

Illinois Native Plant Society Northeast Chapter

EDITOR: LINDA M. MACKECHNIE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

A few words from the president

Hi Northeast Chapter!

I hope October is treating you well so far! I think it's a great time of year to appreciate the outdoors- cooler temperatures, seems like there are generally less mosquitoes around, harder to get a sunburn, and we don't have to carry as much water or Gatorade into the field as we did a month ago. While in the area for work a few weeks back, I was able to capitalize on the nice conditions by visiting Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve in Elgin. Though a lot of plants finished flowering a while back, BSF had some late blooming beauties in full flower. We saw cylindrical blazing star (*Liatris cylindracea*), a species of ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes magnicamporum* or *cernua*) and small fringed gentian (*Gentiana procera*) in peak bloom (check out some photos I snapped of these three to the right). If you haven't been there, it would definitely be worth a visit and a potential INPS field trip there sometime next year!

A few days after our visit to Bluff Spring Fen, I had the pleasure of leading a tree identification workshop hike at the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center in Lemont. We had a great group of participants whom I'd like to thank for their enthusiasm and interest in our local trees. Thanks also go out to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and SELC staff that allowed us to host another workshop in their preserve. Our two workshops went really well this year and we plan to continue offering educational opportunities like them in 2017.

I'm also excited to announce that we'll be visiting Volo Bog in Ingleside (Lake County) next weekend (October 22 or 23) for a field trip with the hope of taking in some uncommon fall color for our area! We're hoping the time is right to catch tamarack (*Larix laricina*) and poison sumac (*Rhus vernix*) in their fall color beauty as we stroll the boardwalk at one of our region's truly special natural areas. Stay tuned for an email with our finalized date and time once they're decided and we'll hope to see you there! -Andy



Spiranthes sp.
(Ladies' tresses)



Liatris cylindracea
(Cylindrical Blazing Star)



Gentiana procera
(Small fringed gentian)

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Editor's Note

Better late than never? Apologies for this late, combined October/November edition of the newsletter. Changes in my work responsibilities mean I've been traveling more than ever, so I am making a request of our membership! Please consider joining the 2017-2018 executive team. We will have a meeting in January 2017 to select new officers, including a new editor for the newsletter! More information about when and where the meeting will take place will be posted in either the December or January newsletter, and on our Facebook page.

- Linda

Native Plant Excursions

Visit our FaceBook page for more info!

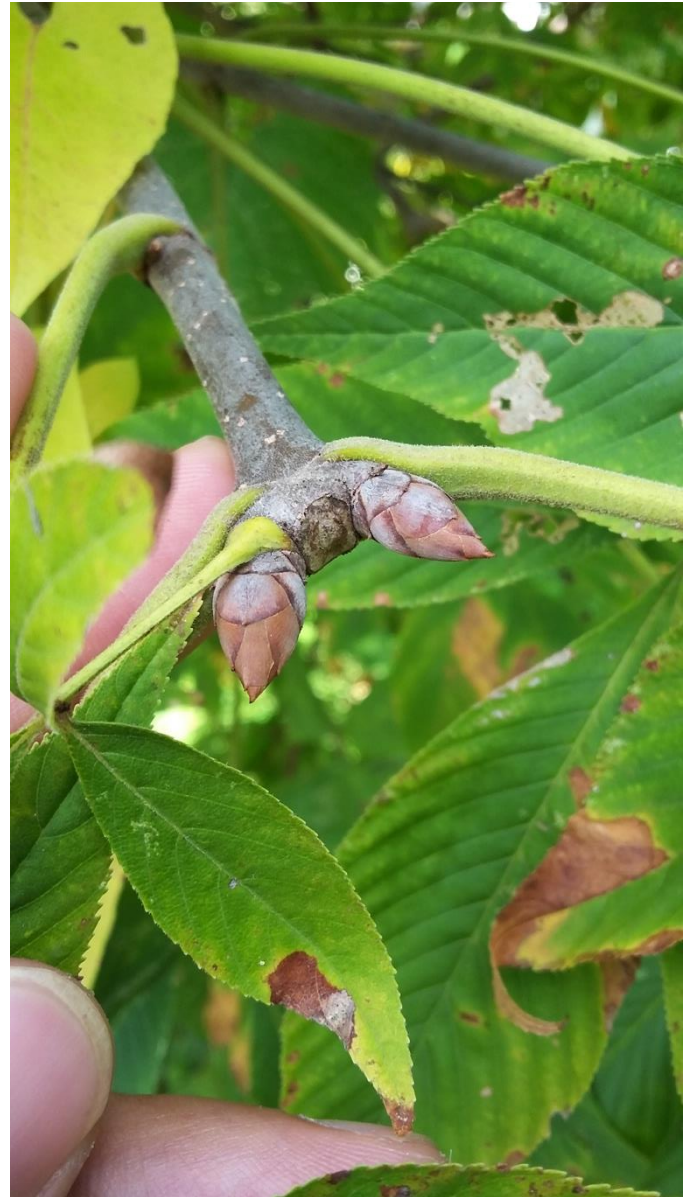
RECENT

NE-INPS Tree ID Workshop & Hike at Sagawau!

Hello Northeast Chapter!

This past September 17th we had a great Tree Identification Workshop and Hike at Sagawau Environmental Learning Center. We had perfect sunny weather (even with the forecast saying it was going to rain) and a great group turnout. We were very fortunate to have our knowledgeable INPS Northeast Chapter President Andy leading the Tree ID workshop. We started off the day by learning about the different kinds of leaves such as alternate, opposite, pinnate, palmate, compound, and double compound. We then headed out and started taking a look at the diversity of trees the site has to offer. We were taught how to identify the different kinds of trees based off of their leaf arrangement, bark pattern, leaf buds, canopy, size, sap, and even by their seeds. We learned some common trees such as Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*) and White Oak (*Quercus alba*) as well as some uncommon trees such as Kentucky Coffee Tree (*Gymnocladus dioica*) and Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*); all of which are very important and fun to learn. We had a Tree ID workshop earlier this year

in March that emphasized on how to identify trees in the wintertime, but this time around we were fortunate to have leaves as well to help us even further identify trees.



Aesculus glabra (Ohio Buckeye) buds

We had people of all different identification skill levels at our Tree Identification Workshop, which made a great learning experience for everyone. I still consider myself a beginner in the world of tree identification, but I can speak for all when I say that I learned a great deal

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and gained a lot of knowledge at the field trip. I encourage everyone to attend our field trips because you will learn lots of valuable information that will help you whether you are a nature hobbyist or someone working in the ecological field.

- Daniel Lopez



Acer saccharinum (Silver maple)



Ulmus americana (American elm)



Chambered pith of *Juglans nigra* (Black Walnut)



Andy Olnas providing tips on tree identification

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Quercus alba (White oak) leaves and bark

UPCOMING

Cook County

There are a number of hikes available over the next 1.5 months. Check out some of the options around Chicago:

[Canyon Tour](#) (10/22; 10/29) at Sagawau

[Colorful Fall](#) hike (10/22) Little Red Schoolhouse with a discussion of the biochemistry of fall foliage.

[Autumn Walks](#) (10/30) and a [Turkey Trot Hike](#) (11/25) at Trailside Museum

Check out the Forest Preserve District of Cook County's [web page](#) for complete FP listings.

[Garfield Park Conservatory](#) offers mini tours on 10/23, 11/12, and 11/27.

DuPage County

There is a [Fall Colors](#) hike at Fullersburg Woods (10/26). Visit the [DuPage County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

Kane County

You can Trek with a Naturalist at Campton Forest Preserve on 10/20 and Muirhead Spring Forest Preserve on 11/12. There is a Big Tree Tour at Glenwood Park

Forest Preserve (10/22). Burn off some of your Thanksgiving dinner on a guided walk through LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve on 11/25. See the most recent issue of [The Treeline](#) for more information.

Lake County

There are [Guided Hike Lake County](#) events on 10/30, 11/6, and 11/13. You can [Walk with a Naturalist](#) at Lakewood on 11/5. Visit the [Lake County Forest Preserve](#) web site for locations and schedule details.

NE-INPS Volo Bog hike next weekend (10/22 or 23)! Watch your email and the Facebook page for details.

Other Regional Plant Events

Cook County

[Prepare your Garden for Winter](#) (Master Gardener Series; 11/5) at Sagawau

[Fall Changes](#) (11/6; River Trail Nature Center) learn about how plants and animals prepare for winter.

West Cook County Wild Ones is hosting a talk by Monica Buckley and Charlotte Adelman on [Rain Gardens For Beauty, Wildlife, and Stormwater Control](#) on 11/20.

[WeDigBio](#) is a global initiative to digitize museum collections. The Field Museum is participating and you can join as a citizen scientist on 10/20-23! The [Peggy Notebaert Museum](#) is also participating and on 10/20 plant specimens are the topic!

You can visit The Field Museum free on 10/30, 10/31, or 11/27.

The [Chicago Wilderness Congress](#) takes place on 11/2 at the University of Illinois-Chicago campus. Pre-registration is required and closes on 10/24!

Morton Arboretum will host a Problem Plant Summit 11/10-11. Public Garden representatives are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact Megan Dunning, Manager of Adult Programs.

DuPage County

The Forest Preserve District is hosting an [Introduction to Prescription Burns](#) talk and demonstration at Churchill Woods on 11/12 and 11/20.

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Greater DuPage Wild Ones is having their [Annual Seed Exchange](#) on 11/12 and holding a special event highlighting [Chicago's Wild Beauty](#) on 11/19 with two fantastic speakers (including INPS's own Chris Benda!).

Kane County

See the most recent issue of [The Treeline](#) for listings.

Lake County

Learn about urban trees and their care in [TreeKeepers](#), an eight session certificate program (Wednesdays or Saturdays, \$80 fee). Upcoming sessions are scheduled for 10/26, 11/2, and 11/5.

Lake to Prairie Wild Ones is hosting a [Growing Living Soil With Native Landscaping](#) conference on 11/5. Registration (and fee) required.

McHenry County

Learn about collecting native seed and starting your own native prairie garden at [Harvesting our Native Prairie](#) on 10/23

Further Afield / Electronic

[Oaks of Illinois Field Day](#), at Starhill Forest Arboretum in Petersburg, IL on 11/12. This is an opportunity to learn all 21 species (and some hybrids) of oaks native to Illinois.

Webinar: [Climate-smart Seedlot Selection Tool](#) on 11/3. Presented by Glen Howe and hosted by the Conservation Biology Institute. "The project's main objective is to produce an interactive mapping application that will help forest managers match seedlots with planting sites."

4th annual [Missouri Botanical Symposium](#) on 11/4.

Also check out [The Outside Calendar](#) for more events.

Volunteer Opportunities

Cook County

[Prairie Pickin'](#) (10/23) seed collection and [Prairie Planting](#) (11/20) at Crabtree Nature Center.

Help remove invasive species at Sagawau during [Ecological Restoration](#) days (11/6, 11/19, 11/20, 11/25), the [R.I.P Workday](#) (11/12) at Little Red Schoolhouse, or the River Trail Nature Center [Restoration Workday](#) (11/12).

Forest Preserve District of Cook County [web page](#) may have additional listings.

The next [Restoring Beaubien Woods](#) day is 11/5 and [Restoring Eggers Grove](#) is 11/12.

DuPage County

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County [web page](#) has lots of listings including **Restoration Workdays** at various prairies and woods (10/22, 10/23, 10/28, 10/29, 11/11, 11/12, and 11/20) and at the Native Plant Nursery (10/21, 10/29, 11/4, and 11/9). Register at 630-933-7681 at least five business days prior.

Kane County

Join in seed collection every Wednesday (August through November; visit the [website](#) or call 630-762-2741). Looking for other ways to volunteer? There is a Volunteer Open House on Oct. 26 (call 630-762-2741 for more information).

Lake County

There are numerous opportunities both during the week and on the weekend 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

Habitat Restoration Days happen throughout the year. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator of McHenry County Conservation District at 815-338-6223 x1229 or email Volunteers@MCCDistrict.org for more information.

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

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Events At A Glance:

Various	Hikes at various Park Districts
10/20-23	WeDigBio
10/22 or 23	NE-INPS Fall Color Hike at Volo Bog
10/23	Harvesting Our Native Prairie
11/2	Chicago Wilderness Conference
11/3	Climate-smart Seedlot Selection Tool
11/4	4 th Annual Miss. Bot. Symposium
11/5	Prepare your Garden for Winter
	Growing Living Soil talk
11/10-11	Problem Plant Summit
11/12	Native Seed Exchange
	Oaks of Illinois Field Day
11/20	Rain Gardens talk

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

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:

President: Andy Olnas

Treasurer: Jason Zylka

Secretary: Christina Pierce

Social Media: Daniel Lopez

Newsletter Editor: Linda MacKechnie