

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

APRIL 2016

A few words from the president

Hi Northeast Chapter!

I hope you are as excited as I am that spring is underway. We had our first field trip of the season this past Saturday and learned some winter tree ID features while visiting the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center in Lemont. I'd like to say a special thanks to the naturalist staff at SELC for allowing us to host our workshop and hike on site and for their help in determining a route that would have us pass so many tree species. It was a beautiful day out and in addition to seeing a diversity of tree species, we saw some spring wildflowers coming up. Later in this newsletter you can see photos taken during our hike of marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), sharp-lobed hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*), and skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) all in bloom, and I remember seeing Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) and cutleaf toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*) blooming, too.

Seeing some of those early spring wildflowers coming up made me even more excited that we've got another native plant walk scheduled at a site that usually has a nice wildflower display of its own this time of year... On Saturday, April 30 at 1 PM, Forest Preserve District of Kane County restoration technician, Patrick Chess, is going to lead us on a hike through Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve in Elburn. Having lived in a house on site at Johnson's Mound for over three years while I was working at FPDKC, I can attest to its beautiful array of wildflowers and I think late April will be a great time to catch a bunch of them blooming. Aside from the botanical interest of the site, it is interesting in that the Illinois Nature Preserve portion of the site is a huge glacial kame deposited about 10,000 years ago. I'm very much looking forward to returning to this cool preserve. We'll send out a more detailed trip announcement via email and our Facebook page sometime soon and hopefully you can join us!

With this being such a nice time of year to get out and enjoy some of our area's native plants, we're hoping to add at least one more field trip to our April calendar. We haven't figured it out yet but I'm thinking we'll be

shooting for the weekend of April 16/17. We're also in the process of figuring out trip destinations for May. For any trips we end up planning we'll get you that info as soon as possible so you can plan accordingly.

Happy spring! - Andy

(More) Survey Says...

Thanks to all of you who have responded to our survey! **We heard from over 60 of you already**, but our membership is much larger than that! If you have not yet responded, please take a few minutes to tell us what you think. **You can take the survey via [this link](#).**

We will let you know the results in the next issue of our newsletter!

Native Plant Excursions

Visit our Facebook page for more info!

RECENT

NE-INPS Chapter Winter Tree ID

Coordinated and led by Andy Olnas.

About a dozen of us visited the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center in Lemont on Saturday, March 26. The weather was fine, and in addition to our stated mission (winter tree ID), we managed to see a few spring blooming wildflowers. A partial plant list is provided. Watch for a set of bark, twig and bud photos from the outing in a future newsletter. - Linda

Daniel Lopez, our illustrious social media man reports:

I am happy to have attended the Winter Tree ID and Workshop this past Saturday at Sagawau Canyon Nature Preserve. I learned a lot of valuable information from the very knowledgeable Andy Olnas. I learned how to better identify trees that I was not very familiar with such as Kentucky Coffee Tree, Eastern Redbud, Black Walnut, and Smooth Sumac. Andy taught us how to identify trees using buds, bark, fruit, leaf scars, and other features. I would highly recommend to anyone to attend our field

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trips because you will learn a lot as I have been this past year with INPS. You learn a lot of plant ID, ecological knowledge, and background information on the sites that we visit. Hope to see you all at our next field trip.



Tree twigs from our visit (more to come later)



Andy Olnas discussing the finer points of twig ID.

Sagawau plant list (3/26/2016):

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Acer negundo</i> *	Box Elder
<i>Acer saccharum</i>	Sugar Maple
<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	Ohio Buckeye
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold
<i>Carya cordiformis</i>	Bitternut Hickory
<i>Carya ovata</i>	Shag Bark Hickory
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Redbud
<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Dogwood
<i>Dentaria laciniata</i>	Toothwort
<i>Erythronium albidum</i>	Trout Lily
<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	White Ash
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Honey Locust*
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	Kentucky Coffee Tree^
<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Sharp-lobed Hepatica
<i>Juglans nigra</i>	Black Walnut
<i>Narcissus</i> sp.	Daffodil!
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White Pine^
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	American Sycamore
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	Cottonwood
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black Cherry
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White Oak
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Bur Oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern Red Oak
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Black Oak
<i>Rhus glabra</i>	Smooth Sumac^
<i>Rhus typhina</i>	Staghorn Sumac^
<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>	Skunk Cabbage
<i>Tilia americana</i>	American Basswood
<i>Ulmus americana</i>	American Elm
<i>Viburnum</i> sp.	Viburnum

^ Planted, or likely planted

* Not seen on site

! Introduced

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Caltha palustris (Marsh Marigold)



Hepatica acutiloba
(Sharp-Lobed Hepatica)



Symplocarpus foetidus
(Skunk Cabbage)

UPCOMING

NE INPS Sponsored trip – We are working on another trip for mid-April (16th or 17th), but details are still tentative. Keep your eyes peeled on the Facebook page and your email accounts for additional information.

NE INPS Sponsored trip to [Johnson's Mound](#) FP in Elburn (Kane County) on April 30. The tentative meeting time is 1 pm. This area is a botanically diverse [glacial kame](#). Andy Olnas is the INPS organizer. Additional details will be posted to the Facebook pages. Please email Andy (andy.olnas@gmail.com) if you plan on attending.

Cook County

In addition to our sponsored field trip, there are dozens of opportunities to get outside this month! We can't list them all, but for some ideas, you can do Canyon Tours at Sagawau every Saturday, April thru May. There are special spring wildflower hikes at Sand Ridge (4/16), Sagawau (4/17, 5/7), River Trail in Northbrook (4/24), at the Trailside Museum in River Forest (4/29, 4/30), or Jergenson Woods hike (4/9).

If you like more history with your hikes, head over to Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills on 5/1 for Flower Stories. Check out the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's [web page](#) for complete FP listings.

DuPage County

Participate in one of the many [Forest Fitness](#) Walks taking place (Fullersburg Woods 4/11, Maple Grove 4/18, Oldfield Oaks 4/25, Hidden Lake 5/2, Meacham Grove 5/9; \$4-6 fee) or go for a Nature Walk at St. James Farm (4/23, \$5 fee). Visit the [DuPage County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

Kane County

Get outdoors and learn the Folklore of Flowers at Burnidge FP, in Elgin (4/16). If fungi are more your passion, you can go Morel Hunting in Tekakwitha Woods FP, St. Charles (NO collecting; 4/30). Download the latest [Tree Line Newsletter](#) for more information. [Northern Kane County Wild Ones](#) chapter is hosting a tour of the Native Plant Demonstration Gardens at Pattowatomie Park on 4/23.

Lake County

Ongoing programs include Walk with a naturalist (Half Day, Vernon Hills, 4/2; \$1-2 fee) and Forest Fitness (various locations, Saturdays). Special events include a [Bilingual \(English/Spanish\) Nature Hike](#) at Nippersink (4/9), a [Walk on the Wildflower Side](#), Wright Woods (4/30, \$5 fee) and a [Spring Wildflower Walk](#) at Edward L. Ryerson Conservation Area (5/1, \$5 fee). Visit the [Lake County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

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McHenry County

Learn about ecological restoration efforts in Sites Seldom Seen: **Newly Freed Springs**, a tour of wetland projects in Glacial Park (4/16; \$2 fee for non-residents). Visit Coral Woods in Marengo for a **Woodland Wildflower walk** on 4/24. Download the latest issue of [Landscapes](#), the Conservation District magazine for more information.



Trillium recurvatum (The Bloody Butcher, Prairie Trillium)
(photo: L. MacKechnie, G.A.R. Woods, River Forest, May 1, 2015)

Joel Greenberg is speaking on [“The Changing Flora and Fauna of the Chicago Region”](#) on 4/12 from 7-9 pm at Plymouth Place, LaGrange Park (\$20 fee for non-members).

Two more [Plants of Concern Training Workshops](#) are upcoming, one on Saturday April 9 and one on Sunday April 24 (9:30 am–3:00 pm). The 2016 [Chicago Plant Science Symposium](#) will highlight The Science of Conservation (4/16; registration is required).

DuPage County

[Introduction to Prescription Burns](#), St. James Farm, 1-3 pm 4/10.

Kane County

Educational programming through the Kane County Nature Preserves includes **Garden Workshops** at Creek Bend Nature Center in St. Charles. First up is an Herb Garden workshop on 4/10, followed by Flower Power on 4/24. \$10 fee. They are also offering a **Spring Flora** workshop on 5/1 hosted by Botanist Jack Shouba who will teach methods of identification (Bliss Woods FP, Sugar Grove, \$10 fee). Download the latest issue of [Treeline](#) for more information.

McHenry County

The [Oak Keepers Workshop](#) targets land managers (4/2; fee \$10 per workshop).

Further Afield

Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium
Native Landscapes: Landscaping with Natives
Fri April 1 – Sun April 3, 2016.

700 Logan College Dr, Carterville, IL 62918
This symposium focuses on native plants in the landscape at a variety of levels (in natural areas, around the home, etc.). Co-sponsored by INPS, Southern Illinois University, and U of Illinois Extension Service. Pre-registration required closing on March 27. **NO ONSITE OR WALK-IN REGISTRATION.** Visit this [website](#) for more information.

Other Regional Plant Events

UPCOMING

Cook County

A large number of educational presentations are available including Native Pollinators at Sagawau (4/3), Blooms and Blossoms at the Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs (4/16), and Primitive Plants (Ferns) at the Little Red Schoolhouse, Willow Springs (4/23).

The Master Gardener Series at Sagawau will present Enjoyable Herbs (4/16) and [Native Plant Selection](#) (4/24). There is a Spring Festival scheduled at the Trailside Museum, River Forest (5/1).

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Society for Ecological Restoration – Midwest Chapter

Overcoming Challenges to Ecological Restoration in the 21st Century.

Fri April 1 – Sun April 3, 2016.

This year the SER Midwest Chapter meets at Indiana University in Bloomington. The three-day meeting includes two plenary sessions focusing on restoration challenges and partnerships, three symposia, and two workshops (one on sedge ID and the other on data quality control check). Registration is required, and early bird registration closes March 17. For more information, follow this [link](#).

Illinois Invasive Species Symposium

(more information in future newsletters)

Thursday May 26, 9:30 am–4 pm

Champaign, IL

INPS Annual Gathering

June 3–5, 2016. Carbondale, IL

This year the annual gathering is being hosted by the Southern Chapter of INPS!

24th North American Prairie Conference

From Cemetery Prairies to National Tallgrass Prairies.

July 17–20, 2016. Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Four days and over 70 presentations covering many aspects of prairie ecology, restoration, management, and more. Registration required. Early registration deadline is July 1, 2016.

For more information, follow this [link](#).

Virtual Events

The Great Basin Fire Science Exchange (Reno, NV) is coordinating a **webinar series** based on the National Seed Strategy moniker to *put the right seed in the right place at the right time!* The series runs from January to May with 3-4 presentations per month. Although the series is run out of Reno, several of the themes are universal for land managers and may be of interest:

April – Seed Production, Purchase, and Contracting
For more information, please visit the BGFSE [website](#).

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

Special Events

Spring is upon us, with dozens of events this month including special celebrations associated with Earth Day (4/22) and Arbor Day (4/29). A few of the special events are listed immediately below.



Earth Satellite Image (<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?feature=3904>)

Earth Day Celebrations

(on 4/23 unless otherwise noted)

Cook County

- [Celebration and Clean up](#) –Whistler Woods (Clean up followed by nature activities and snacks)
- [Clean up](#) – Orland Grassland (brush removal around prairie plants)
- [Celebration](#) – Emily Oaks Nature Center, Skokie Park District (4/17)
- [Celebration](#) – Sand Ridge (hikes, live performances, games, and crafts)
- [Woodland Walk](#) – Trailside Museum
- [Woodland Walk](#) – Chicago Botanic Garden (guided walk through McDonald Woods)

Kane County

- [Open House](#) – Creek Bend Nature Center (4/21; educational presentations, crafts, hikes)
- Tree Planting - Fitchie Creek,

McHenry County

- [Celebration](#) – Prairieview Education Center (guided hikes along with a variety of games, crafts, and live performances).

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Arbor Day Celebrations

(on 4/30 unless
otherwise noted)

Alnus male flowers
(photo: L. MacKechnie, Oakton
Community College, April, 2015)



Cook County

- [Celebration](#) – Bunker Hill, Chicago (tree planting, ID, scavenger hunts, etc.)

DuPage County

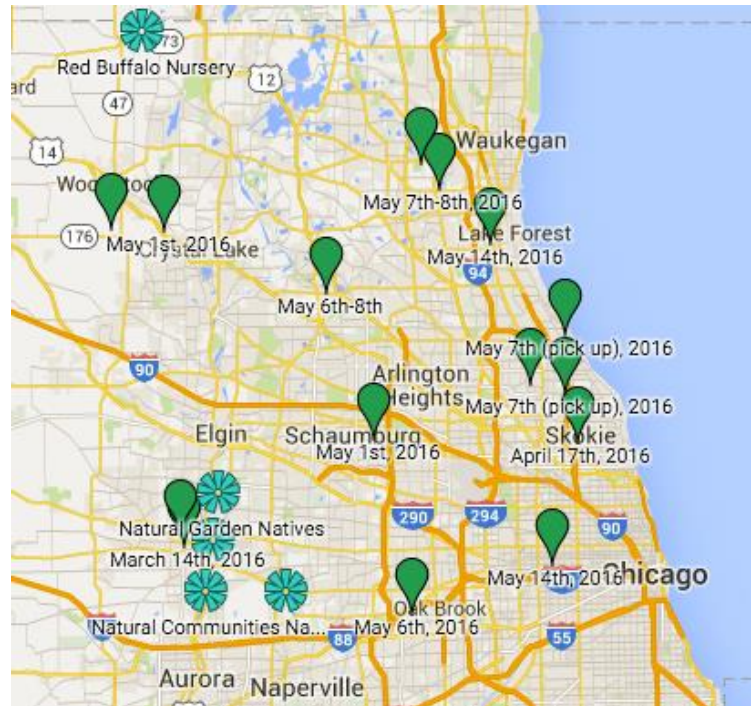
- [Celebration](#) – Morton Arboretum (Pop-up plant clinic, plant sale, other events) – Dress Like A Tree, Get In Free! (4/29) [plant sale continues through the weekend]

Native Plant Sales

'Tis the season for planting. You can find a comprehensive list of native plant sales around the state at the [INPS web page](#), as shown on this image capture from their site.

We've listed some for in our region here, well ahead of time, so you don't miss out. They are listed in chronological order. Sales not on the INPS site are indicated by *.

- 4/17 [Skokie Park District](#) at The Emily Oaks Nature Center (fee to attend Earth Day events)
- 4/25 [Kane-DuPage SWCD](#), St. Charles (order due)
- 4/29-5/1* [Morton Arboretum](#), Lisle. Members only 4/29.
- 4/30* [Wheaton Park District](#), Public Works Bldg, Wheaton.
- 5/1 [Schaumburg Community Garden Club](#), Spring Valley Nature Center, Schaumburg
- 5/1 [Wildflower Preservation & Propagation Committee](#), McHenry County College Cafeteria, Crystal Lake



- 5/6-7 [DuPage Forest Preserve](#), at Mayslake. Pre-orders accepted until April 20.
- 5/6-8 [Citizens for Conservation](#), Barrington
- 5/7 [Go Green Wilmette](#), West Park, Glencoe. Pre-order through 4/9.
- 5/7 [Northern Kane County Wild Ones](#) at Hawthorn Hill Nature Center.
- 5/7-8 [Lake County FP](#), Independence Grove-North Bay Pavilion, Libertyville
- 5/14 [Glenview Park District](#), The Grove, Glenview (pre-order by May 1; pre-order form pdf page 8 has the natives listed)
- 5/14 [Lake Forest Open Lands](#), Melody Farm Nature Preserve, Lake Forest
- 5/14 [West Cook County chapter of Wild Ones](#) is taking [pre-orders](#) until April 15!
- 5/20 [The Land Conservancy](#), Woodstock (pre-order by May 13)
- 9/18 [Conserve Lake County](#), Almond Marsh, Grayslake (trees & shrubs, orders due 4/25)

If you miss one of these special sales, you can also find natives at the following nurseries:

- Byron Native Nursery, St. Charles

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- Natural Communities Native Plants, Batavia
- Natural Garden Natives, St. Charles
- Planter's Palette, Winfield
- Red Buffalo Nursery, Hebron

register, visit MCCDistrict.org, use Code: 5158, or for more information, check out the [facebook page](#).

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Employment Opportunities

Cook County

Forest Preserve District of Cook County [web page](#).
Restoration Workdays at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (no registration required) or River Trail Nature Center (call 847-824-8360 to register). Spring special opportunities include

Replacing Ash Trees at

- Crabtree Nature Center, Barrington Hills (4/23)
- Trailside Museum, River Forest (4/24)

[Beaubien Woods](#) (4/2) and [Eggers Grove](#) (4/9) Restoration.

DuPage County

Forest Preserve District of DuPage County [web page](#).
Restoration Workdays at various Prairies and Woods, and at the Native Plant Nursery. Register at 630-933-7681 at least five business days prior. Special spring opportunities include Volunteer Spring Cleanup at the following locations (and dates):

- Blackwell 4/6
- Herrick Lake 4/9
- Mallard Lake 4/16

Lake County

There are numerous opportunities to assist in **Restoration Workdays** at the Native Seed Nursery or in a variety of communities. Contact the Restoration workday coordinator [Tom Smith](#) to participate. Desk: 847-968-3329, Cell: 847-276-5379. Visit the Lake County Forest Preserve [web page](#) for more information.

McHenry County

A special **Weekend of Restoration** is on tap at Glacial Park, Ringwood on 4/22–24. There is a \$75 fee to participate, which covers meals for the weekend. To

Research Assistant. Forest Ecology and Tree Conservation Biology, The Morton Arboretum. More information can be found [here](#).

Woodland Stewardship Program Coordinator. The Morton Arboretum. More information can be found [here](#).

Events At A Glance:

April 1–3	Indigenous Plants Symposium
April 1–3	SER – Midwest Chapter
April 16	Chicago Plant Science Symposium
April 23	Numerous Earth Day events
April 30	NE INPS Sponsored trip to Johnson's Mound FP
April 30	Numerous Arbor Day events
May 26	IL Invasive Species Symposium
June 3–5	INPS Annual Gathering
July 17-20	24 th NA Prairie Conference

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 or write me directly at lindamprince@gmail.com

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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 *Student*
- \$25 *Individual*
- \$20 *Institutional (nonvoting)*
- \$35 *Family*
- \$50 *Supporting*
- \$100 *Patron*
- \$125 *Business*
- \$500 *Life**

**Additional Life membership categories provide even greater support for our organization.*

*To join, visit www.ill-inps.org. Please indicate that your chapter is Northeast
OR*

*Mail to: Illinois Native Plant Society,
Membership, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL
62903-0271*

Like us on Facebook in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)!

INPS NE Chapter 2016 Officers:

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