

**ILLINOENSIS, WINTER 1995** Vol 11 (1)  
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Comments

The September-October 1994 issue of Audubon Magazine has a fine article by Ted Williams on the impact of invasive alien plants on our natural communities and native species. He also delves into the government policies and regulations that have not only failed to address the problem, but have in fact caused much of it. The 1995 farm bill offers an excellent opportunity for the nation to address this problem and reverse damaging policies of the past. For example, plant introduction and promotion programs could be changed to either be subject to NEPA and require environmental impact statements or otherwise require evaluation of problem potential, especially invasion of natural communities and wildlands. Proposed introductions that have problem potential should be banned. The federal noxious weed act should be amended to cover problem weeds of wildlands and natural communities in addition to agricultural weeds. Authority and regular federal funding should be established in the Agricultural Research Service for biocontrol research and development for control of existing alien wildland weeds, especially those introduced and promoted by federal agriculture agencies. We need to let Congress know these concerns because a new farm bill, and its opportunity to deal with this problem, only comes along every 5 years.

There are now four Exotic Pest Plant Councils in the United States covering 5 states. Through their proactive role in promoting action on the exotic weed problem, these individual membership organizations play an important role in dealing with invasive aliens at the state level and have now combined their resources to support a representative in Washington DC as well. If any of my readers are interested in forming such an organization for Illinois, Illinoensis can provide copies of several state's bylaws.

John Schwegman

Julius Swayne Dies

Dr. Julius Swayne of Herrin died November 19, 1994. Julius collected plants extensively in southern Illinois in the late 1940s and early 1950s. He was an authority on the distribution of French's Shooting Star and Giant Cane in Illinois. Among many other botanical accomplishments, he was instrumental in the discovery of Illinois' only known population of small whorled

pogonia orchid. He will be deeply missed.

#### New Assignment for Larry Stritch

Dr. Lawrence Stritch of the U. S. Forest Service has shifted from duties as Regional Botanist for the Forest Service's Northeast Region to coordinating his agency's concerns for protection of the Joliet Arsenal, the Chicago Wilderness Initiative and their partnership with the Cook County Forest Preserve District. His office remains in Harrisburg.

#### Roger Anderson Honored

Plant ecologist and prairie expert Dr. Roger Anderson of Illinois State University has been elevated to the position of "Distinguished University Professor".

#### Carl Becker on NAA Board

Carl Becker, Chief of DOC's Natural Heritage Division, was elected to the Board of Directors of the Natural Areas Association at its annual meeting October 20, 1994 in Palm Beach Gardens, FL.

#### Fran Harty Returns to Heritage

Fran Harty has returned to the DOCs Division of Natural Heritage after an 18 month stint with DOCs Planning Division. While with Planning he worked to achieve conservation status for much of the decommissioned Joliet Arsenal lands. He is Regional Administrator for the Division and works out of the Region 3 headquarters in Champaign.

#### Faith Campbell leaves NRDC

Dr. Faith Campbell who has served as botanist with the National Resources Defense Council in Washington, DC is leaving that organization December 31, 1994. Her new position as Governmental Liaison for State level Exotic Pest Plant Councils reflects the national leadership role she has played in the effort to get government to more effectively address invasive non-indigenous plants. Until her new office is established, she can be reached at 8208 Dabney Ave., Springfield, VA 22152.

#### Brian Anderson Takes Leave

Dr. Brian Anderson, Director of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, is on a 3 month leave to the National Biological Survey in Washington, DC. He will resume duties in Illinois on February 1.

#### NAA Moves Office

Executive Director David Paddock of the Natural Areas Association has moved his office from Mukwonago, WI to St. Louis, MO. He can

be reached at 314/878-7850. Membership records of the Association are still maintained at the Natural Land Institute in Rockford.

#### New Heritage Biologist

Terry Esker has been promoted from the staff of the Illinois Prairie Chicken Sanctuary to District 11 Heritage Biologist. District 11 covers 15 southeastern Illinois counties. Terry will be headquartered at the Prairie Chicken Sanctuary near Newton.

#### New Residents at DOC

The Department of Conservation's Natural Heritage Division is adding 5 new Master's degree candidates to one year on-the-job training residencies. They replace 3 departing residents who have completed the program. Departing are Anne Mankowski from the Mt. Carroll office, Nelson Chueng from Chicago Heights and Bruce MacAlister from Dixon Springs. A new Resident from SIU is John Wilker who will work out of Sangchris Lake State Park. New residents from the U of I include Jan Horn at Silver Springs State Park and Matt Russell at Charleston.

#### Joliet Arsenal Update

Legislation to transfer the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant from the Department of Defense to the U. S. Forest Service failed to clear Congress before adjournment. The legislation would have made the JAAP into the first national grassland east of the Mississippi River. Plans call for reintroducing the bill, which has bipartisan support, early in the next Congress.

#### DOC Land Acquisition

The Department of Conservation acquired 3,208 acres of conservation land during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1994. Nearly 600 acres of natural areas at 6 sites were included in this total. These included lands at Apple River Canyon, Cache River, Harlem Hills (Winnebago Co.), Jackson Slough Woods (St. Clair Co.), Momence Wetlands and Mineral Marsh in Henry County.

#### Conservation Easements Improved

Governor Edgar signed an amendment to Illinois' conservation easement statute on September 16, 1994. Landowners can now apply for a reduction in their property taxes on properties encumbered in perpetuity by a conservation easement. The statute requires that the DOC certify the easement is providing a public benefit before the reduction is granted.

#### Purple Loosestrife Biocontrol

After 7 Illinois releases of leaf beetles in 1994, 1995 plans call for supplemental releases at these sites if survival indicates

need. Production of biocontrol insects is being shifted from the NY Coop. Wildlife Lab. to the states after 1995. Research continues at NY to develop culturing and release procedures for root weevils. They imported a new flower infesting weevil from Europe in 1994. If propagation can be initiated in Illinois, new releases of leaf beetles will be made late in the summer of 1995.

#### Garlic Mustard Biocontrol

The DOC Division of Natural Heritage is supporting research by Dr. Weidong Chen at the Illinois Natural History Survey into control of garlic mustard with existing pathogens. Dr. Chen has isolated some 38 cultures of pathogens from infected garlic mustard from around Illinois. He will now evaluate these as control agents for the weed.

#### Wetland Plant Materials

Bill McClain of the DOC's Natural Heritage Division and the Forestry Division's Mason State Nursery are continuing to develop a collection of wetland plant materials at the nursery for wetland restoration. The goal is to develop both a seed and seedling source for the regions of northern, central and southern Illinois.

#### New Nursery Regulations

On December 14, 1994, the Federal Trade Commission issued new regulations in the Federal Register redefining "nursery propagated" plants so that dealers can no longer dig or take native plants from the wild and sell them as "nursery grown" after holding them for a while in their nursery. To be labeled "nursery grown" or "nursery propagated" the plants will have to have been reared in a nursery from plants, seeds or cuttings lawfully collected from the wild state.

#### Native Plant Postcards

The Illinois Native Plant Society is producing full color postcards featuring native Illinois wildflowers. Photographs were selected through a contest among members of the society. The postcards should be available from society members beginning next spring.

#### Illinois Wilds Published

Dr. Michael Jeffords, Ms. Susan Post and Dr. Kenneth Robertson of the Illinois Natural History Survey have published "Illinois Wilds", a natural history of the wildlands of Illinois. The oversized volume contains 175 full color photographs of natural communities and species arranged in chapters on the various communities. It is published by Phoenix Publishing of Urbana and sells for \$39.95 plus tax including shipping. It can be ordered at

800/550-8917.

#### New Plants of the Chicago Region

The fourth edition of "Plants of the Chicago Region" by Floyd Swink and Gerould Wilhelm was published last fall. This 921 page hard bound volume is the authority on plants of this area. It is available from Indiana Academy of Science Publications, 1102 North Butler Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219-2918 for \$37.50 including shipping.

#### Species Restoration Book

Marlin Bowles and Christopher Whelan of the Morton Arboretum are Editors of a new book published by Cambridge University Press titled "Restoration of Endangered Species, Conceptual Issues, Planning and Implementation". It is available from the Press at 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211.

#### Savannas Proceedings Available

The proceedings of last fall's Savannas and Barrens Conference held at Illinois State University are available free upon request. Titled "Proceedings of the Conference on Savannas and Barrens", the 407 page document can be obtained from Karen Holland, USEPA, Great Lakes Program Office, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60604-3590.

#### Renewable Natural Resources Conference

An Illinois Renewable Natural Resources Conference is scheduled for March 29-31, 1995 in Springfield. Sessions will deal with public policy and its effect on renewable natural resources. The conference will also include the annual meetings of the Illinois Chapters of The Wildlife Society, the American Fisheries Society and the Society of American Foresters. For more information call Dr. Doug Austen at 217/782-6424.

#### 1995 Natural Areas Conference

The 23rd Annual Natural Areas Conference and annual meeting of the Natural Areas Association will be held within driving distance of Illinois for the first time in 3 years in 1995. The meeting is set for October 23-28, 1995 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. For details contact the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission at 501/324-9619.

#### Native Plant Society Meeting

The 1995 annual meeting of the Illinois Native Plant Society has been set for June 2-4 at the Jarrett Prairie Center of Byron Forest Preserve District at Byron. Field trips to the many unique natural areas of the Rock River valley are planned. For further

information contact the Jarrett Center at 815/234-8535.

#### Conservation Biology Conference

The 9th annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology will be held June 7-10, 1995 at Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO. Registration information is available at 303/491-7501.

#### Allerton Park Research

The University of Illinois' Robert Allerton Park is promoting research use of the park's old growth upland and lowland forests and prairie restorations. A 1,000 acre National Natural Landmark within the park straddles the Sangamon River just west of Monticello in Piatt County. For information contact Jerrold Soesbe at 217/333-3205.

#### New Poster In Preparation

The DOC Natural Heritage Division is preparing a new habitat poster depicting Illinois Sand Areas. This will be the seventh in the series of educational posters prepared by the Division with funds contributed by Illinoisans through their income tax checkoff. Plans call for the full color poster to be available in the spring.

#### Endangered Plant Status Report

The 1994 Illinois Endangered and Threatened Plant Status Report is available free from Illinoensis on request. The 3 page document contains conservation news and status information on the 10 federally listed and 20 federal candidates for listing now or formerly occurring in Illinois.

#### Federal Plant MOU

Seven federal land managing agencies have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on native plant conservation. The MOU establishes the Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee for the purpose of identifying conservation needs of native plants and implementing programs to address them. Copies of the agreement are available from Illinoensis.

#### SPECIES NEWS

Jody Shimp of the Shawnee National Forest discovered 3 populations of the beautiful Silene ovata in Hardin County this summer. That such a conspicuous plant could have avoided detection in a state as well botanized as Illinois is remarkable. The relatively heavy seed and scattered sites imply that it is probably a long time resident rather than a recent migrant.

Ken Klick of the Lake County Forest Preserve District discovered Utricularia subulata in a wet swale near Lake Michigan this fall. This is the first report of this coastal species from Illinois. The form discovered here is a minute cleistogamous plant visible only to a "belly botanist".

Efforts to find the small whorled pogonia orchid (Isotria medeoloides) in 1994 at its only known Illinois location failed. The species was last seen here in 1991 when a small sterile individual emerged only to be destroyed by rodents. This species may be extirpated from the state.

The DOC native plant conservation program added seed of Cirsium hillii and Agalinis auriculata to its long term seed storage collection in 1994.

Written January 9, 1995