



The Harbinger

NEWSLETTER



of the
Illinois Native Plant Society

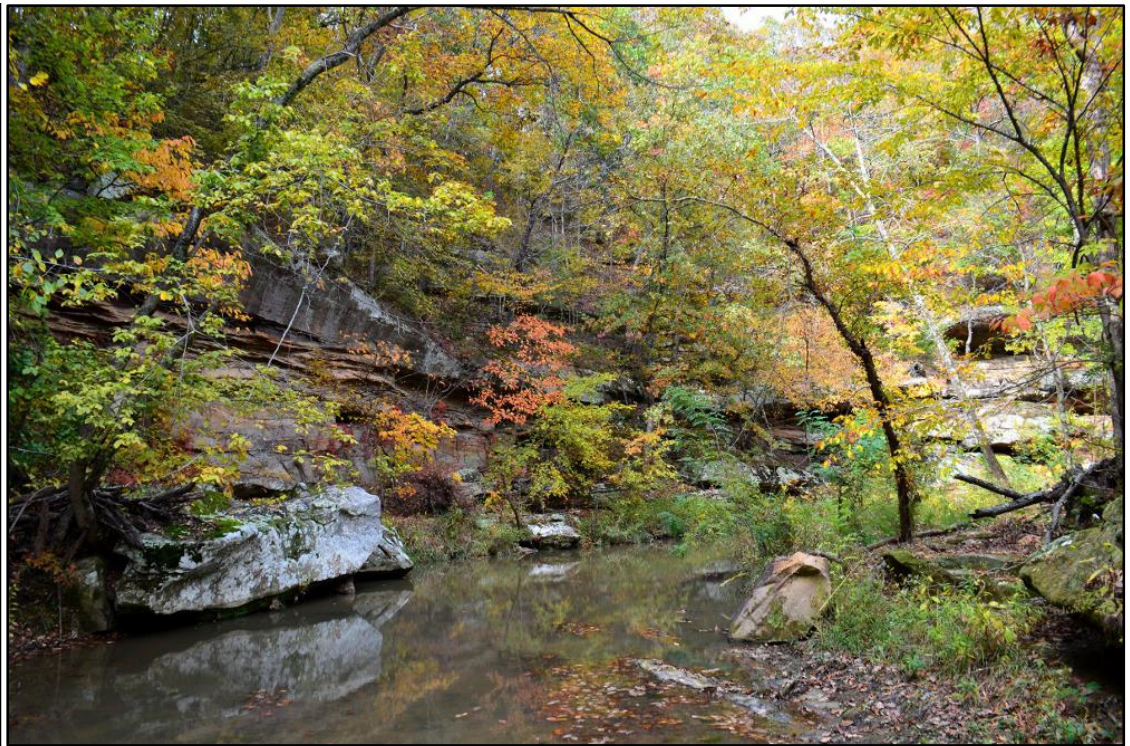
"...dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois."

FALL 2013

Volume 30, No. 4

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The spectacular season of autumn has come and gone as fast as its beautiful foliage. Reports of this year's fall colors were mixed. In some places, the colors didn't seem as vivid as in years prior. In other locations, many commented on how the leaves seemed to turn color late this year and fell quickly with the cool weather.

This is Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve in October. This nature preserve in Randolph County is one of two locations in Illinois for the state endangered short-leaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*).

~Christopher David Benda, Editor



GO GREEN! If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help us lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Please send your email address to illinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list. Please "like" us on facebook at www.facebook.com/illinoisplants.

Message from the President

Greetings at the close of the year and all the best for the holiday season! Congratulations to the Central Chapter for hosting and organizing a great INPS State Annual Meeting. Check out photos that were posted on the INPS Facebook page and in this issue of the Harbinger.

News from the State Annual Meeting:

- Tracy Evans, Central Chapter, has stepped down as editor of *Erigenia*, but will remain as a state board member-at-large. Andy West has agreed to serve as our next *Erigenia* editor.
- Jason Zylka, Northeast Chapter, will also be serving as an at-large board member. He also serves as treasurer of the Northeast Chapter. Jason is filling a vacancy created when Andy Methven resigned his member-at-large duties.
- Victoria Crosley, another Northeast member, stepped up earlier this year to serve as state treasurer when JoAnne Durkee resigned the position. Victoria was confirmed as treasurer at the annual meeting.
- Eric Ulazsek, Forest Glen Chapter, has agreed to restart and likely chair the Floristic Update Committee.
- Thank you to all the recently resigned members for their years of service to the INPS.

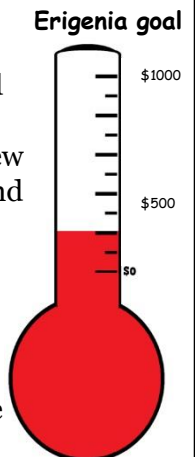
Diana Krug, president of the Northeast Chapter, announced they are already deep into planning the 2014 State Annual Meeting. The chapter is planning a landscape-scale look at the Kankakee sands system from Indiana westward to near the Kankakee River's confluence with the Des Plaines and Dupage Rivers. Please note a date change from the original announcement: the meeting dates will be August 1-3, 2014.

The INPS State Board is planning a retreat on the weekend of January 18 and 19, 2014. Our goal is to get a good strategic plan in place to keep INPS relevant to our members and raise awareness of native plants to the citizens of Illinois. If you have an issue that you feel the board should be concerned about, please send me an email at j9-catchpole@comcast.net.

Please remember to support our effort to fund the sponsorship of *Erigenia bulbosa* in the new Flora of the Chicago Region (see the flyer on page 5). I recently spoke with Gerould Wilhelm and he said our support helps to fund his research into herbariums around the region. He said the book will be listing plant species new to Illinois that he found during his research trips. He will be starting editorial review soon as well. Remember *each \$10.00 donation will equal one chance in a drawing for a signed first edition* of this book. We are about halfway in our goal to raise a \$1000.00 for the sponsorship.

Please keep this project and the INPS in mind for any end-of-the-year giving. We appreciate the support of our members.

~INPS President Janine Catchpole



Welcome New Illinois Native Plant Society Members!

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

Allison Daley
Kathy Huffman
Izabella Redlinski
Dan Spencer

CENTRAL CHAPTER

Joyce Bishop
Tom Bottom
Gayle Blodgett
Linda and John Janssen
Allen Pieper
Deb Russell
Patrick Ward

SOUTHERN CHAPTER

Carol Harper
Charlie Pitts
Annie Skaggs
Jan Sundberg
Dan Woolard



We are currently accepting submissions for the next issue of *Erigenia*, the journal of the Illinois Native Plant Society. For submission guidelines, please visit our website www.ill-inps.org or email editor Andy West at erigenia.editor@gmail.com.



Featured Blog: Illinois Botanizer

This blog features photography and nature stories by Christopher David Benda, INPS President-elect and Harbinger editor. It covers everything nature in Illinois and beyond. You can read the blog here. <http://illinoisbotanizer.blogspot.com/>

INPS CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHEAST CHAPTER - Chicago

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QUAD CITIES CHAPTER - Rock Island

Bo Dziadyk (President)
309-794-3436
qc_inps.home.mchsi.com

IRENE CULL CHAPTER - Peoria

Mary Hartley (President)
309-995-3356
haywool@winco.net

FOREST GLEN CHAPTER - Danville

Connie Cunningham (President)
217-516-1792
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CENTRAL CHAPTER - Springfield

Annette Chinuge (President)
217-483-5893
annette@avrosystems.com

SOUTHERN CHAPTER - Carbondale

Chris Benda (President)
217-417-4145
southernillinoisplants@gmail.com



For more information about events, please contact your chapter representative above.

Northeast Chapter (Chicago)

The Northeast Chapter is preparing to host next year's State Annual Meeting, Aug 1-3, to be held at Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see in Manteno, IL. We hope you will join us! The winter meeting for the northeast chapter will be held at a time and place to be announced to the membership soon.

On September 15, Illinois Native Plant Society members travelled to Powderhorn Prairie led by chapter member Dennis Nyberg. He showed the group this excellent prairie considered by many to be the best natural area in Chicago. On October 20th, chapter member Louis Mule led a field trip to McGinnis Slough and Orland Grassland. Impressive birding habitat and restoration efforts were on display.

Find the Northeast Chapter on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisNativePlantSocietyNortheastChapter>. For more information, email northeast.inps@gmail.com.

Quad Cities Chapter (Rock Island)

Chapter President, Bo Dziadyk, reports of plans to initiate a Botany 101 series that will present the basics of plant diversity (bryophytes, pteridophytes, seed plants), structure, function, and ecological relationships wherein participants can discuss what plants are and what they do that is vital to human survival. A short program at each meeting is the goal.

Irene Cull Chapter (Peoria)

No news to report.

Forest Glen Chapter (Danville)

Chapter President Connie Cunningham reports that Forest Glen chapter is experiencing a lull in activities, unfortunately. Please stay tuned for more programming in future newsletters or contact Connie at her email listed above.

Central Chapter (Springfield)

Chapter President Annette Chinuge reports that the State Annual Meeting held in Springfield and was quite a success! They are looking forward to their December holiday dinner and program on Thursday, December 12, 2013 at 6:00pm at the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. The dinner will be catered by Maldaners Restaurant. Cost per member \$15.00/each, additional guests \$25/each. Please send RSVP to Annette Chinuge at annette@avrosystems.com. It should be quite delicious and a fun get together.

Please see the Central Chapter's section of our website for more information about their events, <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-chapter>.

Southern Chapter (Carbondale)

Chapter President Chris Benda reports that the southern chapter hosted a couple of excellent programs this fall, including one by INPS board member Rachel Goad, Southern Illinois University alum, who travelled all the way south to inform the southerners about the Plants of Concern program at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Member John Van Dyk gave a wonderful program about his efforts to expand and verify the comprehensive list of plants for Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge, with special emphasis on the flora along the popular Rocky Bluff trail. Chapter president Chris Benda gave a well attended talk on the best natural areas of southern Illinois, and their fall social at Touch of Nature Environmental Center was a fun autumn day along Little Grassy Lake.

The southern chapter will host its 5th annual holiday dinner on December 8th, 2013 at 2:00pm at the residence of chapter treasurer Sonja Lallemand. Please bring a dish to share and RSVP to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

Also please visit our website for more information at www.ill-inps.org!

Illinois Native Plant Society in the news...

From the Central Chapter: Various Springfield organizations and businesses adopted planters to decorate for the holidays in downtown Springfield. INPS Central Chapter adopted two holiday planters, and on a cold day we put them together, using native milkweed, red osier dogwood, etc.. Here are photos of the finished planters and the plantees:

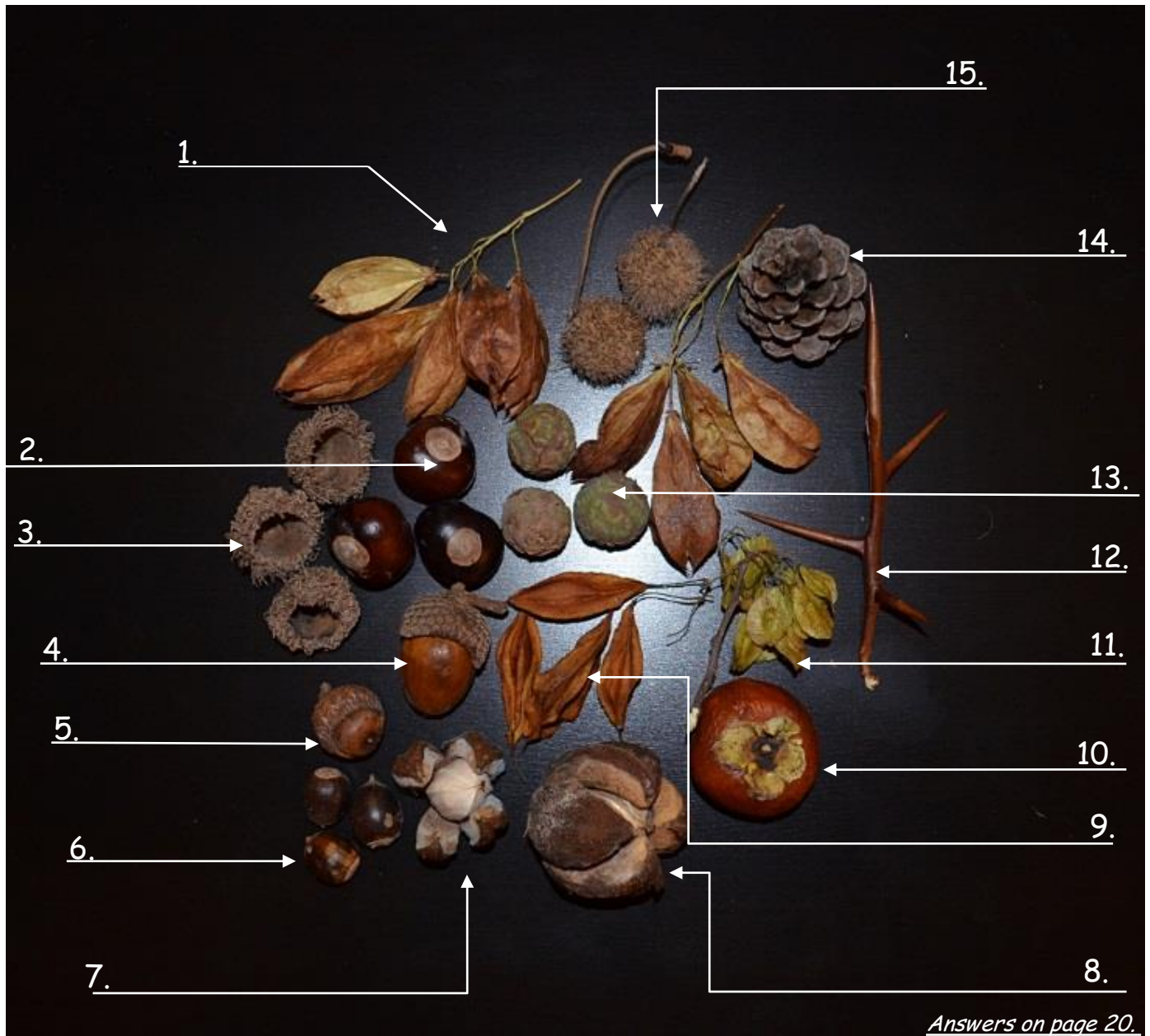


From the Southern Chapter: On Monday, September 23, Dr. Nancy Garwood (board member of the SC of INPS, Adjunct Professor, Plant Biology, SIU) joined students and staff at the Murphysboro Middle School (MMS) to plant several native species around the memorial to high school coach Doc Bencini from his winning 1947 Red Devils football team. To celebrate the high school colors, Nancy donated plants with red and yellow flowers, like the yellow-flowered Squaw-Weed (*Senecio obovatus*), red-flowered Fire Pink (*Silene virginica*), and red and yellow flowered Indian Pink (*Spigelia marilandica*). These plants are great selections for the semi-shaded area around the memorial oak tree. Forrest Keeling also donated three Redbud trees (*Cercis canadensis*) to the Middle School from Forrest Keeling via Green Earth during their plant sale in October. Thanks to Nancy and Stephanie Eichholz, Executive Director of Green Earth, for obtaining the donation. Lastly Nancy and Dr. Sedonia Sipes (Assoc. Professor, Plant Biology, SIU) are also working with MMS faculty Julie Wittenborn-Sikorsk and Beth Shuler to submit a grant proposal for a native plant pollinator garden at the MMS to the INDR Illinois Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant Program this November. All these activities are designed to raise awareness in the students of MMS and the Murphysboro community of the importance of native plants in local ecosystems. We thank MMS Principal Jeff Keener for his support in these projects.



In other news, Keep Carbondale Beautiful (KCB) has been working at installing native plants in some key areas of the city. Working with Sara Hieyer of KCB, on October 18, Sonja Lallemand installed native shrubs and trees at Walnut St. & Dorotheella St. on the south side of the creek, next to the bridge. Prior to the installation, the area was heavily mulched in June with shredded bark to help improve the soil. More mulch was added to a thickness of 4" to help with maintaining moisture and minimize heaving and thawing during the winter. The planting included *Callicarpa americana*, *Ilex decidua*, *Quercus alba*, *Physocarpus opulifolius*, *Rudbeckia hirta* and others.

Tree Fruit/Cone Identification Quiz!



INPS 2013 Annual Meeting in Springfield, Illinois Hosted by the Central Chapter

The 2013 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Central Chapter on October 4-6 in Springfield, Illinois and was a great success! There was great participation, and after the membership had a chance to mingle, they listened to a presentation by James Bray of Blackburn College who gave a biology 101 talk about lichens and fungi.

A print of the cover of the last *Erigenia* issue was matted, framed, and presented to Tracy Evans, who resigned as editor after serving so well in this position for so long. She will continue to advise the board.

The field trips were well attended and many reported that they really enjoyed the field trip leaders, who were full of knowledge about the natural areas visited. The neat venue of Sangamo Surf Club provided views of the water and keynote speaker Tom Lerczak told interesting stories from his book about the Illinois River, singing a few songs relating to his stories as well.

The following pages include field trip summaries by central chapter members Christina Pierce and Henry Eilers (taken from their November newsletter), as well as some photos of the weekend provided by members Rachel Goad, Harv Koplo, and Jason Zylka.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

- Christina Pierce, Field Trip Chair

INPS members attending the state meeting in October had some new and exciting field trips to choose from this year. On Saturday, a large group of members spent the day touring Shoal Creek in Litchfield with Henry Eilers where they hiked through upland and floodplain forest and observed a variety of rare plant species. Back in Springfield, members enjoyed either a morning field trip to Lincoln Memorial Garden and Ostermeier Prairie Center or a tour and tasting at Rolling Meadows Brewery. After lunch, those in Springfield met at Carpenter Park where Becky Cro-

teau led the group on a delightful fall tour and explained the rich history of the area.

After meeting for coffee and pastries at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday morning, members divided up and enjoyed one of three field trip options. Many members stayed at Adams for a tour of its forest and prairie given by Vern LaGessee, while

other members headed south with Henry Eilers to view the Route 66 Prairie near Litchfield.

Both trips showcased the amazing restoration work constantly taking place in central Illinois. The third field trip option, a tour of historic trees and places in Menard County led by Guy Sternberg, advertised the area's rich history.

Tour stops included Power Farm and Elijah Hall's home and gravesite, as well as visits to some very grand trees such as the Gudgel Oak, a mature American Chestnut, and the last pathfinder tree in Illinois.



Members on the Sunday tree tour make a stop at the Gudgel oak near Petersburg. Photo: Guy Sternberg

A huge thank you is due to our tour leaders - Henry Eilers, Larry Miller from Lincoln Memorial Garden, Chris Turdeau from Rolling Meadows Brewery, Becky Croteau, Guy Sternberg, and Vern LaGessee. None of this would have been possible without their contribution of time and knowledge. Thank you!



A zebra caterpillar, *Melanchra picta*, spotted at Shoal Creek.

Photo: Sue Dees-Hargrove



INPS members enjoy a picnic lunch on the Shoal Creek tour.

Photo: Henry Eilers



Hikers gather to begin the Shoal Creek tour. Photo: Henry Eilers

Taking part in field trips has always been the highlight of any nature oriented meeting for me. It was therefore a special pleasure to share on the Saturday field trip a glimpse of the biological diversity at the Shoal Creek Conservation Area with other members of the Illinois Native Plant Society. Special note was taken by many of the numerous species with strong southern affinities. A diverse selection of forbs was still in scattered bloom in spite of continued dry conditions. That included Stone Mint [*Cunila origanoides*]. While the flowers are not all that showy, many were intrigued by the pleasantly fragrant foliage. This species is also one of the 'frost flowers', featured in a previous plant profile. A few grubs of Post, Blackjack, White, Red and Black Oak were showing first fall color, especially in the lakeside barrens. Sassafras, Smooth and Shiny Sumac everywhere were in late color. That was rather muted on this rather dark and damp day.

After a tasty lunch in the nearby City of Litchfield park picnic area we proceeded to the nearby floodplain remnant below the dam of Yaeger Lake.

in the creek-side rock pavement was entwined with Dodder [*Cuscuta*]. Here and there a few Phlox plants still carried the light lavender and white flowers of the local Shoal Creek ecotype. On the way back to the parking area we stopped briefly to admire a Gentian plant, an apparent hybrid between the Bottle and the Cream Gentian. With many still attuned to the great program on fungi the previous night, special attention was given to numerous fungi encountered. Dr. Dziadyk found a colony of Giant Puffball and Floyd Catchpole collected a mess of Hen-of-the-Woods mushrooms from a large fallen Silver Maple trunk. He pan fried them at our evening event for a delectable appetizer.

Sunday's field trip attracted a smaller crowd. It was sunny, but windy and chilly in the wide open spaces of the Route 66 Prairie. Here too, notice was taken of natural elements other than plants. Susan Hargrove and a fellow entomologist found several attractive moth larvae and the remains of a Crayfish. In many places the abundant Indian Grass had lodged, yet underneath that dense layer were mats of mosses, lichens and rosettes of small plants, including a Ladies Tresses orchid. In an area of thin,

Plant Profiles:

A FIELD TRIP RECAP

-Henry "Weeds" Eilers

In addition to numerous other composites many Aster species were in full flower in this species rich plant community. Water-willow [*Justicia*]

slightly eroding soil we saw mineral concretions, like rounded stones in this hard-pan clay soil. These are better known from hill prairies. As I looked closer I noticed a small grass. That turned out to be another Three-awn Grass species not observed or recognized previously. Among other floristic surprises were not only numerous late blooming species, but also several well podded plants of Auricled Foxglove [*Tomanthera auriculata*] and a colony of Button Blazing-star [*Liatris aspera*], possibly with hybrid influence from Savanna Blazing-star [*Liatris scariosa*]. Nearby is a colony of Prairie Crab. That along with numerous other habitat specific species here may indicate the possibility that we are looking at vestiges of a small shrub barrens community.

Our natural world, even what little remains, is endlessly fascinating, an enduring journey of discovery. It is truly a privilege to steward such fine remnants of our natural heritage and share their diversity with others.



Fungi were plentiful on the field trips. Hen-of-the-Woods was collected, cooked and sampled at the banquet. Photo: Trish Quintenz.

INPS 2013 Annual Meeting in Springfield, Illinois Hosted by the Central Chapter



Rachel Goad and Christina Pierce talk during the Friday night mixer



Professor James Bray of Blackburn college talking about lichens



Illinois Audubon headquarters at the Adams Wildlife Sanctuary



Field trip leader Henry Eilers addressing INPS members



INPS members in the oak woodland at Shoal Creek Barrens



INPS members at Shoal Creek Barrens with Sassafras shrubs

INPS 2013 Annual Meeting in Springfield, Illinois Hosted by the Central Chapter



Jason Zylka posted photos throughout the meeting from his phone



Rachel Goad looking at young oak trees



INPS members at Shoal Creek Barrens



Maidenhair Fern at Shoal Creek Barrens



Floyd Catchpole and Wild Senna in fruit



Shoal Creek Conservation Area's dramatic oak woodlands

INPS 2013 Annual Meeting in Springfield, Illinois Hosted by the Central Chapter



INPS board meeting



President Janine Catchpole addresses general membership



Saturday night banquet at the Sangamon Surf Club



Saturday night banquet at the Sangamon Surf Club



Central chapter president Annette Chinuge introducing the keynote speaker, Tom Lerczak of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission



Tom Lerczak sharing stories from his new book and singing songs about Illinois nature

A Call to INPS Members!



Let's Sponsor *Erigenia bulbosa* in the New Flora of the Chicago Region!

Plants of the Chicago Region, by Floyd Swink and Gerould Wilhelm, is a highly valued tool for students of Illinois native plants and for professionals in natural area management in northeastern Illinois. The current 4th edition was published in 1994. To update this work, Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha have begun a brave new project, an expanded 5th edition, titled *Flora of the Chicago Region*.

Authors Wilhelm and Rericha are blending floristic, faunistic, and geological observations in this original reference. The synthesis of other organisms, plant and animal, that are interlinked with our species is heretofore unknown among floristic works of this scale.

The Conservation Research Institute in conjunction with the Indiana Academy of Sciences is offering a sponsorship opportunity¹ to help fund the preparation of this new valuable resource.



We have the opportunity to raise the \$1,000 necessary to sponsor *Erigenia bulbosa*, our journal's namesake. Sponsorship at the Plantsman level (\$1,000) provides recognized sponsorship of a species, three signed copies of the new book, and an invitation for three to the catered initial book signing gala.

One of the signed copies will be presented to the winner of a drawing among all those who donate to the sponsorship, one chance per every \$10.00 donated. The gala invitations will also be distributed by drawing. The other two signed copies will be auctioned off during successive Annual meetings.

Details: Donations can be sent to INPS, Forest Glen Preserve. 20301 E. 9000 North Road, Westville, IL 61883

For more information, contact Janine Catchpole, illinoisplants@gmail.com, 815-409-2943

¹ For details of the sponsorship levels and benefits of supporting this project visit:
<http://conservationresearchinstitute.org/fca.html>.

A Chance to Claim ERIGENIA as Our Own!

Volunteer Spotlight: Habitat 2030

Jonathan Schlesinger knew he was on to something when he met one of the leaders of Habitat 2030 at a habitat restoration gathering back in 2009. "I was hooked right away," he says. "For the first time in my life, I felt like I had finally found 'my' group."

Schlesinger soon found himself doing everything from seed collecting, to brush cutting, to pulling garlic mustard in preserves such as Somme Prairie Grove and Harms Woods. He also went to events such as botany and birding hikes, tree ID workshops and canoe outings.

As Schlesinger describes it, Habitat 2030 is a volunteer-run group of Millennials and Generation X'ers "working to build a culture of 20- and 30-somethings who will understand and care about our natural areas long into the future." The group has attracted hundreds of new volunteers to workdays and other events.

A trio of young forest preserve volunteers founded the group back in April 2004. They loved getting their hands dirty doing habitat restoration, but saw few of their own peers at workdays. Yet they suspected others their own age would also find this work fulfilling and fun. It just required a few adjustments to standard workday formula.

Interested in joining in? Visit www.habitat2030.org or the Habitat 2030 [Facebook](#) page. Read entire article at this link <http://fpdcc.com/volunteer-spotlight-habitat-2030/>



December 21st (Saturday): North Branch Solstice Bonfire at 2 PM at Somme Woods

Grab a friend and join us for this annual celebration of light. At 2 PM, a bagpiper will lead our group -- along with hundreds of other members of the restoration community -- through Somme's oak woodland to a mountain of fiery buckthorn. Good cheer, good food, and great warmth will follow as we celebrate the lengthening of days and the restoration community's accomplishments of the previous year -- including more light penetrating the canopy in the absence of buckthorn! Plenty of free parking will be available, but let us know if you want to carpool or get picked-up/dropped-off from the NBK Metra station.

Bonfires are an ancient solstice tradition, with historical connections to the lights of Christmas and Hanukkah. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Preserves, North Branch Restoration Project, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

Funding For Prairie Research offered by Prairie Biotic Research, Inc.

Prairie Biotic Research (PBR) is an all-volunteer nonprofit that fosters basic biotic research in prairies and savannas. Through our competitive Small Grants Program, PBR funds grants up to \$1000 to individuals for the study of any grassland taxon anywhere in the USA. We support both natural history and experimental science. We are especially eager to support independent researchers (those lacking institutional support), but anyone may apply. Since 2002, we've awarded 155 grants worth \$148,946 to people in 32 states. Many of these grants supported graduate student research.

In 2014, we'll fund at least 10 grants of up to \$1000 each with the donations we have received, including some restricted by donors to support research in IA, IL, MI, MN, ND, SD, and WI. To apply for a grant, visit our website (prairiebioticresearch.org) to learn more, to download our proposal form, instructions, and a sample researcher agreement form that winners of this competition must sign. You must have a U.S. Social Security number to apply and your research must be done in the USA. We must receive your proposal through the mail before December 31, 2013. Questions should be directed to the website: prairiebioticresearch.org

Hydraulic Fracturing in Illinois

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' intended rules to implement new high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing regulation are available to the public. Administrative rules are needed to provide detail on how IDNR will implement SB1715, the fracking statute.

The rulemaking process is likely to be a lengthy one. In an interview, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources Marc Miller told the State Journal Register that, "The start of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in Illinois is at least a year away..." and that "it would take months — including public hearings and website comments — before the first permits are issued."

The rules published today are not final and are presented to the public for consideration and comment as part of First Notice before they will be considered by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules ([JCAR](#)). First Notice lasts for a minimum of 45 days. During first notice, IDNR accepts and must respond to public comments. IDNR has indicated that no permits will be issued before regulations are in place.

You can read about the Hydraulic Fracturing Regulatory Act at this link.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/oilandgas/pages/hydraulicfracturing.aspx>

The IDNR has provided a public comment form online. You can find it here.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/OilandGas/Pages/OnlineCommentSubmittalForm.aspx>



Editorial: The cougar killed in Illinois was looking for love

November 26, 2013

He was lean, athletic and had traveled hundreds of miles, most likely from the Black Hills of southwestern South Dakota. He had attacked no one as he passed hundreds of towns and many more farms, each of them a lethal threat to his mission. Yet for lack of a better wildlife management plan in Illinois, the young cougar couldn't get past a conservation officer armed with a state-issued rifle.

The necropsy says the cougar killed last week as he hid near Morrison, 130 miles west of Chicago, died of gunfire. In truth he died of official neglect: Even though more cougars and possibly wolves likely will be visiting Illinois, state lawmakers and the Department of Natural Resources haven't forged policies that could allow the tranquilization, capture and survival of animals whose ancestors blissfully roamed the Midwest long before humans intruded on their turf.

Given his hunting skills, the young male could have homesteaded anywhere in the Upper Midwest and dined on the bountiful deer population for the rest of his life. Instead, his four huge paws carried out the imperative that drove him: With larger, older males driving him away from the females on their home ranges, this cougar came looking for love. Read more of the story at

<http://my.chicagotribune.com/#section/-1/article/p2p-78331882/>

Chicago Tribune



Online photo albums on Facebook: Wildflowers of Illinois by color!

We are blessed with an incredible diversity of plants in Illinois. From the prairies and fens in the north to cypress swamps and sandstone glades in the south, there are almost 3300 species that occur in the state.

Now you can search for some of the more common and beautiful wildflowers in photo albums by color on our facebook page, <http://www.facebook.com/illinoisplants>. All the photographs are by Christopher David Benda.

On the left: *Sanguinaria canadensis* (Bloodroot)

On the right: *Aquilegia canadensis* (Wild Columbine)



The Roaming Ecologist



© Jameson Crumpler 2013

Why prairies matter and lawns don't

Posted on November 17, 2013 by Jameson Crumpler

Prairies - those critically endangered and complex ecosystems understood by few and misunderstood and destroyed by millions of people.

Lawns - those myopically obsessive (and evil) urban, suburban, and increasingly rural monoculture eyesores that displace native ecosystems at a rate between 5,000 and 385,000 acres per day* in favor of sterile, chemically-filled, artificial environments bloated with a tremendous European influence that provide no benefits over the long term; no food, no clean water, no wildlife habitat, and no foundation for preserving our once rich natural heritage. And there's the unbearable ubiquitousness of mowing associated with such a useless cultural practice. Read more at <http://healthylandethic.com/2013/11/17/why-prairies-matter-and-lawns-dont/>

Rake the Leaves? Some Towns Say Mow Them

Published: November 24, 2013

DOBBS FERRY, N.Y. — They have been burned, blown into piles, raked into bags and generally scorned by homeowners everywhere. Fall leaves — so pretty on the trees, such a nuisance when they hit the ground — have long been a thing to be discarded. But now some suburban towns are asking residents to do something radical: Leave the leaves alone.

In the past few years, lawn signs have sprouted in this Hudson River village and across Westchester County, proclaiming the benefits of mulching the leaves in place, rather than raking them up and taking them away. The technique involves mowing the leaves with special mulching blades, which shred them into tiny bits. That allows them to quickly decompose and naturally feed lawns and shrubs.

Officials are encouraging the practice for its cost savings: Westchester spends \$3.5 million a year on private contractors who haul away leaves in tractor-trailers and bring them to commercial composting sites in places like Orange County, N.Y., and Connecticut. At the same time, environmental groups and horticulturalists are praising the practice's sustainability, devising slogans like "Leave Leaves Alone" and "[Love 'Em and Leave 'Em.](http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/25/nyregion/rake-the-leaves-some-towns-say-mow-them.html?pagewanted=2&r=0)" <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/25/nyregion/rake-the-leaves-some-towns-say-mow-them.html?pagewanted=2&r=0>

The Morality of Voles

November 11, 2013 by Stephen Packard

From The Center for Humans & Nature blog:

Is nature better off if we leave it alone? Or should we be good stewards? Does ecological restoration involve too much meddling and coddling? <http://www.humansandnature.org/blog/morality-voles>



KANKAKEE

AUGUST 1-3 2014

CAMP SHAW-WAW-NAS-SEE



ILL. NPS. ORG.

Anthony Wayne Trail median goes native

Toledo Zoo's 'Wild Toledo Prairie Initiative' seeks natural habitats

Published: 10/9/2013 by Tahree Lane, Blade staff writer

The median dividing the Anthony Wayne Trail near the Toledo Zoo has been unmowed for so long, a driver is likely to suspect that it's by design, not default.

True. It's part of a new project, Wild Toledo Prairie Initiative, in which the Toledo Zoo is eliminating grass and sowing seeds of prairie plants that are native to our area. Some of the 33 species, such as black-eyed susan and Indian blanket, are blooming, and others will flower in spring and summer.

"It hopefully will become aesthetically pleasing," said Kent Bekker, Wild Toledo project coordinator.

It began this summer with a modest 3.8 acres in four sites, said Mr. Bekker, and will be gradually expanded. In addition to the 1.1 acre median in the Trail (in conjunction with the city of Toledo), the zoo has planted a fenced-in, unused hill on Broadway Street next to the Maumee River, and green spaces at its employee parking lot and warehouse, totaling 2.7 acres.

"All of these areas were places we were mowing for no real reason," he said. Native plants, those that flourished here before European settlers introduced species, often invasive, from their homelands, provide several benefits. Read more at

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Gardening/2013/10/09/Anthony-Wayne-trail-median-goes-native-1.html>



The native plants at the Toledo Zoo Anthony Wayne Trail median in Toledo, Ohio.



NeighborSpace
COMMUNITY-MANAGED OPEN SPACE

Chicago Alderman Ameya Pawar gives a much-deserved shout out to the Department of Streets and Sanitation's new, pro-native-plant-garden policies in the most recent 47th Ward Newsletter:

Every year more and more of our residents and businesses have been planting native plants in their parkways and yards. Native plants or plants that have evolved in our region are best able to survive drought, disease, pests and climatic conditions. Because they are also best at keeping the ground permeable with their deeper root structures and absorbing water, they are nicknamed "rain gardens; "indeed they will be used as part of the Lawrence Streetscape to reduce stormwater flooding at the corners.

I am also happy to announce that the Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) is taking steps to ensure that property owners who have native gardens on the public way or on their property will not be ticketed for weed violations in the City code. While tickets have never been given to native plantings in the 47th Ward, there are some areas of the city where tickets have been issued erroneously and resulted in major fines to owners of native gardens. Please be aware that DSS will continue to ticket abandoned and uncared for properties, but native gardens that often look very different from traditional lawns and gardens are protected. Also, DSS will now require inspectors to attempt to make contact with property owners before issuing a ticket, and have given them training to identify these gardens. The City's Law Department will be flagging weed cutting tickets for a second look to ensure no homeowners are ticketed incorrectly for their gardens.

A big thank you to Streets and Sanitation Commissioner, Charles Williams, and his team for taking these steps to help ensure native gardens in our city. And, as always, thank you to Erick Norton, the 47th Ward Superintendent, and his team, for keeping our neighborhoods so beautiful.

<http://neighbor-space.org/2013/08/26/streets-and-san-and-native-plants/>



The Illinois Prairie and its People: Past, Present, Future

Lecture by John White

Watch the entire presentation on you tube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjLEWAVplnI>



PRAIRIE
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Year the Monarch Didn't Appear

The New York Times
Expect the World®

Published: November 22, 2013 by Jim Robbins

On the first of November, when Mexicans celebrate a holiday called the Day of the Dead, some also celebrate the millions of monarch butterflies that, without fail, fly to the mountainous fir forests of central Mexico on that day. They are believed to be souls of the dead, returned.

This year, for the first time in memory, the monarch butterflies didn't come, at least not on the Day of the Dead. They began to straggle in a week later than usual, in record-low numbers. Last year's low of 60 million now seems great compared with the fewer than three million that have shown up so far this year. Some experts fear that the spectacular migration could be near collapse.

"It does not look good," said Lincoln P. Brower, a monarch expert at Sweet Briar College. It is only the latest bad news about the dramatic decline of insect populations. Another insect in serious trouble is the wild bee, which has thousands of species. Nicotine-based pesticides called neonicotinoids are implicated in their decline, but even if they were no longer used, experts say, bees, monarchs and many other species of insect would still be in serious trouble.

That's because of another major factor that has not been widely recognized: the precipitous loss of native vegetation across the United States. Read more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/24/sunday-review/the-year-the-monarch-didnt-appear.html>

Pesticide Causes Largest Mass Bumble Bee Death on Record

Oregon Department of Agriculture confirms deaths due to application of insecticide known as Safari

Wilsonville, OR: Scientists investigating the mass death of bumble bees in Wilsonville, Oregon say that pesticides are the most likely cause. The incident first came to light on Saturday when shoppers at a Target store reported finding tens of thousands of dead bees in the store's parking lot. News quickly spread to the Portland-based Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a group known for their international bee conservation work, who launched an investigation.

"We immediately contacted the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and asked them to test the bees for pesticide poisoning," said Mace Vaughan, the Xerces Society's Pollinator Conservation Director. "To our knowledge, this incident is the largest mass poisoning of bumble bees ever documented, and thankfully ODA is taking the issue very seriously."

Large-scale deaths of domestic honey bees have been reported in recent years, but among wild pollinators, documented poisoning incidents of this scale are largely unprecedented, according to experts. "Wild bees are killed all the time in agricultural fields where nobody sees it happen," said Vaughan. "The fact that this happened in an urban area is probably the only reason it came to our attention."

After interviewing the landscaping company that maintains dozens of ornamental trees around the Target parking lot, ODA investigators learned that the pesticide Dinotefuran had recently been applied. Investigators confirmed that Dinotefuran, sold under the trade name 'Safari,' belongs to a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids that have been linked to bee deaths in recent years.

Rich Hatfield, a biologist with the Xerces Society, estimates that over 50,000 bumble bees were killed, likely representing more than 300 wild colonies. "Each of those colonies could have produced multiple new queens that would have gone on to establish new colonies next year. This makes the event particularly catastrophic."

ODA has confirmed that the bee deaths are directly related to a pesticide application on the linden trees conducted last Saturday, June 15 to control aphids. The pesticide product Safari was used in that application. Safari, with its active ingredient dinotefuran, is part of a group of insecticides known as neonicotinoids. According to investigators, the insecticide was originally applied to control aphids, which secrete a sticky residue while feeding, and can be a nuisance to parked cars. Dinotefuran and other neonicotinoids are a relatively new group of insecticides that are long-lasting in plant tissues. Because of this, the scientists are now concerned about whether the trees will still be toxic next year when they flower again. Emergency measures to prevent further bee deaths were taken today by staff from the ODA, Xerces, and the City of Wilsonville. By the end of the day all of the trees will be covered with large nets to prevent bumble bees and other pollinators from reaching the flowers.

Scott Black, executive director of the Xerces Society, noted that the pesticide was applied to the tree while it was flowering, an action that violates the product's instructions. "Beyond the fact that a pesticide was applied to plants while they were attracting large numbers of bees, in this case the pesticide was applied for purely cosmetic reasons. There was no threat to human health or the protection of farm crops that even factored into this decision."

Investigators learned of the poisoning—the largest of its kind ever recorded—on the first day of National Pollinator Week, an annual symbolic event that is intended to raise awareness about the plight of bees, and their role in the environment.



The Academic Decline: How to Train the Next Generation of Botanists

Although federal agencies need educated botanists, only a handful of colleges still have botany programs

November 12, 2013 by Allie Bidwell

Krissa Skogen is a conservation scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden, where she spends her days researching a family of plants known as the evening primrose.

She and her colleagues study different features of more than 100 species of the sunny yellow flowers: How big are their petals? How much nectar do they produce? What combination of compounds in their fragrance attracts the most pollinators?

While it might seem like a particularly nuanced job for only a certain niche, Skogen says understanding the relationship between plants and their pollinators can have a large effect on other sectors.

"Only through having that information can you then make predictions about what might happen if we lose some of the pollinators or some of the plants, what the consequences might be," Skogen says.

Put another way, how would food crops that rely on bee pollination – such as pumpkins, peaches, apples tomatoes and avocados – be affected by losing a species of bees?

That's one application of studying botany in college.

But more and more, colleges and universities are getting rid of their botany programs, either by consolidating them with zoology and biology departments, or eliminating them altogether because of a lack of faculty, funds or sometimes interest. And at the same time, many trained botanists in federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Land Management, are nearing retirement age, and those agencies are clamoring for new talent.

Gregory Mueller, Negaunee Foundation vice president for science at the Chicago Botanic Garden, says in the next 10 years, nearly 50 percent of those professionals will have retired.

About one-third of the land in the United States, Mueller says, is owned by the different federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service and the military. But they don't have enough botanists to manage the land, with about one botanist for every 20 million acres of land.

This decreased capacity to train botanists, and an increased need to fill positions could threaten other fields with a common root in botany, stemming from forestry and land conservation to biofuel production, alternative medicine and food science, Mueller says. There is a gradual decline in the number of college programs dedicated to botany. Read more at <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/11/12/the-academic-decline-how-to-train-the-next-generation-of-botanists>

This Could Be the Oldest Flowering Plant Ever Found in North America

A few years ago, University of Maryland PhD student Nathan Jud was routinely examining a batch of ancient plant fossils in the Smithsonian Natural History Museum's collections when one in particular caught his eye. "It looked sort of like a little piece of fern, so I tried to remove a bit of the rock that was covering it to get a sense of what type of fern it was," he says. "But the more of the rock I would lift off the surface, the more fossil I found buried. What I thought had been one little piece of a leaf actually turned out to be two, connected to each other."

As he labored to carefully flake the rock without defacing the fossil, he noticed a series of curious characteristics that suggested the preserved plant was no ordinary fern: It had a closed network of veins, rather than a series of branching ones that split off from each other without coming back together, and at its tips, there were tiny structures called glandular teeth, used to shed excess water.

"Eventually, I realized this wasn't a fern at all, but some kind of early flowering plant," he says. Its features wouldn't be at all out of the ordinary in a plant growing outside today. The fact that they occur in a fossil from the Early Cretaceous period, though, is remarkable. At somewhere between 125 and 115 million years old, this fossil, described in a paper Jud published today in the *American Journal of Botany*, is among the oldest flowering plants ever found in North America.

Read more: <http://blogs.smithsonianmag.com/science/2013/11/this-could-be-the-oldest-flowering-plant-ever-found-in-north-america/#ixzz2mD5Zqvzn>

Lake Forest turns focus to ravine ecology

October 21, 2013 by Danielle Gensburg, Special to the Tribune

The acres of ravines and bluffs carved into the landscape – host to running water, as well as native plants and animal species – characterize North Shore communities along Lake Michigan.

The ravines, some suffering from neglect and mistreatment over the years, have recently drawn the attention of state and local officials, homeowners, schools and organizations looking to help restore and preserve the fragile and essential ecosystems.

Home to nearly 13 miles of ravines, including McCormick Ravine and Witchhazel/Seminary Ravine, Lake Forest officials say they've recently begun focusing on the importance of the community's ravines as natural drainage systems into Lake Michigan and as essential components of the area's character.

"We now recognize the value of these ravines," said John Sentell, president of the Lake Forest Open Lands Association. "Not just for habitat, but for the infrastructure, the economy and the health of our lake."

The city recently held a community forum at the Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest to educate residents about the history of ravines in the community, the process of accelerated erosion that is occurring along ravine slopes from excessive storm-water runoff, residential development, and invasive species, and ways in which homeowners and public officials can help restore and protect their ravines.

Sentell, along with Glenn Adelson, an associate professor of environmental studies at Lake Forest College, joined Lake Forest city forester Peter Gordon, and Chuck Myers, the superintendent of cemetery, parks and forestry were key speakers at the forum, which was followed by a question-and-answer session for residents. To help residents address problems facing ravines on or near private properties, the city also published a landowner's guide to ravine and tableland preservation.

Recommendations for homeowners included disposing of yard waste in trash or local landfills, creating rain gardens, limiting the watering of lawns, using organic pesticides and fertilizers and those only when necessary, planting native trees and other plant species and minimizing land paving and irrigation.

The guide also lists a variety of native plant species for residents to consider planting in their yards.

"The No. 1 issue facing our ravines right now is the amount of storm water that we send into the ravine, which causes erosion, slumping of ravine slopes, poor water quality, destroys natural habitat and undermines our infrastructure in town," Sentell said. "Invasive species degrade the natural habitat of the ravine and the resilience of ravines to maintain their structure. Not only do they diminish the beauty, they greatly reduce the function."

He said, though, that problems develop differently in every ravine.

"Every ravine is unique and every ravine is impacted by different causes," Sentell said. Read more at http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/lake_forest_lake_bluff/ct-tl-lake-forest-community-ravines-20131021,0,4188671.story

The logo for the Chicago Tribune, featuring the word "Chicago" in a large, blue, serif font above the word "Tribune" in a smaller, blue, serif font. The letters have a slight drop shadow effect.

From Cathy McGlynn, Coordinator of the Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership

Please mark your calendars and notify your groups about this upcoming meeting on Friday, December 6th from Noon to 3pm featuring UDPREP's Special Guest Keynote Speaker, Gerould Wilhelm. The event will take place at Independence Grove in Libertyville (off of Peterson Road/Route 137) in Lake County. RSVP is required to help UDPREP plan for refreshments and event seating.

Event is free, but donations are welcome and needed for UDPREP and CRI to help publish the book.

Kindly RSVP by December 3rd to UDPREP President - Keith Gray at kgray@lakesmanagement.com.

This meeting is not limited to watershed groups, but we encourage natural areas managers and those who are concerned about native plants, sedimentation and erosion, climate change and preservation of Illinois' precious soil biomass as well as declining water quality.

Des Plaines River watershed stakeholders are especially encouraged to attend and bring other concerned citizens so that we can network while building excitement for Dr. Wilhelm's long awaited next edition of *Plants of the Chicago Region: A Memoir and Prospectus*, due out in 2015. They are not finished with the book yetso we need to let them work, but at this meeting we have asked he and Margot Mazur, CRI Executive Director, for a short review of their timely and important findings prior to the book's publication. Dr. Wilhelm will also answer some questions after the main Keynote address and book update.

Please forward to your groups, many thanks for helping us make this event a big success!

Invasive Species Corner



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

From INPS member and representative Floyd Catchpole, Ecologist, Will County Forest Preserves

On November 12, 2013, Floyd Catchpole attended the Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council (IIPSC) Advisory Board meeting at Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve in Champaign County as a representative of the Illinois Native Plant Society. The Illinois Invasive Plant Species Council (IIPSC) was established March 9, 2005 and reports directly to the Aquatic and Terrestrial Nuisance Species Task Force (ATNSTF) of IDNR. The ATNSTF will consider presenting listing recommendations of the IIPSC to the State Legislature for listing under the Exotic Weed Act (525 ILCS 10/), the Illinois Noxious Weed Law (505 ILCS 100/) or the Illinois Seed Law (506 ILCS 110/), depending upon the specific recommendation. IIPSC's Mission is to minimize the adverse economic and ecological effects that invasive plants pose to the State of Illinois.

The IIPSC is comprised of two bodies, a Board and an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee is a non-voting body comprised of experts in invasion biology, land managers, green industry representatives, non-profit organizations, and regional, state and federal agency representatives. The role of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Board. The Board is made up of key stakeholders on invasive plant issues with 8 representatives from the nursery and landscaping industry and 8 representatives from the natural resources field concerned with habitat restoration efforts. The Council Chair may vote to break ties. Floyd Catchpole was asked if he would become one of the 8 voting representatives from the natural resources field and he has provisionally accepted, pending approval by the INPS State Board.

At the November meeting, the advisory committee agreed to send Salt Cedar (*Tamarisk* spp), Giant Hogweed (*Heracleum mantegazzianum*), Lesser Celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. x bella*), and Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) to the voting board with a recommendation to approve listing these species under the Exotic Weed Act. We made modifications to proposals to list Exotic Olives (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *E. umbellata*, *E. pungens*) and Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) under the Exotic Weed Act and will reconsider these species at the next meeting. Callery Pear was discussed at some length and, due to objections from the nursery industry, was not recommended for listing.

Floyd Catchpole proposed that plants recommended as alternatives to invasive species all be native, in order to avoid the embarrassment of having to list species we recommended as alternatives if they became invasive in the future. This recommendation was rejected with the caveat that native species would be preferred as alternatives and that recommended non-native species should be ones that the advisory committee is confident would not become invasive. Chris Evans (Council Chair) has stated that he believes that listing recommendations the Board makes to the ATNSTF will become law, since they have been cleared by both the nursery industry and the ecological community. All in all, it has been a rewarding experience, despite the failure to send Callery Pear to the Board for a vote. The IIPSC has begun the process of listing many species under the Exotic Weed Act and this provides a mechanism to reduce the spread of these invasive species.

More on the discussion from Christopher Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Invasive Species Campaign Coordinator

There was much discussion about the nomination form for Callery pear. In particular, the form did not present adequate information on the economic value of Callery pear to Illinois. Joe Khayyat presented data collected from the IGIA on Callery Pear. Joe mentioned that, while he knew Callery pear was an important tree to the Green Industry, he learned that it was one of the most important species to the industry. From data compiled directly from the Industry, Joe presented that banning the Callery pear species in Illinois would have a \$5-10 million annual adverse impact to our industry in Illinois. The Callery pear species represents an average of 8-10 percent of most growers' businesses in Illinois, and a whopping 20 percent of sales for at least 3 or 4 businesses.

For most growers and garden centers, it's in their top five species in terms of sales, and for a good majority, it's in their top two. Callery pear in Illinois involves thousands and thousands of units and millions and millions of dollars – both in current sales and existing inventory or stock.

Reinee Hildebrandt presented data she collected from municipalities in Illinois and many of them did not want Callery pear to be regulated (though a few did and some already restrict it from being planted). This species is of particular importance in plantings near or under powerlines, since it stays small enough to allow it to be planted in these scenarios. Several attendees expressed support for a market-driven approach for Callery pear instead of a regulatory. If the public is further educated on the potential of Callery pear to escape and become invasive, then demand will go down for the plant.

There was general consensus that we should not pursue regulation for Callery Pear. While that statement does reflect the direction of the discussion and the council's decision, it failed to express that some on the council did feel that Callery pear is displaying invasiveness in Illinois and is a widespread escape across the state.

Both Callery pear's invasive potential and its importance to the economy of Illinois, and in particular to the horticultural industry, was discussed at length during this meeting. I was extremely pleased and impressed with the attendees at the council meeting and the depth, thoroughness, and civility of their discussions we all had about this topic. While opinions differed on whether Callery pear should be regulated in Illinois, the meeting attendees came to a general agreement that, due to the economic impacts and the importance to the horticultural industry in Illinois, the council should not recommend regulating Callery Pear.

The Midwest Invasive Plant Network has a brochure to inform readers about alternative ornamental plants to replace known invaders - <http://www.mipn.org/MIPN%20Landscape%20Alternatives%202013.pdf>. This brochure has recently been adapted into a smartphone app (available at <http://apps.bugwood.org/landscape-alt.html>). They are looking for feedback on this list. Email Chris Evans (chris.evans@Illinois.gov) who will then compile the comments and send to MIPN.

Editorial: Tree lovers vs. tree lovers

Chicago River plan is necessary to restore the riverbank

October 30, 2013

"When I see birches bend to left and right, across the lines of straighter darker trees, I like to think some boy's been swinging them." Robert Frost, "Birches"

The North Branch of the Chicago River winds through foliage that cascades along its banks. Tunneling through the city, the river offers a scenic reprieve from sidewalks and cement. It flows alongside one of the North Side's biggest parks — Horner Park, named for Depression-era Illinois governor Henry Horner.

But there's one problem with the inspirational scenery of the Chicago River: The greenery that whispers and sways along its banks isn't all good. Some of the plants are buckthorn, a beastly species that erodes riverbanks, blocks sunlight from reaching native plants and degrades wildlife habitat. Yes, there is such a thing as an icky tree, and buckthorn is an example.

The Army Corps of Engineers plans to restore a section of the riverbank in an area bordered by Montrose Avenue to the north, the river to the east, Irving Park Road to the south and into Horner Park on the west. Twelve acres are on the list for a makeover that includes ripping out the buckthorn and other invasive plants along the west bank of the river.

But wait — there's another problem. Read more at

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/editorials/trees-ct-edit-1030-20131030,0,3139904.story>

Chicago Tribune

First evidence of grass carp recruitment in the Great Lakes Basin



Four grass carp—a species of Asian carp—taken from the Sandusky River in Ohio are the result of natural reproduction within the Lake Erie basin, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey study. If grass carp become abundant in Lake Erie, they may threaten native fish populations and could be detrimental to ducks, geese or other large aquatic birds. Grass carp were brought to the U.S. to control aquatic plants in the 1960s. They eat large quantities of aquatic plants, which could degrade areas important for spawning and early development of native fish.

USGS scientists analyzed the fish, which were captured by a commercial fisher in October 2012, and determined that they were at least one year in age and had the capacity to become spawning adults. Bones in the heads of fishes, called otoliths, are useful to biologists because they provide a history of the chemistry of the water the fish inhabited over its life. Analysis of those bones indicates that the four captured grass carp had lived in the Sandusky watershed their entire lives. Scientists ruled out the possibility that the fish originated from a fish farm by comparing their otoliths to those from reference pond fish. The USGS study is published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*, and is available at this link <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0380133013001445>

Planthopper: The stunning results of a survey of one of the world's least-touched places

This planthopper exudes waxy secretions from the abdomen, and these sometimes form long strands which may provide protection from predators by fooling hungry predators into attacking the wrong part of the insect. It was one 1,378 species identified in the rainforest-clad mountains of Southeastern Suriname, South America, during a first-ever survey by international biologists of an area Conservation International described as "a wilderness area virtually without any human influence and among the most remote and unexplored tracts of rainforest left on Earth." <http://www.thedailygreen.com/weird-weather/weather-categories/nature-pictures/suriname-leafhopper-1310>



Answers to Tree Quiz from page 5.

1. Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*)
2. Buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*)
3. Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
4. Swamp Chestnut Oak (*Quercus michauxii*)
5. Scarlet Oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
6. Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*)
7. Shagbark Hickory (*Carya ovata*)
8. Shellbark Hickory (*Carya laciniosa*)
9. Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia tetraptera*)
10. Persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*)
11. Wafer Ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*)
12. Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
13. Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
14. Short-leaf Pine (*Pinus echinata*)
15. American Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)



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Illinois Conservation Foundation Releases 2014 Wall Calendar

SPRINGFIELD, IL - The Illinois Conservation Foundation is pleased to announce that a 2014 Illinois wall calendar will be available by Nov. 1, 2013. If you relied on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' former *OutdoorIllinois* wall calendar for hunting and fishing season information, and for events celebrating Illinois' great outdoors, you'll definitely want to pick up a copy of this calendar. Proceeds from the sale of this calendar will support youth conservation education programs in Illinois.

"The *OutdoorIllinois* wall calendar was extremely popular with Illinoisans who enjoy participating in outdoor activities, and I'm pleased to announce that ICF has stepped up to fill this void," said Marc Miller, Chairman of the Illinois Conservation Foundation Board. "Supporters purchasing this calendar will be assisting ICF build today's youth as strong and informed conservation leaders."

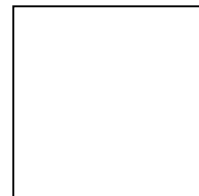
Supplies are limited so order calendars today for shipment by Nov. 1, 2013. When placing your order, don't forget that calendars are the perfect holiday gift for your friends and family.

The 9-inch x 12-inch calendars contain stunning photography of Illinois and can be purchased for \$15, or two for \$29 or three for \$41.25. MasterCard or VISA orders can be placed at the secure Illinois Conservation Foundation Web site www.ilcf.org or by phone at (217) 785-2003. Checks and money orders can be mailed to Illinois Conservation Foundation, ATTN Wall Calendar, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271.

With your purchase of a 2014 *OutdoorIllinois* wall calendar you will be enrolled as a premier Illinois Conservation Foundation member. Members providing an email address will receive periodic newsletters, and advance notice when the 2015 calendars go on sale.

ICF is a multi-faceted 501(c) (3) organization established as a result of a recommendation by the 1994 Illinois Conservation Congress, a grassroots effort to elevate natural resources issues to Illinois legislative leaders. Your purchase of a 2014 Illinois Conservation Foundation wall calendar will help provide a variety of exciting youth outdoor recreational and educational programs in Illinois.

ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
Forest Glen Preserve
20301 E. 900 North Road
Westville, IL 61883



illinoisplants@gmail.com

www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
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2013 Fall Harbinger – November 2013

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!!!



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