting Star

**Board Members**

- President: Nick Seaton
- Vice President: Kurt Neubig
- Secretary: Ingrid Felsl
- Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
- At-large: Kate Tillotson
- At-large: Jean Sellar
- At-large: Taryn Bieri
- At-large: Rhonda Rothrock
- At-large: Katie Steinmetz
- At-large: Breanna Whitley
- At-large: Jenny Lesko
- At-large: Tracy DeMarco
- Newsletter: Jennifer Behnken

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**Membership Categories**

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- Supporting.....\$50.00
- Patron.....\$100.00
- Business.....\$125.00
- Life.....\$500.00
- Iliamma* (life).....\$1,000.00
- Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
- Erigenia* (life).....\$3,000.00

Please make checks payable to: Illinois Native Plant Society, Attn: Dr. Nancy Garwood  
Life Science II—Mailcode 6509 Southern Illinois University 1125 Lincoln Dr. Carbondale, IL 62901

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Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

**Erigenia**, our scientific journal, is now available digitally as well as in print.

Please indicate your preference for receiving the journal.

- Email only
- Postal Mail only
- Both

**Chapter Affiliation**

- Central (Springfield)
- Northeast (Chicago)
- Forest Glen (Westville)
- Quad Cities (Rock Island)
- Grand Prairie (Bloomington)
- Southern (Carbondale)
- Kankakee Torrent
- Other/Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help with:**

- Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level)
- Giving Workshops &/or Seminars
- Public Media/Communications
- Leading Field Trips & Tours
- Public Speaking
- Writing/Submitting articles
- Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars
- Fund Raising
- Photography
- Website Assistance/Management
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**My area of expertise:** \_\_\_\_\_