



Harbinger Of Spring, *Erigenia bulbosa*

# BIENNIAL REPORT: ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

January 2013-  
December 2014

Study Conserve Appreciate Educate

## ***INPS Outlook: 2015-2016:***

### ***Message from Chris Benda, State President***

It is with great honor that I serve as President of the Illinois Native Plant Society. For the next two years, I hope to build on the hard work of my predecessors and enable members across the state to join us in our mission to promote and preserve native vegetation in Illinois. I am fortunate to have members on the State Board that represent the vision of the younger members and the wisdom of the older members.

Big plans are in the works, to expand our membership and offer new publications and grant opportunities. Native plant identification and wildflower photography workshops are being planned, as well as creating a network of pollinator gardens and native plant resources. I could use your help! The INPS is run by members for members, and there are many ways members can contribute. Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

***Chris Benda***  
[botanizer@gmail.com](mailto:botanizer@gmail.com)

# Biennial Report: Illinois Native Plant Society

STUDY CONSERVE APPRECIATE EDUCATE

Message from Janine Catchpole  
Illinois Native Plant Society  
Past-president, 2013-2014

Over the past two years the Governing Board and members have been revitalizing the Illinois Native Plant Society (INPS) as the group enters its third decade of existence. As part of this process a Governing Board retreat was held along with a strategic planning session led by Dr. Brian Anderson. Over these past two years, the INPS has been reaching out to other groups concerned about Illinois native plants and the problems they face. Through meetings, programs, field trips and plant sales, more people are looking to INPS for help and answers about native plants.

The improvements to our web site and other social media allow information about INPS activities to be easily accessed. All this has built interest to the point where we have two new chapters being formed in 2015. One chapter is in the Bloomington/Normal area, ISU/IWU, and the other in Kankakee.

The members of INPS are an amazing resource. They are the botanists that research and teach others, the people that monitor and map plant population trends, and the folks that work hard to restore and preserve natural areas. Members sharing that knowledge build support for native plants among other land managers, whether they manage back yards, farms, municipalities, or other situations.

*Janine Catchpole*

## Annual Meetings

Two successful annual meetings were held. The Central Chapter hosted in October, 2013 at Springfield. Field trips included Carpenter Park Nature Preserve (NP), Shoal Creek Conservation Area and Route 66 Prairie.

The Northeast Chapter hosted in August 2014 at Camp Shaw Waw Nas See, Manteno. Field trips included Braidwood Dunes and Savanna NP, Sweet Fern, Pembroke Savanna, Langham Island, Hitts Siding NP and Momence Wetlands NP.

Large numbers of members turned out for these events, which offer an opportunity to meet others, vote for Statewide offices, and hear talks, as well as attend field trips to outstanding natural areas.

The 2015 State Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Forest Glen Chapter on June 5, 6 and 7. Details will be announced in the *Harbinger* and on our web site, [www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org).

## Accomplishments:

On the state wide level, a letter went out to the Illinois Department of Transportation explaining why the INPS is concerned with the spread of invasive species along the interstate highway system. This action was followed up with individual members letting IDOT know where infestations are located and sharing other concerns such as over spraying of native plants. The INPS has a voting representative on the Illinois Invasive Species Council, working to make much-needed additions to the list of exotic weeds.

A meeting was held to discuss the creation of an association for Illinois native plant and seed growers, and a steering committee has been formed to put this into motion. The INPS Governing Board wants to see growers of native plants with solid ecotypic origins encouraged to keep producing quality material. We also want to see it become easier to match the buyers of that material with the suppliers across the entire State.

Chapters of the Illinois Native Plant Society had a busy two years. The Southern Chapter is one of the partners hosting the Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium in southern Illinois. The chapter members also created the *Guide to Spring Wildflower Hikes in Southern Illinois*; a summer version is forthcoming. Beautiful posters were created celebrating the flora of Southern Illinois and the Kankakee Sands by current INPS president, Chris Benda. The Central Chapter continues to produce a very successful plant sale in an area of the state with few native plant growers. Chapter field trips throughout many areas of the state brought people together sharing knowledge of the natural heritage of Illinois. Forest Glen and Southern Chapters both held workshops focusing on photographing native plants. The Northeast Chapter members spearheaded restoration efforts on Langham Island, the endemic home of the Kankakee Mallow (*Iliamna remota*).

As individuals, INPS members have added new county records of plant species, written accounts of restoration efforts, updated plant records, presented educational programs, and shared information about other events being held around the state by other organizations.

Please visit our web site, [www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org) and look under publications to read past issues of the *The Harbinger* for more coverage of INPS events.

# Illinois Native Plant Society

## Our Purpose, Our History

The INPS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization in good standing with the State of Illinois. The purposes of the Illinois Native Plant Society are to:

- 1) Promote the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois;
- 2) Provide education to the general public as to the value of the native flora and its habitat; and
- 3) Produce publications that provide an outlet for such information, including but not limited to, the peer-reviewed journal of the INPS (*Erigenia*) and the quarterly newsletter (*The Harbinger*).

The Illinois Native Plant Society was organized as the Southern Illinois Native Plant Society by Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock at Southern Illinois University in 1982. In 1986 it expanded to become the state wide organization we know today. The Society currently consists of approximately 600 members that participate at two levels, state and chapter. There are currently eight chapters of INPS located across the state.



### 2013-2014 Governing Board and Guests at Board Retreat, January 2014

Back row: Dr. Brian Anderson, Paul Marcum, Rachel Goad, Tracy Evans, Andy West, Victoria Crosley  
 Front row: Chris Benda, Connie Cunningham, Eric Ulaszek, Janine Catchpole, Annette Chinuge, Bo Dziadyk  
 Not present but serving in 2013-2014: Ron Kiser, R.J. Fehl, Diana Krug, Cassi Saari, Andy Methven, Jason Zylka, and Jean Sellar

### 2015-2016

#### Officers and Governing Board

##### Members:

President: Chris Benda

President-Elect: Paul Marcum

Past-President: Janine Catchpole

Secretary: Rachel Goad

Treasurer: Victoria Crosley

*Erigenia* Editor: Andy West

*Harbinger* Editor: Chris Benda

##### Membership:

Connie Cunningham

Webmaster: Cassi Saari

#### At-Large Board Members:

Jason Zylka

Tracy Evans

Jean Sellar

#### Chapter Presidents:

Bloomington/Normal area

(new): Roger Anderson

Central: Annette Chinuge

Forest Glen: Connie Cunningham

Irene Cull (inactive):

Mary Hartley

Kankakee area (new): Janine

Catchpole

Northeast: Diana Krug

Quad Cities: Bo Dziadyk

Southern: Chris Benda



**Biennial Report: Illinois Native Plant Society**

The efforts to better connect with the INPS members have improved the amount of dues collected over the past two years. Donations have also improved as we have set up online payment capability. These two sources represent the income for the state organization. The INPS state organization, in turn, supports the chapters by sharing a portion of the dues, totaling 26% of expenses. *The Harbinger* and *Erigenia* costs are covered by the state INPS, as well as an overall business insurance policy. The publications and insurance make up 42% of expenses. Other usual costs such as postage and printing, along with a number of one-time expenses for web site work and training, and support for the *Flora of the Chicago Region (FOCR)* project, make up the balance.

The chapters have their own financial accounts and many raise additional funds to support their chapter projects.

For the state organization the outlook is tight but improving. Donations at the end of the year are greatly appreciated. The majority of the donations will support the publication of the *Erigenia*, which is temporarily behind schedule as our new editor assembles his team. New members are adding to the coffers and the Board would like to build up funds to once again offer small research grants.

**January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014**

**Illinois Native Plant Society State Organization**

Total income: \$20,039.00

Total expenses: \$15,194.45

