



COLLECTING & SOWING SEEDS



COMMUNITY HABITAT SYMPOSIUM

February 24th, 2024
Joliet Junior College
U Building - 8am

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Quinn Adamowski
Dom D'Allesandro

CONTROLLING THISTLES



CONSERVATION NEWS



ORGANIZING TO SAVE NATURE



GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS



REGISTER NOW

<https://illinoisplants.org/kankakee-torrent-chapter/communityhabitatsymposiumregistration/>

Welcome to the fourth biennial Community Habitat Symposium, a gathering of plant lovers wanting to learn more about native plants, nature and how to protect the places we love. Whether bringing nature back to square feet or acres, the speakers provide information to guide and inspire.

Joliet Junior College
1215 Houbolt Road
U Building
Joliet, IL 60431



Exhibitors

Indiana Academy of Science (book sales)

Illinois Native Plant Society

Schedule

8:30	Registration opens	U Building Atrium
8:50	Welcome: Joliet Junior College	U Building Auditoriums 1022-1026
9:00	Introduction: Floyd Catchpole	U Building Auditoriums 1022-1026
	Opening Addresses	
9:10	Learning from Failures: Domenico D'Allesandro	U Building Auditoriums 1022-1026
9:50	Advocacy 101: Quinn Adamowski	
10:40	Break for Coffee & Snacks	Hallway outside Atrium
	Morning Concurrent sessions	
	At Home with Native Plants and Animals	Acres of Prairie, Savanna, Woods and Work
	U Building Auditoriums: 1022-1026	U Building: Room 1009
11:00	Gardening for Butterflies and Moths in Illinois: Sue Dees	Quit Herbiciding Thistles (in Natural Area Restorations): Juli Mason
12:00	Visit vendors/lunch break	Location U Building Atrium and Concourse
	Afternoon Concurrent Sessions	
12:45	Winter Sowing Native Plants: Alana McKean	An Update on Proposed Changes to the Illinois Endangered and Threatened Plant Species List: Paul B. Marcum
1:45	Seed Guides: Resources for Collecting Native Seeds: Kelly Schultz	Restoration in the Forest Preserves of Cook County: Kristin Pink
2:45	The Big Switch with Little Changes: Kelsay Shaw	Plants and their Partners: Chloe Lash
	Closing Address	
3:45	4-Rivers Conservation Opportunity Area: Saving nature for our children. Floyd Catchpole	U Building Auditoriums 1022-1026

Community Habitat Symposium

Opening Presentations

Learning from Failures (Dominic D'Allesandro)

Why are environmental advocates and groups often unable to succeed in winning the case for protecting biodiversity against powerful forces including elected representatives, economic institutions, the press, and even agencies whose purpose is to protect the environment? This talk will propose some ideas on how to improve our chances of success to reach such goals as the 30 x 30 plan or climate change reduction. How Rights of Nature doctrine can guide our development, restoration, litigation and responsibility to enforce these rights on behalf of ecosystems.

Advocacy 101 (Quinn Adamowski)

Being right about an issue does not matter; what matters is whether we convince those who have decision making authority on an issue to agree. Designing, organizing, implementing and sustaining an advocacy campaign is complex, but is necessary to influence decisions. How do we do that? What does an advocacy campaign entail? Who can help us? These questions will be addressed in this presentation.

Track 1

At Home with Native Plants

This track is geared toward homeowners and the urban/suburban community interested in building green corridors through neighborhoods yard-by-yard, park-by-park.

Gardening for Butterflies and Moths in Illinois (Sue Dees Hargrove)

Nectar plants and caterpillar foodplants for Illinois butterflies and moths will be illustrated, along with life stages. Larval host plants and Lepidoptera rearing will be discussed.

Winter Sowing Native Plants (Alana McKean)

Create wildlife habitat at home by using the winter sowing method to grow native perennials for your garden! This presentation will discuss the importance of natives in our home landscapes, then share the

process of winter sowing native seeds and offer tips on transplanting and caring for the new seedlings. The speaker will also highlight a few of her favorite winter sown natives that she has successfully sowed.

Seed Guides: Resources for Collecting Native Seeds (Kelly Schultz)

Collecting native seeds is fun and essential for our restorations, but how do you know when the seed is ripe, or correctly identify the species, and what do you do with it after harvest? Using the Seed Guides, we will take a look at some of the native species & how to harvest them. Bring your questions – what species have you always wondered about, which species do you find challenging?

The Big Switch with Little Changes (Kelsay Shaw)

Homeowner's often want to do better for birds, mow less, or put in new flower beds. Kelsay addresses a wide range of native plant issues based on his years at Possibility Place Nursery. From shade to sun, yard to pot, he will explore a wide range of depth to native planting topics.

Track 2

Acres of Prairie, Savanna, Woods and Work

This track is geared to large tract private landowners, public land managers, and people working on restoration projects on a larger scale.

Quit Herbiciding Thistles (in Natural Area Restorations): (Juli Mason)

Studies of two thistle-infested prairie restorations with differing thistle-management strategies in conjunction with the results of a soil herbicide residual experiment suggest that thistles in natural areas are a symptom of a problem. Learn more about these surprising results.

Proposed Changes to the Illinois Endangered and Threatened Plant Species List: (Paul Marcum)

Illinois is home to nearly 3,500 plant species including around 2,300 natives. Reviewing the status of so many plant species is truly a daunting task. This presentation summarizes the process and proposed changes, as well as how botanists and private citizens can help these assessments.

Restoration in the Forest Preserves of Cook County (Kristin Pink)

In 2022, citizens of Cook County voted “yes” to increasing financial support for their Forest Preserves. Learn about restoration work that benefitted from this funding, with special emphasis on the highest priority landscape: the Palos preserves of southwestern Cook County.

Plants and their Partners (Dr. Chloe Lash)

Plants form many mutualistic relationships with other organisms in their environment. Learn about the roles that these partners play in plant defense and disease, distribution and dispersal, and nutrition and reproduction. We will concentrate on ants and other insect partners but will also dive into the microscopic world of fungi and bacteria.

Closing Address:**4-Rivers Conservation Opportunity Area: Saving Nature for our Children** (Floyd Catchpole)

Between the towns of Joliet and Kankakee near the confluence of the Des Plaines, DuPage, Kankakee and Illinois rivers are over 30,000 acres of protected land supporting prairie and savanna remnants with over 1,000 native plants and scores of rare and endangered species. From Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to Goose Lake Prairie and the Braidwood Savannas, this area has attracted millions of conservation dollars and an array of volunteers and organizations studying, restoring and enjoying this amazing area.

About Our Speakers:

Quinn Adamowski: Regional Advocacy Manager, Landmarks Illinois

Quinn is a leader, administrator, and organizer who is committed to enhancing the quality of life of communities through advocacy for historic preservation, the arts and tourism. In his role with Landmarks Illinois, Quinn serves as the organization's frontline preservation advocate in greater Illinois. He serves on numerous boards and commissions statewide and within Joliet, including Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, Joliet Area Historical Museum, Joliet Historic Preservation Commission, and others. Quinn received a Bachelor of Arts from Knox College with a double major in Democracy and Social Justice and History, a M.A.E from University of St. Francis, and a M.A.E from Olivet Nazarene University.

Domenico D'Alessandro

Domenico's landscape architecture work concentrates on regenerative ecological designs for the urban fabric that have received awards from USEPA and Chicago Wilderness for clients and personal recognition in the international category from the Integrated Habitat Design Competition, London, UK. He has presented his work at numerous national and international venues and continues to advocate for living architecture solutions. Domenico is a member of the Illinois Native Plant Society, Northeast Chapter, volunteers with local restoration groups and is a board member of Friends of Dundee Natural Areas.

Floyd Catchpole (President of Kankakee Torrent Chapter)

Floyd received his B.S., botany from Eastern Illinois University and M.S. Biology studying bison grazing effects at Kansas State. He has been involved in volunteer organizations most of his adult life and has worked as an ecologist at the Forest Preserve District of Will County for 23 years.

Susan Dees Hargrove

Susan retired in 2023 after serving as a biologist for IDOT for 29 years, reviewing 300+ proposed projects annually for their potential impacts to endangered species and wetlands. She has studied butterflies and moths for over 60 years and gardened for pollinators for over 30 years. She was active in central Illinois environmental groups for over 20 years, and in INPS since 1989. She managed family woodlands for invasive exotic plant species for 15 years.

Dr. Chloe L. Lash: Assistant Professor of Biology, University of St. Francis

Dr. Lash's research focuses on seed dispersal by ants in eastern North American forests. Within this ant-plant mutualistic interaction, she investigates microbial influences and chemical impact. At USF, she teaches courses that focus on ecology, evolution, environmental science, and research methods. She received her BS in biology and chemistry from Valparaiso University, then moved south for doctoral studies in ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Paul B. Marcum: Associate Research Scientist/Project Leader for Botany with the Wetland Science Program at the Illinois Natural History Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois

Paul received a B.S. in Natural Sciences from Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio and a M.S. in Biological Sciences from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia and now has nearly 30 years of

professional botany experience, including the last 24 in Illinois. He is a member of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board's (IESPB) Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) for plants where he has provided information to help guide listing decisions for the past 15 years. In addition, Paul is a member of the Illinois Invasive Species Council's Terrestrial Plants Committee and a life member of the Illinois Native Plant Society.

Julianne Mason Restoration Program Coordinator, Forest Preserve District of Will County

Juli grew up on a vineyard in upstate New York, where she got the "outdoor bug". She has worked as an ecologist in the Chicago region for the past 20 years. She works as a restoration ecologist for the Forest Preserve District of Will County. She has a B.A. in Biology (as well as one in Japan Studies) from Earlham College in Richmond, IN, and a M.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from UIUC.

Alana McKean

Alana is a graduate of Illinois College and serves as the curator of Starhill Forest Arboretum in Petersburg, Illinois. She has been an active INPS member with the Central Chapter for over a decade, editing the newsletter and working on the plant sale committee. She also volunteers Menard County Trails & Greenways on various conservation projects.

Kristin Pink: Regional Ecologist, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Kristin works to monitor and restore the Palos preserves of southwestern Cook County. She grew up on Mount Forest Island in Willow Springs, which inspired her to study Natural Resources and Environmental Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her professional goal is to restore all 15,000 acres of the Palos preserves so that others may grow up knowing their magic.

Kelsay Shaw: Possibility Place Nursery. Botanist and Sales Consultant

Kelsay has a B.S. in botany from Eastern Illinois University and has been doing work in the industry for more than 25 years. He has taught classes on native plants, lectured about their uses and environmental impacts, as well as consulting on projects large and small for Possibility Place.