

# Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

AUGUST 2015

## *A few words from the president*

Hi Northeast Chapter!

I hope you're having a nice summer and are getting out to enjoy the cool natural areas we have in the Chicago region. I was conducting wetland plant surveys adjacent to Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve in Lake Forest last week and crossed over into the preserve where I saw both pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*) and Michigan lily (*Lilium michiganense*) in bloom. They were beautiful. I later swung over to the Skokie River Land & Water Reserve in Lake Bluff and saw New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*) blooming, as well as marsh phlox (*Phlox glaberrima*) and palespike lobelia (*Lobelia spicata*). That is only a fraction of the cool plants that are at those sites, and I highly recommend them as destinations for botanizing. A couple good candidates for future INPS field trips...

Speaking of field trips, we finally have a couple plant walks lined up for the near future and we hope you can join us! On August 1<sup>st</sup> we'll be touring the beach, foredune and panne habitats at Montrose Beach in Chicago. It will be a nice opportunity to see a natural area within the city and the weather forecast is looking pretty good for hiking on a beach. Our following trip will be a tour of the Ball Horticultural grounds in West Chicago on August 16<sup>th</sup> and there we'll check out native plantings, as well as natural areas restorations and a created wetland. For more specific information on these trips, please check out the detailed Native Plant Excursions section in this newsletter. And we hope to get another couple trips set up soon for September, so keep an eye open for those trip notifications to come. I hope to see you out in the field 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*

- \$13      *Student*
- \$20      *Individual*
- \$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](http://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 more info!*

## UPCOMING

### Cook County

**NE-INPS Field Trip to Montrose Beach Dunes  
Saturday, August 1, 1:00 PM  
Montrose Beach Dunes, Chicago  
Field Trip Coordinator: Andy Olnas**

Explore the Montrose Beach Dunes beach, foredune, and panne habitats under the direction of Leslie Borns, site steward. The site is home to several rare plants and supports a diversity of birds, too. It promises to be a great opportunity to experience some unique native plant

# Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

AUGUST 2015

## PAGE 2

communities within Chicago and we hope you can join us! We'll meet at 1:00 PM at the small, disability-accessible parking lot east of the beach house ([Click for Map](#)) and expect to be out there until around 3:00 PM. The beach is pretty busy this time of year so it may be difficult to find parking. The CTA's #78 Montrose Avenue bus runs all the way to Simonds Drive (which is very close to our meeting spot) and makes for a convenient alternative to driving. More information on that bus route can be found here:

<http://www.transitchicago.com/bus/78/>.

Please contact trip coordinator Andy Olnas with any questions on the day of the trip at [847-840-2634](tel:847-840-2634).

For additional opportunities, visit the [Forest Park District of Cook County](#) event web page for listings.

## Du Page County

**NE-INPS Field Trip to Restoration Areas and the Gardens at Ball Horticultural Co.**  
**Sunday, August 16, 10:00 AM**  
**Ball Horticultural Co., West Chicago**  
**Field Trip Coordinator: Linda MacKechnie**

In addition to the extensive ornamental planting beds, Ball Horticultural Company has several areas landscaped with native plants. Adjacent natural areas are approximately 10 years into a restoration program including the creation of a large, shallow wetland we will visit. For more information and pictures of Ball, please take a moment to visit the links below. If you are interested in seeing these contrasting environments and small-scale restoration in progress, please contact Linda MacKechnie at [lindamprince@gmail.com](mailto:lindamprince@gmail.com) or phone 773-255-7736 to reserve space. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Roosevelt Road parking lot (1017 W Roosevelt Rd, West Chicago). **This trip is limited to 20 participants. Space is still available.**

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/lifestyles/home/sc-home-0727-garden-ball-20150716-story.html>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq\\_uGtuggOg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lq_uGtuggOg&feature=youtu.be)

**McKee Marsh Natural History Hike**  
**Sunday, August 9, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

2-mile ranger-led hike. Register starting two weeks prior at (630) 933-7248.

**St. James Farm and Natural History Walk**  
**Saturday, August 15, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Learn all about the farm on a leisurely 1-mile walk. \$3 per person ages 13 and up; under 13 free. Register by Thursday prior at (630) 580-7025.

## Lake County

Too many to list! Visit the [Forest Park District of Lake County](#) event web page for listings. A sampling includes Hikes, Invasive Species workshops, and more. A number of bilingual (English & Spanish) hikes are on the schedule!

## *Other Regional Plant Events*

### UPCOMING

**Kankakee Torrent Chapter plant sale**  
**Saturday, August 1, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Camp Shaw-waw-nah-see**

Check their [website calendar](#) or [facebook](#) page for updates and details.

**Grass Identification Workshop**  
**Saturday and Sunday, August 15-16**  
**Southern Illinois University**

**Instructor: Paul Marcum**

Join Illinois Natural History Survey botanist Paul Marcum in this two-day workshop to learn grass species commonly encountered in the area. No prior knowledge is required. For more information, please follow this [link](#). The \$15 donation includes lunch. Registration (via email at [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)) is required. Space is limited to 20 participants.

You may also want to check out [The Outside Calendar](#).

# Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

AUGUST 2015

PAGE 3

## Volunteer Opportunities

### DuPage County

#### **Blackwell Native Plant Nursery**

**Saturday (August 15), Sunday (August 9), Mondays (August 10, 24) 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

Help weed, water, or collect and clean seed. Ages 12 and up; under 16 with an adult. Register at (630) 933-7681 at least five business days prior (10 days for groups of five or more).

### Lake County

#### **Restoration Workday in the Native Plant Nursery Weekends**

Volunteers should dress in long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring work gloves. **WINTER:** Brush clearing.

**SPRING:** Buckthorn control, sow prairie/woodland seeds. **SUMMER:** Garlic mustard management, wild life monitoring, weed management, planting. **FALL:** Brush clearing, seed collection, tree and shrub planting.

#### **Restoration workday coordinator:**

[Tom Smith](#), Land Management Technician  
Desk: 847-968-3329, cell: 847-276-5379.

### [The Habitat Project](#) and [Habitat 2030](#) [ongoing]

## Conservation/Land Management

#### **Governor Rauner approves ban on sale of noxious weed species.**

Good news for Illinois native species! See the full article published in The Southern Illinoisian.

[http://thesouthern.com/news/local/environment/governor-oks-ban-on-invasive-weeds/article\\_b537e902-7cc9-5058-ab5a-d4c2cd75cf0f.html](http://thesouthern.com/news/local/environment/governor-oks-ban-on-invasive-weeds/article_b537e902-7cc9-5058-ab5a-d4c2cd75cf0f.html)

#### **Using Native Plant Materials in Restoration**

The Natural Areas Association has produced a special journal issue ([www.naturalareas.org/journal](http://www.naturalareas.org/journal)). This is a

“go-to reference for land management professionals: botanists, restoration ecologists, fire rehabilitation specialists, wildlife managers, land stewards and many others charged with restoration of natural areas ..... [to] promote and educate decision-makers on the importance of using native seed and plants in managing and restoring habitat.” Copies are still available for purchase (while supplies last) by phoning 541-317-0199 (M-F 9-5 PST) or emailing the NAA at [cnesslein@naturalareas.org](mailto:cnesslein@naturalareas.org). \$20 includes shipping (U.S. addresses); bulk order discounts are also available.

#### **Gene Conservation of Tree Species – Banking on the Future**

May 16 – 19, 2016 in Chicago, Illinois. The USDA Forest Service is sponsoring a workshop that will bring together a mix of land managers, conservation and restoration practitioners, researchers, and non-governmental organizations who share the goal of conserving tree species. The workshop will include invited and contributed presentations and posters, and a field trip hosted by The Morton Arboretum. More information is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/gene-conservation-workshop>.

## Events At A Glance:

Aug 1	Montrose Beach Dunes
Aug 9	McKee Marsh Natural History Hike
Aug 15	St. James Farm and Natural History Walk
Aug 15-16	Grass Identification Workshop
Aug 16	Ball Horticultural Restoration & Gardens

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](mailto:northeast-inps@gmail.com) or write me directly at [lindamprince@gmail.com](mailto:lindamprince@gmail.com)