

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR, LINDA MACKECHNIE

MAY 2015

A few words from the president

Hi Northeast Chapter members!

I hope you're enjoying spring as much as I am. This past weekend we got out and saw Trout Park State Nature Preserve in Elgin and got our first glimpse of early spring ephemerals in bloom. We're looking forward to this Sunday's tour of Black Partridge Woods in Lemont and hope you can join us. This field season we'll be offering plant walks throughout the Chicago region and will regularly post these and other opportunities on our website and Facebook page.

I also hope you can join us for this year's INPS annual gathering hosted by the Forest Glen Chapter downstate. From June 5-7 we'll convene in Vermilion County, and get the chance to see some of Central Illinois' nicest natural areas while reconnecting with old friends and making some new ones, too!

I'll look forward to seeing you out in the field sometime soon!
- Andy

If you received this as a complimentary copy, you may wish to join the Illinois Native Plant Society. Send your name, address, and phone number with a check made out to INPS for

- \$15 Individual
- \$20 Student
- \$20 Institutional (nonvoting)
- \$30 Family
- \$30 Supporting
- \$55 Patron
- \$300 Life

Mail to: INPS, Forest Glen Preserve, 20301 East 900 North Rd, Westville, IL 61883 or visit www.ill-inps.org

Please indicate that your chapter is Northeast.

Join today!

Like us on [FaceBook!](#)

Spanish speakers - visit our [Spanish FaceBook page](#)

Native Plant Excursions *Visit our FaceBook page for even more info!*

RECENT

[NE-INPS Organizational Meeting](#)

1:00 pm, Saturday, January 17, 2015

[Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe](#)

Chapter officer vacancies were announced. A general discussion of goals for the year and ideas for field trips.

[NE-INPS Administrative Meeting](#)

1:00 pm, Saturday, February 21, 2015

Formalized a short-term agenda and selected first field trip locations.

[NE-INPS Field Trip](#)

10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Saturday, April 10, 2015

[Trout Park Nature Preserve](#)

NE-INPS Organizer: Andy Olnas (INPS-NE President)

Led by Sue Bohne, Trout Park Nature Preserve Steward



We had excellent weather for our first plant foray of the season! Balmy mid-60's temperatures and sunny skies greeted our group of ~20 participants. Sue Bohne, the 20 year steward of Trout Park Nature Preserve gave us a quick history of the site, including important aspects such as the unique geology and hydrology that contributes to the diverse flora of the site. Trout Park Nature Preserve has long been recognized as a unique community. The city of Elgin began purchasing the region as a potential water source in the 1920's.

The alkalinity of the water minimizes its value as a source of drinking water, but significantly influences the plant community. (continued on page 2)

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Trout Park Nature Preserve Cont.

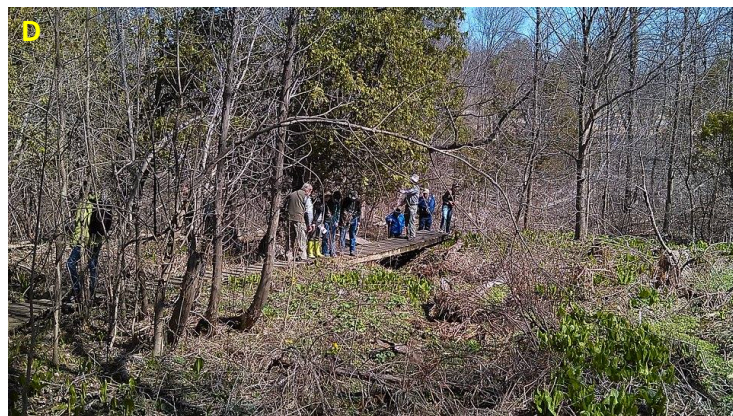
It was known as the Elgin Botanical Gardens for many years and was managed accordingly. Some of the management practices are still visible, such as the persistent patches of daffodils and Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*). The park has been heavily visited for over 100 years. Sadly, the park was bisected by the construction of the I-90 highway in 1957. The park was dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve in 1972. Today, the fen community is split into two parcels, the southern portion which we visited, and a northern parcel, the Fox River Forested Fen Forest Preserve of Kane County.



A. Bloodroot, B. Hepatica,
C. Sedge.

Photos from L. MacKechnie

Although the northern parcel is not currently open to the public, that may change in the near future. For more information, visit http://www.kaneforest.com/Forest_PreserveView.aspx?ID=78. Erosion impacts from the highway and non-native plant invasion are a constant threat. Restoration activities continue and are vital to the overall quality and health of the park. The site is one of the few locations where you can see arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*) growing in the wild in Illinois.



Photos from D. Lopez

D. Fen, E. Arborvitae, F. Skunk Cabbage, G. Marsh Marigold.

The forested fen is home to a large number of species tolerant of high soil pH. Although early in the season, we were able to see at least 7 native species in flower, and many others in bud (see page 3). The list of spring flowering species observed includes bloodroot, eastern false rue anemone, hepatica, an unidentified sedge, skunk cabbage, white trout lily, and marsh marigolds. Over 30 species of plants were identified during the walk. If you missed out (or if you joined), go back in a few weeks! The bluebells and trout lilies should be in full bloom. Thanks again to our guide, Sue Bohne, and all the other knowledgeable folks who helped identify plants and animals on the trip.

More photos are available on our FaceBook page.

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Trout Park Nature Preserve List of Plants Observed*

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family	Status
Alternatleaf dogwood	<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> L.f.	Cornaceae	Vegetative
American bladdernut	<i>Staphylea trifolia</i> L.	Staphyleaceae	Vegetative
American hornbeam	<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> Walter	Betulaceae	Vegetative
American witchhazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> L.	Hamamelidaceae	Vegetative
arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> L.	Cupressaceae	Vegetative
Black ash	<i>Fraxinus nigra</i> Marshall	Oleaceae	Vegetative
Bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i> L.	Papaveraceae	Flowering
Blue ash	<i>Fraxinus quadrangulata</i> Michx.	Oleaceae	Vegetative
Bristly greenbrier	<i>Smilax tamnoides</i> L.	Smilacaceae	Vegetative
Chokecherry	<i>Prunus virginiana</i> L.	Rosaceae	Vegetative
Cutleaf coneflower	<i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> L.	Asteraceae	Vegetative
Cutleaf toothwort	<i>Cardamine concatenata</i> (Michx.) Sw.	Brassicaceae	Vegetative
Daffodil - INTRODUCED	<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i> L.	Liliaceae	Flowering
Drummond's aster	<i>Symphotrichum drummondii</i> (Lindl.) G.L. Nesom	Asteraceae	Vegetative
Dutchman's breeches	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> (L.) Bernh.	Fumariaceae	Flower bud
Early meadow-rue	<i>Thalictrum dioicum</i> L.	Ranunculaceae	Flower bud
Eastern False Rue Anemone	<i>Enemion biternatum</i> Raf.	Ranunculaceae	Flowering
False Solomon Seal	<i>Maianthemum racemosum</i> (L.) Link	Liliaceae	Vegetative
Hepatica	<i>Hepatica nobilis</i> Schreb.	Ranunculaceae	Flowering
Mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i> L.	Berberidaceae	Vegetative
Prairie trillium	<i>Trillium recurvatum</i> Beck	Liliaceae	Vegetative
Purplestem Angelica	<i>Angelica atropurpurea</i> L.	Apiaceae	Vegetative
Roundleaf goldenrod	<i>Solidago patula</i> Muhl. ex Willd.	Asteraceae	Vegetative
Scouringrush horsetail	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i> L.	Equisetaceae	Vegetative
Sedge (unidentified)	<i>Carex</i> sp.	Cyperaceae	Flowering
Siberian squill - INTRODUCED	<i>Scilla siberica</i> Andrews	Liliaceae	Flowering
Skunk cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i> (L.) Salisb. ex W.P.C. Barton	Araceae	Flowering
Spotted geranium	<i>Geranium maculatum</i> L.	Geraniaceae	Vegetative
Swamp thistle	<i>Cirsium muticum</i> Michx.	Asteraceae	Vegetative
Twinleaf	<i>Jeffersonia diphylla</i> (L.) Pers.	Berberidaceae	Vegetative
Virginia bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i> (L.) Pers. ex Link	Boraginaceae	Vegetative
Watercress - INTRODUCED	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i> W.T. Aiton	Brassicaceae	Vegetative
White fawnlily or troutlily	<i>Erythronium albidum</i> Nutt.	Liliaceae	Flowering
Wild ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i> L.	Aristolochiaceae	Vegetative
Yellow marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i> L.	Ranunculaceae	Flowering

*Names follow USDA-Plants List primarily

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Native Plant Excursions

UPCOMING

*** NE-INPS Field Trip ***

Sunday, April 19, 2015, 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

[Black Partridge Woods](#), Lemont, Cook County

NE INPS Contact: Jason Zylka

This lovely site of ridges and floodplains carries a wide diversity of native spring wildflowers. Please RSVP to Jason Zylka at jasonzylka@yahoo.com

Spring Flora

April 26, 2015, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

[Theodore Stone Forest](#), East Avenue, Hodgkins, Cook County

A 142-acre forest preserve, with dolomite prairie, oak savanna and woodland habitats. More than 180 native plant species can be found throughout the preserve.

Spring Wildflower Walk

April 26, 2015, 1:00 pm

Trailside Museum of Natural History, River Forest, Cook County

Free, but registration by April 24 is required. Phone 708-366-6530 or online at:

<http://fpdcc.com/event/spring-wildflower-walk-2/>

Hiking trails through the surrounding Forest Preserve wind through beautiful oak woodlands and floodplain forest, and to a pond and along the Des Plaines River.

Trailside Museum is child-friendly and accessible by public transportation.

Woodland Wildflower Walk

May 2, 2015, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

[Grainger Woods County Forest Preserve](#), Libertyville, Lake County

This preserve harbors a rare stand of northern flatwoods, ecologically valuable wetlands, and several state-listed threatened and endangered species. Two natural communities found on the site include a wet-mesic prairie and a high-quality sedge meadow that contain more than 165 native plant species.

Other Regional Plant Events

Plant Sale/Swap!

April 19, 2015, 12:00 and 2:00

[Plum Creek Nature Center](#), Beecher, Will County

Drop off plants at noon or 2 pm. The event is free of charge. When you arrive at the nature center, please drop your plants or seeds off at the front desk. A staff member will give you one ticket for each plant or package of seeds that you bring in. After swapping, take a walk around the nature center and see out what else is going on at our Earth Day Celebration!

[Chicago Plant Science Symposium](#)

Sunday, April 19, 2015, 10:00 am – 7:00 pm

The Field Museum, Chicago, Cook County

Space is limited and prior registration is required. The theme of the symposium is “Collections at the Forefront of Plant Science.” A diverse set of speakers representing a wide range of research topics, with collections, both museum and living, as the unifying element. The presentations will illustrate the essential nature of collections in modern plant science research.

[Plants of Concern Training Workshop](#)

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Aroma Park, Kankakee County

Attendance is free, but registration is required. Workshops provide an introduction to Plants of Concern, a rare plant monitoring program for Chicago Wilderness, training in the basics of monitoring, and a chance to meet landowners and monitors.

[Habitat Conservation Fair](#)

Thursday, May 7, 2015, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, Chicago, Cook County

Learn about local and regional conservation efforts. Find out how to become a citizen scientist, certify your backyard or take part in a service day.

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Other Regional Plant Events (cont.)

[INPS Kankakee BioBlitz](#)

Friday, May 8, 3:00 pm – Saturday, May 9, 3:00 pm.

Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see, Manteno, Kankakee County

A BioBlitz is a 24-hour period of intense biological survey in an attempt to document ALL living things in a specific area.

Volunteers are needed to assist scientist and naturalists from around the region to survey mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, plants, insects, and much more!

How can you get involved?

- Volunteer your services,
- Donate supplies, materials, or money to the event,
- Attend the BioBlitz,
- Tell others of the event.

Contact Christine Cline at naturelady23@comcast.net

[Illinois Invasive Species Symposium](#)

Thursday, May 28, 2015, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm.

University of Illinois Extension Office, Champaign, IL

One-day, all-taxa symposium that features talks on current and emerging issues surrounding invasive plants, diseases, insects, and animals in Illinois. Registration is required.

Volunteer Opportunities

Habitat Restoration

Eggers Grove Wetland Planting

Saturday, May 16, 1:00 pm

The Field Museum, Chicago, Cook County

Registration is required – RSVP by May 8 to rcollings@fieldmuseum.org or 312-665-7420.

Volunteers will help plant native wetland plugs in an area recently cleared of invasive species. Be prepared to get muddy.

[The Habitat Project](#) [ongoing]

[Habitat 2030](#) [ongoing]

Events At A Glance:

April 19	Plant Sale/Swap!
April 19	Chicago Plant Science Symposium
April 19	***NE-INPS Field Trip
	Black Partridge Woods!!!***
April 26	Spring Flora - Theodore Stone Forest
April 26	Wildflower Walk - Trailside Museum
April 26	Plants of Concern Training Workshop
May 2	Wildflower Walk - Grainger Woods
May 7	Habitat Conservation Fair
May 8-9	***INPS Kankakee BioBlitz***
May 16	Eggers Grove Wetland Planting
May 28	Invasive Species Symposium

Please check on our NE-INPS or FaceBook pages for late additions to the calendar of events.

Got some great ideas for places to go or plants to see?
Want to hear talks on specific topics?

Send us an email message: northeast-inps@gmail.com

INPS NE Chapter 2015 Officers:

President: Andy Olnas

Treasurer: Jason Zylka

Secretary: Christina Pierce

Social Media: Daniel Lopez

Newsletter Editor: Linda MacKechnie