

The Harbinger

Winter 2019 Vol. 36, No. 4

Newsletter of the Illinois Native Plant Society

"...dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities of Illinois."



Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) in bloom.

Still seems odd to see a shrub in bloom while everything else is dormant.

Wayne IL, Kane County, 11/24/19. Photo and caption by Tim Felinski.

Another year comes to an end and what a year it's been for INPS. This issue features changes to the Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species list, an effort to which many INPS members contributed expertise. Without any current paid staff, the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board needs our help now more than ever, so if you observe rare plants in Illinois, please submit a record of your observation to the natural heritage database managers at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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Message from the President



Hi all. It's time to think about renewing INPS memberships. For those able to give a little extra, we now have a place on the form to donate to the Grant Fund or the General Fund, depending on your preferences. We have also added new membership levels: Iliamna (\$1,000), Dodecatheon (\$2,000), and Erigenia (\$5,000). These are lifetime membership levels and donors will be recognized on our website.

With the additional funds from higher levels of giving, INPS could develop new projects supporting Illinois native plants. Some of the ideas that have been considered in the past include increasing awareness of invasive species and how to control them; providing online keys to native plants with links to information about their habitats, morphology, associates, etc.; and creating rare plant recovery grants to help take the survey of rare plants to the final stage of recovery and hopefully delisting.

The Grand Prairie Chapter will be hosting its first ever Annual Gathering in Bloomington/Normal this June. The annual gathering provides a great opportunity to meet with like-minded people and develop friendships. Check our website at https://ill-inps.org/ for further updates.

Floyd Catchpole President, INPS

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SOUTHERN CHAPTER Carbondale

Chris Benda (President)
southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

Check out the <u>Illinois Native</u> <u>Plant Society Events Calendar</u> for Chapter meetings and workshops.

Welcome New Members

Central Chapter

Ed Baumgarten Tony Kloppenborg Lynette Koskey

Grand Prairie Chapter

Michele LeMaistre

Quad Cities Chapter

Becky & Hank Hartman Kay & Fred Turk

Southern Chapter

Nicole Burkett Jennifer Harris Dian Langenhorst & Bill Kisting Avery Shikanai

Forest Glen Chapter

Melinda Febus
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Gregory Walburg & Belinda
Porter

Northeast Chapter

Alison Anastasio Julia Bunn Amy Cannon Sally De Becker Daniella DeRose Elizabeth Falzone Ingrid Fesl Steve Gustafson **Charity Haines** Jacques Hooymans Annie Keller Mary Kay Klenkar Maurya Orr Mario Sprindys Gary Sullivan David Walsh

INPS News

INPS 2020 Research Grant and Survey Grant Programs Announced

Students, citizen scientists, conservation groups and institutions are alerted to consider applying for a grant ranging from \$500-\$1,500 to fund one-year projects. The grant is for research-focused studies on Illinois native plants such as life history, reproductive biology, demography, genetics, comparative site inventories, or community ecology, as well as research on threats to native plants and communities, such as invasive species. Laboratory research as well as projects focused on **research** relating to education about or restoration of native plants and plant communities will be considered. Projects involving student research or volunteers will be given special consideration. **All projects must demonstrate how they support the mission of the Illinois Native Plant Society.**

Full application details and the form for the Research Grant are available at https://ill-inps.org/2020-research-grants/.

Applications must be received by January 31, 2020. Awards will be announced by March 31, 2020.

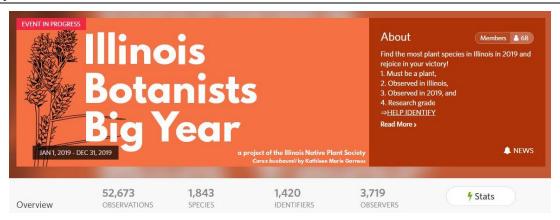
INPS is also excited to initiate a new, second grant program this year: the **Survey Grant Program**. This grant up to \$1,500 will fund searches for Illinois Endangered, Threatened or Rare species for which current data is inadequate to assess their status and for which field surveys and recovery recommendations are needed. INPS is working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to develop a priority list for the surveys. Experienced botanical field surveyors, either independent or associated with an institution, are invited to apply for this grant. Partnerships are encouraged. Interested parties should watch the INPS website for the December online launch of full application details and deadlines/timelines.

INPS is grateful to be able to expand its grant programs this year thanks to contributions from membership fees, generous donations, proceeds from the Annual Gathering, and support from the Central Chapter for a grant conducting studies within the Central counties.

** NEW ** Central Chapter Sponsors Illinois Native Plant Project for Youth

The Central Chapter of INPS is soliciting applications for awards of up to \$500 in funding for Illinois native plant projects in 2020 that focus on involving youth. Completed applications are due by January 15, 2020. The project period for funded applications is March 1 – December 31, 2020. See the application at <u>Youth Project Grant Application</u>.

Help Identify Illinois Plants Online



No observation makes it into the <u>Illinois Botanists Big Year (ILBBY)</u> without at least two identifications. Making IDs is a great way to share your knowledge with Illinois plant newbies, learn more yourself, see the diversity of species found in our area, contribute to science, and get to know other naturalists out there observing.

The Identify page on the iNaturalist website streamlines identification, especially once you start using the keyboard shortcuts. You can access the Identify page from the iNaturalist website by clicking the Identify link in the main header. Then select your filters, such as "flowering plants" and "in Illinois." Then click any image to view it in the "pop-up" mode in order to view the photos larger, add an ID, or see other details. It's recommended to use a laptop or desktop computer, but a larger tablet can be used as well. Can't identify something? Just press "R" to review and move on to the next.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have put in time identifying so far. We have <u>44,521 observations in the Needs</u> <u>ID pool</u> right now (iNaturalist profile required to view the Needs ID pool – why not set one up now?). **Can we half that by January 15th?**

The results of the 2019 Illinois Botanists Big Year will be announced in late January. Stay tuned!

- * See the latest results from the Illinois Botanists Big Year: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/illinois-botanists-big-year-2019
- * Learn more about the identification process including a video tutorial: https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/illinois-botanists-big-year-2019/journal/28122
- * Join the Illinois Botanists Big Year group on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/illinoisbotanistsbigyear/

Save the Dates

April 3-5, 2020. Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium at John A. Logan College in Carterville, Illinois.
Topic is Research and Conservation and event includes a native plant sale co-sponsored with Green Earth
Inc. with plants from local grower Southernwood Gardens.

- Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 9AM until 1PM. **2020 INPS Plant Sale** hosted by the Central Chapter at the same location, the Illinois State Fairgrounds Commodities Pavilion, across from the Grandstand.
- June 21-23, 2020. **INPS Annual Gathering** hosted by the Grand Prairie Chapter in Normal, Illinois.
- July 20-22, 2020. **North American Prairie Conference** in Des Moines, Iowa. Planning is underway and information about registration, featured speakers, field trips, and other event details will be posted here as it becomes available: http://www.northamericanprairie.org/.

CHAPTER NEWS

Northeast Chapter News

Saturday, January 18, 2020, 130PM-4PM: Winter Hike at Wolf Road Prairie. Join other members of the Northeast Chapter of the INPS for a little winter botanizing at Wolf Road Prairie in Westchester, Cook County. As space is limited, RSVP at your earliest convenience here: http://bit.ly/winterwrp. Meet at the north side of the site, at 11225 Constitution Dr, Westchester, IL. Dress for the weather! This event will take place in all but the worst weather conditions. After we hike around the prairie, depending on the group consensus, perhaps we can grab a bite to eat or hike at another nearby preserve.

Sunday, January 26, 2020. 2-5PM: Annual Chapter Meeting, Thatcher Woods Pavilion in River Forest. We will gather for a brief meeting followed by a nature and science-themed book swap. This is a great event to learn about the Illinois Native Plant Society and meet other people interested in native plants. No need to be a member to attend. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Types of Books to Bring for the Book Swap: Field guides to anything related to the natural world, and fiction or nonfiction related to nature and science. (Please do not bring magazines, journals, or extremely outdated textbooks.) **Help us plan by RSVPing here: http://bit.ly/ne2020

Read the latest issue of *The Nodding Onion*, Newsletter of the Northeast Chapter: https://ill-inps.org/wpcontent/uploads/2019/10/2019_10_NoddingOnion.pdf

Southern Chapter News

Chris Benda has stepped down as president of the chapter and will present a program in Carbondale on January 21st about the accomplishments from the past decade. A cadaver botany and potluck is also being planned for February.

Proposed Changes to the Illinois Endangered and Threatened Plant Species List

Text by Paul Marcum, Botanist, Wetland Plant Ecologist; Photos by Paul Marcum and Chris Benda, Botanist.

Every five years, the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board's (IESPB) Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) meets to discuss potential changes to the status of Illinois plants and makes recommendations for state listing, delisting, or status changes. The plant ESTAC is made up of 11 members, including several INPS members. Illinois is home to nearly 3,500 plant species including around 2,300 natives. Reviewing the status of so many plant species is truly a daunting task but that is just what the IESPB ESTAC for plants has recently completed. This article will provide a brief summary of the process and a list of changes that have been proposed.

Organized by Dr. Janice Coons, retired professor from Eastern Illinois University, and Dr. Jeremie Fant, Conservation Scientist at the Chicago Botanic Garden, meetings of the plants ESTAC were held across the state (at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign; at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Wilmington, and at the Shawnee National Forest office in Harrisburg). These meetings were open to botanists throughout Illinois as well as the general public and all were well attended. Data on the natural and life histories, population trends, and current and potential threats to species were discussed and the status of 30 species was approved through the committee for change. Proposals were written outlining our knowledge of each species in Illinois, and status changes were voted on by the full IESPB. In the end, it was decided that 21 plant species warranted a change in status (delist, change from threatened to endangered, newly listed as endangered, or newly listed as threatened). The following is a summary of the proposed changes, approved by the plants ESTAC and the IESPB and now working their way toward final determination through the governor's office.

Delist:

Carex communis L.H. Bailey (Fibrous-rooted sedge) – This rare sedge species was first listed in 1981 as endangered before being downgraded to threatened in 1999. Continued searches have successfully found new records of this species and delisting is now thought to be warranted. It is currently known



Fibrous-rooted sedge (Carex communis)



Beaked hazelnut (Corylus cornuta)

from 23 populations in 6 counties scattered across Illinois.

Clematis occidentalis (Hornem.) DC. (Mountain clematis) – This species has three varieties across North America with our Illinois variety being *C. occidentalis* var. occidentalis. Recently the single Illinois occurrence (Jo Daviess County) has been lost and this species is now considered extirpated.

Corylus cornuta Marsh. (Beaked hazelnut) – Like the mountain clematis above, this rare northern shrub was only ever known from a single location in Jo Daviess County. This species is now considered extirpated.

Change from threatened to endangered:

Cirsium pitcheri (Torr. ex Eaton) Torr. & A. Gray (Pitcher's thistle) – Pitcher's thistle is an endemic species to the western Great Lakes shoreline. It was previously extirpated from Illinois and is currently listed as threatened federally. Reintroduction efforts have established a few populations along Lake Michigan in northeast Illinois; however, this species continues to have issues with recruitment and continued threats from habitat loss and degradation, invasive species, and insect pests.

Delphinium carolinianum Walter (Carolina larkspur) – Carolina larkspur is currently only known from 11 populations on limestone glades in a few western Illinois counties. Only a single population is considered a protected occurrence by the Natural Heritage database.

Helianthus angustifolius L. (Narrow-leaved sunflower) – This rare sunflower is only known from six total occurrences in Illinois (Massac and Pope counties) and only a single occurrence has been seen since 2007.

Hymenopappus scabiosaeus L'Hér. (Old plainsman) – As the common name indicates, this rare member of the Asteraceae family is more common southwest of Illinois. In Illinois, it is known from seven occurrences in three counties (Iroquois, Kankakee, and Mason).

Larix laricina (DuRoi) K. Koch (American larch) – A species of peat soils of northern bogs and fens, it has probably always been uncommon to rare in Illinois. Continued habitat loss, hydrology alteration, and competition from invasive species threaten this species which now only occurs at seven occurrences in Lake and McHenry counties.

Melanthium virginicum (Virginia bunchflower) – Once known from 16 west-central Illinois counties, this species is now restricted to just eight. Only three occurrences are considered protected by the Natural Heritage database. Work is underway to introduce new populations for this species but many of the remnant locations are in danger of extirpation.

Polygonatum pubescens (Willd.) Pursh (Downy Solomon's seal) – Formerly known from eight north-central and northeast counties, this species is now restricted to just two counties (Lake and Cook). Only three occurrences are considered protected by the Natural Heritage database.

Ranunculus rhomboideus Goldie (Prairie buttercup) – This rare and early flowering buttercup occurs in dry gravel and dolomite prairies in north-central Illinois. It is known from eight occurrences; however, only four have been seen since 2007.

Scirpus polyphyllus Vahl (Leafy bulsedge) – This rare sedge has five known occurrences in Illinois; however, only two have been seen since 2007. A species of open forested seeps, leafy bulsedge has been threatened by increasing invasive species and hydrologic alterations.



Pitcher's thistle (Cirsium pitcher)



Narrow-leaved sunflower (Helianthus angustifolius)



Old plainsman (Hymenopappus scabiosaeus)



American larch (Larix laricina)



Virginia bunchflower (Melanthium virginicum)



Downy Solomon's seal (Polygonatum pubescens)

Newly listed as endangered:

Carex debilis Michx. (White-edge sedge) – Only five Illinois records from four counties are known for this rare sedge. Also, two of the records are more than 65 years old (McHenry County from 1800s and Hardin from 1954) and only Lee County has a recent observation.

Carex opaca (F.J. Herm.) P. Rothr. & Reznicek (Opaque oval sedge) – This rare sedge was first considered a variety of *C. bicknellii* (Bicknell's oval sedge) and was later elevated to species rank. In Illinois, this species is only known from four locations in Perry, Saline, St. Clair, and Washington counties.

Carex straminea Willd. (Eastern straw sedge) – This rare sedge is uncommon to rare throughout its range and in Illinois is restricted to sandy wetlands in the Kankakee Sands Region of the Grand Prairie Natural Division.

Dendrolycopodium hickeyi (W.H. Wagner, Beitel, & Moran) A. Haines (Hickey's ground-pine)—Similar and often confused with Illinois endangered *D. dendroideum* (ground-pine), Hickey's ground-pine is even less common. It is known from two locations in Cook and Iroquois counties.

Juglans cinerea L. (Butternut) – Once common and widespread throughout the northeast United States, the species is now rarely or infrequently encountered across its range. In Illinois, as in the rest of its range, the species has been decimated by *Sirococcus clavigignenti-juglandacearum* (butternut canker). Recent surveys in Illinois have found very few uninfected populations.

Mimosa nuttallii (DC. ex Britton & Rose) B. L. Turner (Nuttall's sensitive-briar) – While the nomenclature of this species has a long history of confusion it is clear this rare hill prairie species is native to and rare in Illinois. It is important to note, however, some of the Illinois collections (Chicago Region) are apparently adventive, being found along roadsides railroads.





Opaque oval sedge (Carex opaca)



Eastern straw sedge (Carex straminea)



Hickey's ground-pine (Dendrolycopodium hickeyi)



Butternut (Juglans cinereal)



Nuttall's sensitive-briar (Mimosa nuttallii)

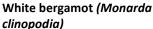
Newly listed as threatened:

Festuca paradoxa Desv. (Clustered fescue) – Many of the records for this native fescue are old. This species is known from scattered locations across Illinois and is now rarely encountered.

Monarda clinopodia L. (White bergamot) – Illinois is at the west edge of this species' range and it appears to have always been uncommon in the state. Only seven records have been observed since 1975 and only three have been reported since 2000 (Montgomery, Johnson, and Fayette counties). It is a large plant with a beautiful and showy inflorescence and is not likely to be overlooked.

Ranunculus harveyi (A. Gray) Britton (Harvey's buttercup) – This rare buttercup is more common southwest of Illinois and is known from scattered locations in sandstone ravines in the southern half of Illinois.





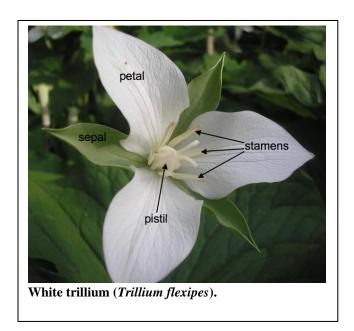


Harvey's buttercup (Ranunculus harveyi)

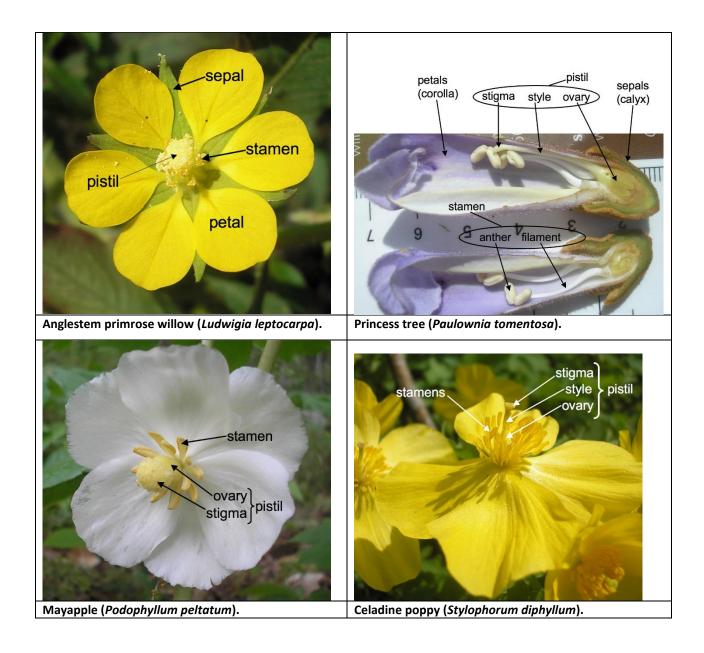
Botany Basics: Flowers

By Abel Kinser, Botanist.

Many flowers have sepals, petals, stamens, and pistils. If any of these parts are lacking, the flower is considered to be incomplete. Flowers with all four parts are said to be complete. Here are some photos that illustrate complete flowers. Note that pistils often have a stigma, style, and ovary while stamens are usually differentiated into a filament and anther. Collectively the petals form the corolla and the sepals form the calyx.



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Meet IDNR Plant Ecologist Philip Cox

By Philip Cox, Plant Ecologist, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

I grew up in Northwest Macoupin Co. where I still live. After receiving my degree in Forest Hydrology with a minor in Soil Science from Southern Illinois University, I worked at Illinois Forest Products in Beardstown, IL as a consulting forester. I then took a position at the National Great River Research and Education Center (NGRREC) where I did forest inventory and research in the big river floodplains. I also conducted forestry and hill prairie management on a nature preserve owned by Lewis and Clark College. Staying with NGRREC I switched positions to become a land conservation specialist, working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). After that I became a



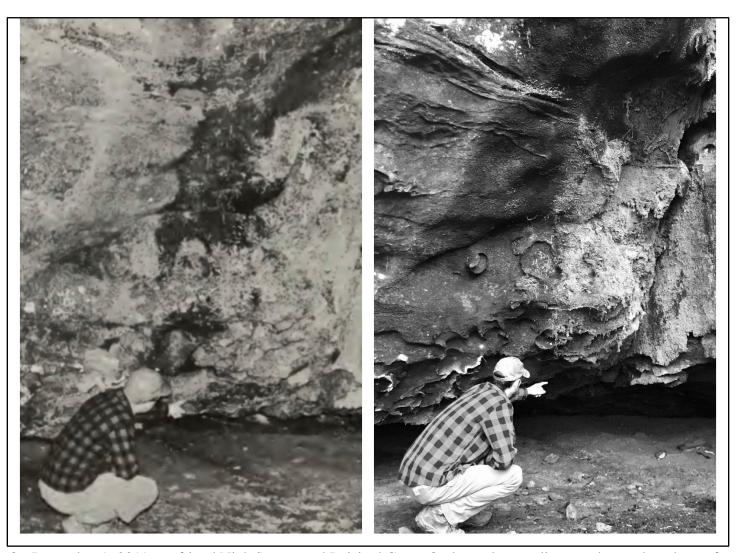
Philip with sea trout.

forester for the Illinois Recreational Access Program (IRAP). I then took the position of CREP coordinator for IDNR.

In my current position as Plant Ecologist with the Division of Natural Heritage, I will be working with the Illinois Natural Area Inventory (INAI) and all the different plant communities associated with it. I will also be helping to develop recovery plans for Endangered & Threatened plant species throughout the state. My goal for this position is to become an expert in all the plant communities in the state so I can aid the Division with identifying new sites and provide guidance for management of existing sites. In my free time I like to fish, hunt, cook, look at plants, and conduct prairie and forest management.

Plant Profile: Filmy Fern

By Chris Benda, Botanist.



On December 9, 2019 my friend Nick Seaton and I visited Camp Ondessonk to replicate a photo taken there of Robert A. Evers 60 years ago to the day. Evers was a botanist at the Illinois Natural History Survey and he made a huge contribution to science by collecting plants extensively throughout Illinois. In 1959, he surveyed the known handful of locations of filmy fern in Illinois for a publication he would later produce titled "The Filmy Fern in Illinois."

In 1999, John Schwegman repeated his survey, with Evers' field notes in hand. John also found new locations of the filmy fern, bringing the total number of sites with filmy fern populations to 16, including a county record for Hardin County.

Filmy fern is an endangered species in Illinois and is rare throughout much of its range in the southeastern United States. Formerly called *Trichomanes boschianum*, the current name is *Vandenboschia boschianum*. This species has translucent leaves that are only one cell layer thick and occurs in the deep, dark, and moist crevices of sandstone overhangs in the Shawnee Hills Natural Division of Johnson and Pope counties, including at Camp Ondessonk. It also occurs in a limestone cave in Hardin County.





Santa's Seed Dispersal: A Christmas Poem

Santa's Seed Dispersal By Lindaeus, A Christmas Poem

T'was the night AFTER Christmas, and on the way North Santa reloaded his sleigh with seeds he'd toss forth. One bag marked PRAIRIE, another marked WOODS, another marked WETLANDS, and he delivered the goods.

On Carex, On Juncus, the new reindeer names, he hustled them on, snapping the reins. He reached in each bag for a fistful dispersal, and tossed them appropriately, no need for rehearsal.

On Quercus, on Salix, shouted Santa, firmly seated, We must replenish the seed bank, the soil now depleted. The habitats will flourish, new sprouts will delight ecologists and naturalists, a beautiful sight.

No more degrading of our wounded land, The soil scars healed with seeds from Sants's hand. On Aster, on Rubus, with the nose so bright, Our planet is blessed, on this after-Christmas night.

Líndaeus is Línda W. Curtís Carexpert and Carexmatic Speaker

Other News & Web Links

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation's New Pollinator Meadows Pilot Grant Program

ICECF's new Pollinator Meadows Pilot Grant Program will support the conversion of turf grass to native pollinator habitat in public spaces (e.g., museum and college campuses, nature centers, municipal building sites, etc.)



by reimbursing up to \$20,000 or 50% (whichever is less) of the costs related to the design, installation, and first year of care on a minimum of 2 acres (can be split between two sites). The grant application is in development and will be made available to interested parties that fill out the Interest Survey at https://forms.gle/Gka265rKbpFBQg5j7 by December 31. The grant application deadline is expected to be in

early March of 2020. More information about the program is available at

https://www.illinoiscleanenergy.org/natural-areas-program/pollinator-meadows-pilot-program.

Ohio Researchers Find New Hope For Fighting Ash Borer

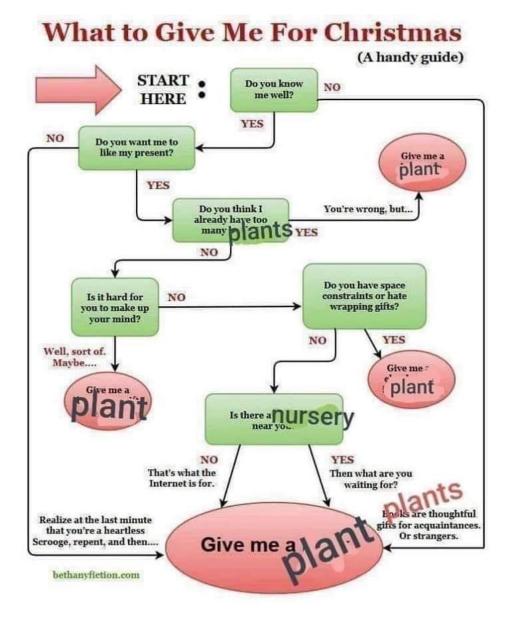
Researchers at the U.S. Forest Service's Northern Research Station near Delaware State Park have spent the last several years studying what are known as lingering ash—trees that have fared much better against the emerald ash borer. The invasive beetle, which came to North America from Asia about 20 years ago, has killed millions of ash trees around the Midwest. The article (and radio link for an audio version) describes the two reasons why lingering ash is better at surviving. https://radio.wosu.org/post/attack-clones-ohio-researchers-find-new-hope-fighting-ash-borer#stream/0

The Ghosts of the Grass-Pinks (and Other Penalties of an Ecological Education)

Check out the <u>blog</u> of the <u>Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI)</u> for this and other intriguing articles. "One of the biggest failures of the conservation community is that sites that are small, or isolated, or expensive (which are often the rarest and most critical) get sacrificed. In a justifiable effort to be efficient and effective, to get the biggest bang for the buck, most of the large conservation agencies and organizations prioritize large "resilient" landscapes in rural areas. This is a good strategy in many respects, but it comes at a cost: it only captures a portion of the biodiversity that needs saving." The Southeastern Grasslands Initiative (SGI) is a collaboration of leaders in international biodiversity conservation led by the Austin Peay State University Center of Excellence for Field Biology in Clarksville, TN. Its focal region includes parts or all of 23 states forming the "biogeographic Southeast." The northern boundary is formed by the southern limit of glaciation during the Ice Ages and the western boundary is the eastern edge of the Great Plains. SGI has mapped the sandstone glades of southern Illinois's Shawnee Hills ecoregion.

The Southern Illinois University Press has made Robert H. Mohlenbrock's *Illustrated Flora of Illinois* available to anyone to download for free. The <u>index</u> includes links to 14 chapters, including <u>Sedges: Carex</u>, <u>Sedges: Cyperus to Scleria</u>, <u>Ferns</u>, and several chapters of Flowering Plants and Grasses.

Botany Humor



ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY P.O. Box 271 Control of the PLANT SOCIETY

Carbondale, IL 62903

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Frost flower on the Shawnee National Forest, November. Photo: Mike Chervinko.

The Harbinger Winter 2019

You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at http://www.ill-inps.org/online-membership-form/.

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!

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Join us! Renew	val Additional Donation	□ Student\$15.00
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