

ILLINOENSIS, WINTER 1993 Vol 9 (1)
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COMMENTS

Are natural diversity conservation and nature conservation the same thing? Bill Weeks, Vice President of The Nature Conservancy, stated at the 19th annual Natural Areas Conference this past fall that the goal of his organization has changed from "preserving living museums of primeval America to protecting sustainable landscapes supporting natural diversity". Granted, the concept of diversity is a good selling point to non-biologists, but to preserve nature beyond species diversity, I believe protection and management of viable natural ecosystems needs emphasis too. I know the diversity crowd will insist that this is included in their definition of diversity, but I have seen many volunteers and others confused about this. I cringe every time I hear someone speak of introducing new species to a high quality natural area. "Species enrichment" seems natural to them, after all it increases "diversity". I hope everyone can agree that high quality natural ecosystems that are not diverse in species or community types are an important part of nature conservation. Humans can plant and stock a diverse restoration, but only nature and the ages can make a natural area.

The year 1992 saw the passing of one of Illinois' most effective conservationists. Gaylord Donnelley of Chicago died last Easter Sunday, but his legacy of wild land protected lives on. In addition to donating a prairie chicken sanctuary in Jasper County and a waterfowl area in Putnam County, Gaylord played a key role in saving the Little Black Slough wetlands along southern Illinois' Cache River. He did much to make Illinois a better place to live. He will be missed.

John Schwegman

Ashby Retires

Dr. Clark Ashby, ecologist with the SIU Department of Plant Biology, has retired. Clark plans to stay in Carbondale and hopes to continue research on mined land reclamation and biomass production.

Louis Iverson Departs

Dr. Louis Iverson has resigned his position as plant ecologist with the INHS in Urbana. He has taken a research position with the US Forest Service in Ohio. Dr. Iverson developed the Illinois Plant Information Network among other projects during

his tenure at the Survey.

New Ecologist at SIU

Dr. David Gibson has joined the faculty of the SIU Plant Biology Department as an Assistant Professor. Dave received his PhD from the University of Wales where he studied coastal grasslands. He has completed a Post Doc at Konza Prairie in Kansas and comes to SIU from the Univ. of West Florida.

New Botanist at USFWS

Zella Ellshoff has joined the staff of the Endangered Species Program at Twin Cities, MN as Botanist for Region 3. A southern Illinois native, she comes to this position from 10 years as a botanist in Hawaii.

DOC Heritage Budget

The DOC's Natural Heritage Division budget took a big cut this fiscal year, however there was no loss of professional staff as was feared as the last issue of *Illinoensis* went to press.

Endangered Species Reorganization

The USFWS Endangered Species program for Region 3 has been reorganized. The responsibility for coordinating the program at the state level has been shifted from Twin Cities, MN to the Service's Rock Island Office. Illinois' contact person at Rock Island is Gerry Bade.

Forest Service

The U. S. Forest Service received increased funding this fiscal year for a coordinated, comprehensive program to prevent introductions of or control infestations of alien or exotic pests.

Exotics Study

Peter Jenkins of Congress' Office of Technology Assessment advises that the OTA study and report to Congress on the problem of invasive exotic species in the United State will be printed and available at the end of March.

Exotic Species Compendium

The Natural Areas Association has produced a Compendium on Exotic Species including 43 articles that have appeared in *Natural Areas Journal* on the subject. It comes in loose leaf form so it can readily be updated with reprints of future articles. Copies cost \$20.00 (\$18.00 for NAA members) plus \$4.00 for shipping and handling. Order from the NAA, 108 Fox Street, Mukwonago, WI 53149.

Exotics Control Helps Mallow

The USFWS Endangered Species Program made \$2,000.00 available to the DOC to eradicate exotic shrubs from Langham Island, the only known native habitat for Kankakee Mallow (Iliamna remota). About half of the 20 acre island was cleared of Amur honeysuckle and other exotics with this grant.

Leafy Prairie Clover

With funds provided by the USFWS Endangered Species Program, a search for extant populations and surviving habitats of the Dalea foliosa in Illinois was conducted this summer and fall by Marlin Bowles of the Morton Arboretum. Suitable habitat was discovered, but no new populations. This information will be included in a draft federal recovery plan for the species being prepared under another DOC contract by Marcella DeMauro of Joliet and Bowles.

Nature Preserves 30th

The Illinois Nature Preserves System celebrates its 30th anniversary in 1993. Numerous events are planned in celebration of the event. Contact the Nature Preserves Commission for details.

Wolf Road Prairie

After a decade of effort, the DOC has finally completed purchase of its 40 acre part of Wolf Road Prairie in Westchester, Cook County. Acquisition was complicated by the extremely fragmented ownership of the many lots in this subdivided prairie. This tract combines with 40 acres purchased by the Cook County Forest Preserve District to make a sizable prairie preserve in the midst of suburbia.

Flora "Guide" Update

Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock has begun work on the 3rd Edition of his "Guide to the Flora of Illinois". The Second Edition is nearly out of print at the SIU Press and will not be reprinted. In addition to newly discovered taxa and updated taxonomic treatments, the 3rd Edition will feature more detailed habitat statements for the species. The new edition is several years away from publication.

Carex Volume

Dr. Mohlenbrock has the Illustrated Flora of Illinois Carex volume ready to go to the printer. It is hoped that this volume will be printed during 1993.

Barrens Conference Session

Alice Long Heikens of Franklin University, Franklin, Indiana

is coordinating a conference session on the ecology of "Barrens" at the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting April 15 at Old Dominion University, in Virginia Beach, VA. For meeting information contact ASB at Patricia Parr, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Box 2008, Oak Ridge, TN 37831.

Oak Savanna Conference

A Midwest Oak Savanna Conference will be held at Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago on February 20, 1993. The conference will feature working sessions with experts in oak savanna restoration and management in the Midwest. For further information contact the Nature Conservancy's Chicago office at 312/346-8166.

Reintroduction Conference

The Center for Plant Conservation is hosting a conference on Plant Translocation April 20-22, 1993 at the Clarion Hotel, St. Louis Mo. The goal of the conference is production of consensus policy document that can serve as a guide to all plant conservationists regarding reintroduction and translocation of plants for conservation purposes. The conference is partly supported by a grant from the USFWS. For information contact the CPC at the Missouri Botanical Garden (314/577-9450).

1993 Natural Areas Conference

The annual meeting of the Natural Areas Association and the 1993 Natural Areas Conference is being held earlier than normal this year. It will be June 22-25, 1993 at the University of Maine, Orono, ME. The theme is conservation in working landscapes. For information write Natural Areas Conference, Maine State Planning Office, 184 State Street, Station 38, Augusta, ME 04333-0038.

Ecosystem Restoration Conference

The US Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation is sponsoring a conference on ecosystem restoration in Chicago March 2-4, 1993. For information call Jodi Sproul at Terrene Institute (202/833-8317).

Native Plant Society Meeting

The Illinois Native Plant Society will hold its 1993 annual meeting May 21-23, 1993 at Camp Ondessonk, Ozark, IL. Plenty of field trips will be interspersed with talks by Max Hutchison on natural history of the region and Stan Harris on geology of the region. It is being hosted by the Southern Chapter which can be reached at the SIU Department of Plant Biology.

Illinois Wetlands Conference

Following on the heels of the very successful "Illinois Forest Conference" in Charleston last September, the Illinois Native Plant Society plans to host an Illinois Wetlands Conference in northeastern Illinois in September, 1993. President Ken Robertson says details are still to be worked out. Look for more information on this in next summer's *Illinoensis*.

Wetland Publications

With funding provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the DOC has produced a series of 3 full color booklets on the values and protection of wetlands of Illinois. One booklet is geared to the general public with the others aimed at developers/agriculture and local government. For single free copies write to the DOC Natural Heritage Division in Springfield or see your local Natural Heritage Biologist.

Wild Herb Market

Pressure on Illinois' wild plants by the medicinal herb market continued to grow in 1992. Ginseng root brought \$235.00 per pound and goldenseal reached an all time high of \$30.00 per pound of root. The slow economy and the high price of goldenseal combined to remove a lot of this native plant from Illinois' forests this year. Illinois still lacks a statute requiring landowner permission for removal of plants from private property, thus herb thieves must be prosecuted under the states trespass laws.

Thismia

On Saturday, August 22, 1992, the second "Great Thismia Search" took place in southern Cook County. Seventeen teams of volunteers searched 7 natural areas for the elusive Thismia americana plant. Unfortunately, none were found and the species remains in the realm of the possibly extinct. The Morton Arboretum and the Nature Conservancy teamed up to sponsor the event. A contracted search for the species, planned by the USFWS for last summer, did not take place.

Natural History Survey Reports

The Illinois Natural History Survey Reports, a bi-monthly publication of the Survey, was expanded in size and content in 1992. The 8-page publication not only reports on research by the Survey, but includes regular features such as "species spotlight" and "Weekend Wonders". The former details a native species and the latter describes natural areas especially worthy of an outing. A regular educational feature titled "The Naturalist's Apprentice" is aimed at middle school students and includes material suitable

for xeroxing for classroom use. Write to the Survey at 607 East Peabody Drive, Champaign, IL 61820 for your free subscription.

Armadillos

Another road killed armadillo was found some 3 miles north of Golconda in Pope County this past November. This was about 3 miles from a road kill found in the fall of 1991. It appears that this mammal may be establishing itself in southernmost Illinois. It may eventually impact the flora of this region.

Written December 22, 1992