

**2024 INPS
ANNUAL
GATHERING**

2024 Illinois Native Plant Society Annual Gathering Field Trips

Saturday July 13th

- **Option A – up to 12 people**
 - *Hosah Prairie – Kathleen Garness*

Hosah Prairie is probably the richest biodiversity hotspot on Lake Michigan's Illinois coastal plain, but was almost destroyed in the late 1980s. Only 22.7 acres, it contains 235 species of vascular plants (many rare, threatened, or endangered), and almost 50 species of lichens.

Directions:

The tour will be from 9am to 11:00am, meeting at 9am at the small parking lot at the foot of Shiloh Blvd. (100 Shiloh Blvd. Zion IL. From there, it is about a 1/4 mile walk from there to the lake on paved paths.)

There are no restrooms on site but there are two McDonald's and a few gas stations in the vicinity; and a cafe, It's All Good, on Sheridan Road just south of Shiloh. It's All Good is open from 7am to 1pm. (There is also a Culvers and some other restaurants nearby.)

Note that Sheridan Road just south of Wadsworth Road is closed until the end of 2024, so it is suggested, if you are taking the 1-294 tollway from the south, to exit on Belvidere Road, go east to Lewis, take Lewis Avenue north to Wadsworth, take Wadsworth east to Sheridan, and Sheridan north to Shiloh. Go east (right) on Shiloh until you see the parking area on the left, behind the guard rails.

- *Illinois Beach State Park – Belynda Alberte and the Illinois Dunesland Restoration Project*

Illinois Beach, dedicated in 1964 as Illinois' first Nature Preserve, is part of the Wisconsin-Illinois Lake Plain, one of the last ridge and swale ecosystems on the western coast of Lake Michigan. It is characterized by ancient beach ridges of glacial lake Chicago. Representing the southern terminus of the plain, the dunes within Illinois Beach State Park are younger and more pronounced than those in the northern reaches of the landform. This topography gives a highly diverse flora, housing over 500 species. Plant communities include marsh, sedge meadow, calcareous fen, panne, wet prairie, wet-mesic prairie, mesic prairie, xeric prairie, oak savanna, foredune, and near-beach.

Directions: Meet at the Illinois Beach State Park Nature Center parking lot, 38600 Illinois Beach State Park, Zion, IL 60087

- **Option B – up to 15 People**

- *Reed Turner Woodland – Sarah Schultz*

Reed-Turner Woodland is located along a deeply incised branch of Indian Creek. The preserve is a remnant of a presettlement prairie grove which once occurred along Indian and Killdeer Creeks, from the current village of Long Grove to Deer Grove Forest Preserve in Cook County. All that remains today are small portions of floodplain and upland forest, and sparse remnants of savanna and prairie vegetation. Oaks and hickories dominate the upland areas while the floodplain contains black willow, green ash and black walnut. American elms were common along the stream, but they have been eliminated by Dutch elm disease. The site contains an interesting wet meadow which is dominated by sedges, rushes and a few wetland forbs such as meadow rue, marsh aster, and curly dock. Over 116 species of birds have been observed in the preserve including resident populations of waterfowl and herons. Many common woodland mammals also live in the area.

Directions:

3849 Old McHenry Road, Long Grove, IL 60047

- *Elm Road Woodland – Ken Klick*

Illinois Nature Preserve sites, Elm Road and Wright Woods Forest Preserves contain high quality oak/hickory woodland, northern flatwood, and maple/basswood forest communities. Invasive plant control, prescribed burning, and canopy thinning have occurred at these sites for over two decades. Highlights of these visits will be high plant diversity, northern flatwood ponds and swales, and likely ticks, mosquitoes and muddy plants. We'll walk approximately 2 miles, some off-trail.

Directions:

The entrance of Captain Daniel Wright Woods is at the intersection of St. Mary's and Everett Roads, south of Route 60. Mettawa, Illinois Park in parking lot

- **Option C – up to 15 People**

- *Bluff Spring Fen – Ed Max*

Come along on this easy to moderate hike to take in this modestly sized gem known as 'Bluff Spring Fen'. Known to contain over 400 plant species, with numerous habitats on site: including fen, marsh, dry kames, oak savannah, and dry gravel prairie and clear cool running streams and seeps year-round.

It's a loop trail- not too intense, but a big hat and lots of water recommended.

We will have lunch in the shade of the oaks after the hike. If time allows- Bluff City Cemetery is also one of the coolest and historic cemeteries to take in.

Directions:

You must access this fen through the main entrance to Bluff City Cemetery (Elgin, off Rt 20) then proceed south to the lot. Carpooling encouraged- limited parking.

○ *Flint Creek Savanna – Luke Dahlberg and Jim Vanderpoel*

This native-plant rich prairie was reconstructed from a hayfield starting thirty-seven years ago. You can observe the power of restoration first hand by observing rich mixes of prairie, marsh, and open oak species. We will also observe our Native Seed Garden featuring Sullivan's Milkweed, Prairie Alumroot, Scufy Pea, and many other important native species.

Directions: 459 W. Highway 22 Barrington, IL 60010

• **Option D – up to 20 People**

○ *Lockport Prairie – Juli Mason*

Lockport Prairie NP is a remnant dolomite prairie/marsh complex that provides habitat for many rare, threatened, and endangered species. It has been the focus of an ecosystem restoration project over the past 6 years administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which has involved large-scale control of cattails and other invasive species. Come observe the recovery of the native plant communities and ongoing challenges with regionally unusual invasives. The second half of the field trip will visit the adjacent Prairie Bluff Preserve, the site of two restorations that converted former agricultural fields to prairie habitats but used nearly opposite approaches to address Canada thistles. Directions: Park along the sides of Division Street as it runs through the middle of Lockport Prairie.

○ *Schulenberg Prairie – Kurt Dreisilker*

Spend peak prairie viewing time with Kurt Dreisilker, Head of Natural Resources and Collections Horticulture Morton Arboretum. The 4th restoration of Tallgrass Prairie in the United States was planted 62 years ago from local seed sources, propagated in the Morton Arboretum greenhouse. Informed by remnant prairies, Ray Schulenberg's vision has become a thriving ecosystem. Past, present and future plans will be discussed as you hike the pathways and meandering trails.

• **Option E – up to 22 people**

- *Pat Armstrong's House "PRAIRIE SUN" – Pat Armstrong*

Back in the late 1970s & early 1980s, Don A. Tosi (Architect & Builder), Ken Woods (Civil Engineer), & Chuck Armstrong & Tim Schmidt (T. & C. Custom Carpentry) got together to design & build the first super-well-insulated, energy-efficient, single-family homes in Naperville. In 1983, Chuck & Pat Armstrong designed & built their own super-well-insulated, energy-efficient, passive-Solar Home, PRAIRIE SUN.

Pat landscaped their ½-acre lot with mostly native plants (trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, grasses and wildflowers of prairies, savannas, woodlands & stream banks. They have over 300 species planted mostly from locally collected seed, 95 % of which are native & 40% are edible.

In 2004 when the original cedar shakes on the roof needed to be replaced, they re-roofed Prairie Sun with interlocking aluminum shingles made from recycled beverage cans, & they added solar electric panels making Prairie Sun the first grid-tied Solar electric house in Naperville & prepared much of the new roof to be planted with native plants. Over the 500 square-foot garage roof which was partly shaded they planned prairie & savanna plants & a few non-native Sedums. The 1000-square-foot green roof over the south-facing main part of the house they planned mostly native prairie plants, cacti & a few non-native sedums. Kenny Gallt of Foliage Design Systems, installed many layers of different things to protect the wooden roof and provide for 4-inches of light-weight gravelly soil in 2004. He worked the green roofs around the aluminum shingles & covered the area for the winter, because they didn't want to plant until spring of 2005. Pat spent the winter selecting & ordering the plants & designing exactly where each plant would go on the roof. Over 150 species (3,000 individual seedling plants, 90% native) were ordered from 10 different nurseries to be delivered in May of 2005. As they arrived Chuck & Pat counted them and assigned them to boxes with the plants they were going to grow beside. It took Kenny 4 days to plant all the seedlings according to the plans, & he watered them for two weeks while Chuck & Pat went on vacation to the Pacific Northwest.

Prairie Sun has been cited in more than 70 publications including *Erigenia* #22, 2009 & #25, 2012

COME & SEE THIS AMAZING HOUSE & LANDSCAPE

Directions:

612 Staunton Road Naperville, IL 60565

Park on Staunton Road or one-half block north at the Library or School

- *Vermont Cemetery Prairie – Pat Armstrong*

People were immigrating into northern Illinois in the 1800s. Some from Vermont settled in Will County west of Route 59 around 95th Street and buried their dead

in 1.5-acre VERMONT CEMETERY from 1840 to 1924. Other people from Germany and Berks & Lancaster Counties in Pennsylvania settled around Route 59 & 83rd Street & buried their dead in 1/2-acre COPENHAGEN CEMETERY from 1844 to 1924. They also built the town of Copenhagen & the Wheatland-Salem Copenhagen Church. Vermont Cemetery was discovered & studied by Dr. Robert Betz & Ray Schulenberg around 1956. Species lists were made, fences were put up to protect the cemetery from vandals in 1972, paid by Ray Schulenberg (\$1,350), & it was eventually saved as a Nature Preserve in 1978. Copenhagen Cemetery was not so lucky. In the 1920s, Route 59 was changed & most of the people moved to Naperville, the church congregation lost members, the cemetery was not taken care of & grew up with woody plants & weeds. Copenhagen became a Ghost Town in 1980. The church wanted the cemetery to go back to prairie & be preserved, & Matt Turner, a boy scout with his fellow scouts did a lot of woody plant removal with the hope of restoring the cemetery. Harold Patterson & many other people tried to save the Cemetery. Pat Armstrong with 7 volunteers from the Morton Arboretum did a study in 1981-82 of the plants proving their high quality, but no one listened. In 1996-97, the Mission Oak Subdivision was getting closer to the cemetery and the church had them dig a big hole and bulldoze all the grave stones into it and bury them. Then they bulldozed the whole site, leveled it and built the subdivision. No one seems to know what happened to all the bodies.

Pat Armstrong will lead a field trip to Vermont Cemetery & Dave Kropp & Ray Schulenberg's last prairie on Saturday, July 13, 2024, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Meet at Vermont Cemetery. From Route 59 go west on 95th Street to the end, turn left (southwest) on Wolf Crossing Road. When you come to the railroad DO NOT CROSS IT. Turn left (south) on the Normantown Road to the Vermont Cemetery parking lot.

Dave & Rays prairie is about 3 miles south of 95th Street, then 1 mile east on 119th Street.

- **Option F – up to 15 people**

Elsen's Hill Fen – Scott Kobal

The fen contains many typical northern Illinois fen species such as great angelica, skunk cabbage, marsh shield fern, swamp goldenrod, turtlehead, marsh marigold and common tussock sedge.

In addition to the fen, we will see some hillside seeps, woodlands, and prairies on the trail loop.

Directions:

The parking lot is located on Gary's Mill Road about 0.5 miles east of Roosevelt Road (Route 38) and about 0.6 miles west of Winfield Road. I have included a map of the location of the parking lot on Gary's Mill Road.

Afternoon trips will be divvied up among other opportunities as space allows

Sunday July 14th

- **Option A – up to 20 people**

Dixie Briggs Fromm Nature Preserve – Susanne Masi with Dixie Stewardship Group and Friends of Dundee Natural Areas

Equipment: Water, sunscreen, hat, long pants, sturdy shoes, bug spray, binoculars (recommended). No wet areas will be encountered. Site Description: Dixie Briggs Fromm Nature Preserve is owned and managed by Dundee Township as part of their Open Space Program, one of three in the State. When it was purchased in 1998, it was an unknown natural treasure. As such, it was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 2003. Formed by

glacial deposits in the Fox River ecosystem, Dixie's 61 acres feature high quality remnant gravel hill prairies, mesic prairie, graminoid fen, sedge meadow and savannas. The land was never tilled but was

used as pastureland. Our one-plus mile meandering hike on the trails will take us from mesic prairie, over a tributary creek and up the slope of the high quality gravel hill prairie with its stunning views. From there we will visit a hanging fen, descend to Dixie Creek, and finally up another prairie hill to complete the loop. (We will not visit the Nature Preserve Buffer to the East that adds another 94 acres to this site.)

Twenty-five years of focused management by Dundee Township staff and dedicated volunteers have cleared much of the invasive brush from the interior of the site, and regular burns and herbaceous invasive removal are part of the ongoing regimen. From 2006-2009, Dixie Creek underwent a major large scale restoration of stream meandering and bank stabilization, partially funded with grants from the US EPA and Chicago Wilderness. Dixie is home to a growing list of 350 native plant species, including ten listed and rare plants monitored by Plants of Concern (such as Hill's Thistle (*Cirsium hillii*), Short Green Milkweed (*Asclepias viridiflora*), Round-Stemmed False Foxglove (*Agalinis gattingeri*), an indigenous population of *Filipendula rubra* (Queen of the Prairie) population. Spring flora includes abundant Bird-foot violet (*Viola pedata* var *linariloba*), Violet Wood Sorrel (*Oxalis violacea*), Richardson's Sedge (*Carex richardsonii*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium albidum*) and Cream Baptisia (*Baptisia leucophaea*). Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*) is abundant in summer as are Prairie Dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachrium scoparium*), and Side-oats Gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*). The ravines in the Nature Preserve Buffer to the east support a robust population of Leatherwood (*Dirca palustris* - we will not visit that area.)

Directions:

Where to meet: Eastmoor Entrance (see map) at the junction of Lawndale Drive and Eastmoor Lane

(East end of Lane) in Algonquin. (Google Earth: 42°09'56.56"; -88°19'01.01")

- **Option B – up to 20 people**

Glacial Park School Springs Mitigation Laurie Ryan and Alayna Mikulski

Sunday, July 14th from 8-10am

Tour of the School Springs Wetland Mitigation Bank Project in Glacial Park, McHenry County Conservation District. This is an ~30-acre project with both upland and wetland restorations, including the creation of stream channels. This is the fifth growing season of the wetlands. We're looking forward to sharing this impressive site with a lot of native plant diversity with INPS folks!

Meeting location: Glacial Park, Harts Road Parking lot. From McHenry, go north on Route 31. Turn left on Harts Road into Glacial Park. Drive about ½ mile. Cross over the Prairie Trail, and park in the parking lot on the right. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zBmK2qMXzMnHkiHe9> There are bathrooms and a water pump that folks can use prior to the tour. From here, we will caravan over to the tour location, and will be parking in a hayfield south of Harts Road. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/chWGMonUWLtSsQuj9>

Bring your rubber boots!

- **Option C - Somme Prairie Grove – Flexible, but maybe keep to 25ish**
Somme Prairie Grove - Stephen Packard and Eriko Kojima

Somme Prairie Grove is an 85 acre transition from prairie to bur oak savanna to woodland including sedge meadows and ephemeral ponds, traversing the entire west-facing slope of the Deerfield Lobe of the Lake Border Moraine. Twelve endangered plant species and a number of rare and endangered animal species thrive here amid nearly 500 native plant species. The restoration of small savanna remnants here, which now have expanded to cover more than half of the site, was highlighted in the book *Miracle Under the Oaks - the revival of nature in America* by New York Times science writer William Stevens. The transition zones between prairie and savanna and woodland are especially rich in unusual plant species. Somme Prairie Grove, a Cook County Forest Preserve, was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 2021.

- Option D – up to 15

Cherry Hill Woods – Mark Kluge

Cherry Hill Woods, along with the adjacent Swallow Cliff site, is typical of the bluff and ravine topography of the Palos and Sag Valley region. The oak woodland contains conservative species including *Aralia racemosa*, *Calystegia spithamea*, *Endodeca serpentaria*, and *Silene virginica*. The prairie slope has populations of *Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *Asclepias purpurascens* and *Ceanothus americanus*, along with several sedges. The rich flora at this site attracts many insects and rare dragonflies.

- Option E – Unlimited

Morton Arboretum

Enjoy complimentary access to the Morton Arboretum as part of the 2024 Annual Gathering and take a self-guided tour of Schulenberg Prairie or explore many of the other opportunities offered such as a Dolomite Prairie installation featuring Lakeside Daisy (*Tetraneuris herbacea*). <https://mortonarb.org>