



# The Shooting Star

## NEWSLETTER

of the

Illinois Native Plant Society – Southern Chapter

# April 2012

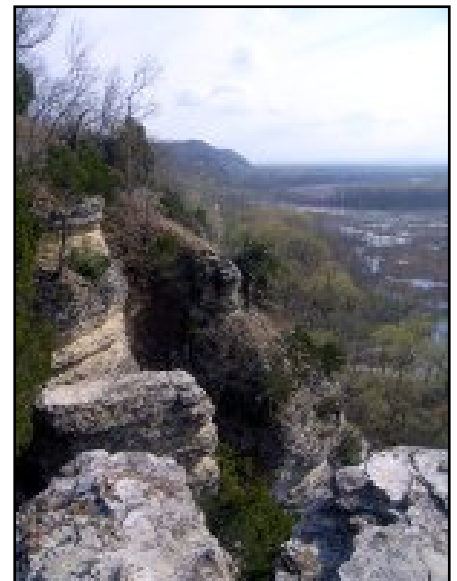
“...dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois.”

## A Message from the Board of Directors

One of the main goals of the Illinois Native Plant Society is to educate people about the importance of native plants. They literally provide ecosystem services essential to our survival and here in the southern part of the state, we are blessed with an amazing diversity of native plants, including the spring ephemerals. These plants are called spring ephemerals because they are visible for only a brief time in the spring. These plants flower early by utilizing the high amount of light available to the forest floor before the leaves of the canopy trees shade out the forest understory. There are many places in southern Illinois to see the amazing display of spring ephemeral wildflowers, such as the Little Grand Canyon, the Trillium Trail at Giant City State Park, and Heron Pond at the Cache River State Natural Area. See our wildflower quiz on page 7 to test your knowledge of our most beautiful spring ephemeral wildflowers.

On April 14<sup>th</sup>, the Shawnee National Forest will hold LaRue Pine Hills Appreciation Day from 9:30am until 2:00pm at the Trail of Tears State Forest in Union County. Several on the INPS board will be leading hikes and sharing information about the incredible diversity of this special place. Scott Ballard, IDNR biologist, will be the featured speaker.

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will hold a Spring Social at the Lakeside Pavilion next to Round Bluff Nature Preserve at Ferne Clyffe State Park. This site has an easy and short hiking trail with many neat plants on the sandstone glades and cliff ledges. The purpose of this event is for plant enthusiasts to have an opportunity to meet one another over good food in a lovely setting. Want to learn how to identify some common plants? Please bring a dish to share and after lunch we will split into teams and have a plant scavenger hunt!



*The cliffs at LaRue Pine Hills*



Do you like Southern Illinois Natural Areas? Please see our web album on our facebook page featuring photos of many of the premier natural areas of our area! Copy the web address below into your internet browser and you can view the photo albums without having to sign up...or if you have a facebook profile, please click on the “like” button to add to your favorite pages. [www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants](http://www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants)



# 2012 INPS Spring Social

Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at Noon  
Lakeside Pavilion, Round Bluff Nature Preserve  
Ferne Clyffe State Park, Goreville, IL

**Please join us for a day of good food and great company in a lovely setting!**

The Lakeside Pavilion is the ideal place for a gathering. Next to Ferne Clyffe Lake, the pavilion is large with many picnic tables. We will provide grillables (meat and vegetarian options), but please bring a side or dessert of your choice. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be provided.

After lunch, we will walk the short trail around Round Bluff Nature Preserve. The site contains many rare plants including fameflower and Hay-scented Fern. Plus we will have a plant scavenger hunt! We will split into teams and search for 50 species of common plants that will be located along the loop trail around the bluff.

Directions: <http://g.co/maps/m6644>

Please RSVP to [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com) (for planning purposes)



**This is a family event that is free and open to the public**



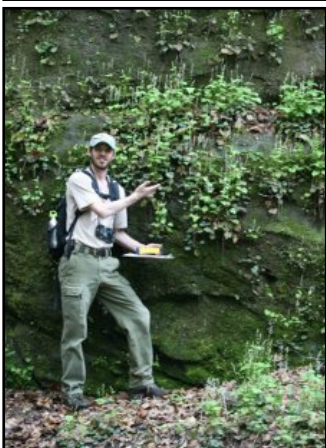


# Last Month's Events

## The Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois That You've Never Been To"

Last month, chapter President Chris Benda presented a talk highlighting the most beautiful, interesting, off-the-beaten-path places to visit in southern Illinois. Well over a hundred people packed into the Carbondale Township Hall, with many sitting on the floor or standing in the aisles and doorways. After spending four years exploring the best natural communities in the southern 19 counties in Illinois, the natural areas ecologist didn't disappoint and after presenting the top 10 places, proceeded to list 10 additional sites worth visiting! A list of the 20 sites along with a map was available at the talk. The presentation was such a huge success that we may feature the program again in the fall.

The next day, over 30 excited hikers met to explore one of the featured sites, a large mesic sandstone cliff called Degognia Canyon. This site is in northwest Jackson County, near Piney Creek Ravine, and harbors many uncommon plants on the cliffs and in the mesic ravines. We observed the rare *Ranunculus harveyi* in flower and the glacial relict species *Mitella diphylla* all over the cliffs in full bloom. Other neat finds were liverleaf, walking fern, sweet cicely, cleft phlox, maidenhair fern, adder's tongue fern, large-flowered trillium, purple trillium, dutchman's breeches, red-bellied snake, long-tailed salamander, gray treefrog and many other things! See more photos on our facebook page...[www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants](http://www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants)



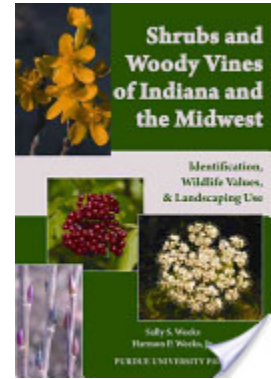
**Botanists Becoming Endangered Species** - An alarming trend has been identified in natural areas management—and it has nothing to do with climate change! However, it does involve the potential loss of a 'keystone species' in the natural areas field: the botanist. Read more at...

<http://nyfablog.org/2012/03/02/botanists-becoming-endangered-species/>

# New Book: Shrubs and Woody Vines of Indiana and the Midwest

## Identification, Wildlife Values, and Landscaping Use

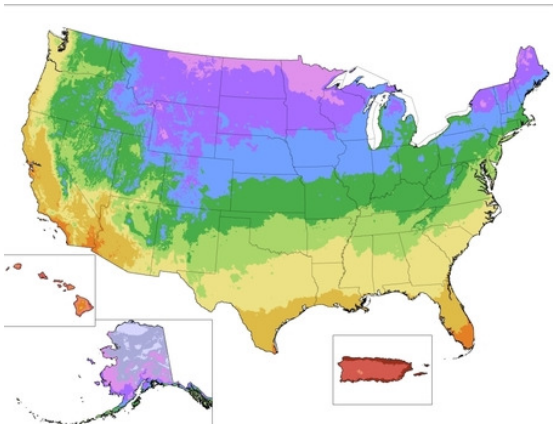
As the definitive identification guide to the shrubs and woody vines of Indiana, this book provides coverage of approximately 90 percent of the species that are found in surrounding Midwestern states. As well as covering indigenous species, it also includes all currently known invasive shrubs and woody vines. Written by two leading experts on woody plants and their myriad values, the guide is prepared in the same attractive, easy-to-use format as their best-selling Native Trees of the Midwest.



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## Gardening Map Of Warming U.S. Has Plant Zones Moving North

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2012/01/25/145855948/gardening-map-of-warming-u-s-has-plant-zones-moving-north>



It's official: Gardeners and farmers can count on warmer weather. If that's you, it might be a good time to rethink those flower and vegetable beds for this year's growing season.

That's the word from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which released a new version of its "Plant Hardiness Zone Map" this week, the first update since 1990. The color-coded zones on this map of the United States are widely used as a guide for what perennial flowers will survive in a particular area, or when to plant your vegetables.

Here's how it works: The higher the zone number, the warmer your average low temperature during wintertime.

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## Related April Events *(see also flyers next page)*

- April 4<sup>th</sup>: Friends of Giant City State Park are hosting a Tree ID Workshop at Giant City State Park at 2:00pm. Meet at the Visitor's Center, event is free and open to the public.
- April 7<sup>th</sup>: Wildflower Walks at Crab Orchard NWR at 10:00am at Rocky Bluff Hiking Trail.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>: The SIU Restoration Club is having a workday at 10am. Meet at CEHS parking lot (off of Poultry Center Dr. just west of Campus Lake). Gloves and water will be provided, but bring a lunch. see <http://restorationclub.rso.siu.edu/> for a map and more information
- April 20<sup>th</sup>: The Shawnee National Forest presents a guided hike at Little Grand Canyon at 9:30am.
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Crab Orchard Earth Day events, (618)997-3344.

Visit the Beautify Southern Illinois calendar at <http://www.beautifysouthernillinois.org/events/calendar.htm> for more!



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## Bringing Nature Home: How to Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants.

The Doug Tallamy presentation is now available online! Please share this video with others and spread the word about the importance of landscaping with native plants! See video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2ID0IRQ5Mg>



*Let's go  
outside!!!!!!*

## *Wildflower hike, birding the bottoms, herps hunt*

**Saturday, 7 April, Salt Lick Point  
Spring Wildflower Walk, 9 a.m. to  
noon:** Enjoy the stunning beauty of  
spring ephemeral wildflowers along the  
flat, slow and easy Johnson Trail at Salt  
Lick Point Land & Water Reserve in  
Valmeyer. Biologist Debbie Newman,  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission,  
will serve as lead interpreter for the hike.



Johnson Trail wildflowers, Paul Falckner, Clifftop.

Meet at the Salt Lick Point Trailhead parking area, near the Rock City entrance, at 9 AM. Sponsored by the Salt Lick Point Stewardship Committee, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Clifftop, Southwestern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development, and Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society. Pre-registration is not required and the program is free and open to the public.

**Saturday, 21 April, Birding the Bottomlands:** Go birding with experts in the morning, attend a birding festival in the afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity to discover migratory songbirds in their most vibrant plumages. Dive to the various birding hot spots highlighted in the "Birding the Bottomlands" brochure to meet birding experts and get tips on identification between 6 and 10 a.m. Canoeing trips also are available at Turkey Bayou and Wilkinson Island – you may either bring your own non-motorized watercraft, or, on a first-come/first serve basis, use one of a limited supply of canoes. Guided canoe tours will leave at 7, 8, and 9 a.m.; arrive early at these sites to register. The birding festival runs from noon to 3 p.m. at Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site. Activities include wildlife management demonstrations and presentations by Free Again, Inc., which include live birds or prey. A large flock of organizations are sponsoring this event, including the Middle Mississippi River Partnership, Chester Chamber of Commerce and Tourism, Southern Illinois and Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Societies, Kaskaskia Lock and Dam, U.S. Forest Service, and Clifftop. More information, maps, and drive-to birding site locations are available at [www.midmiss.org](http://www.midmiss.org) or by e-mail to John Harteb, U.S. Forest Service, [John\\_Harteb@fws.gov](mailto:John_Harteb@fws.gov).

**Saturday, 28 April, White Rock Herps Hunt:** Learn about our reptile and amphibian (herps) neighbors in a two-part program. Local acclaimed amateur herpetologist Hugh Gilbert will conduct a seminar on the natural history of herps in Monroe County from 10 a.m. to noon at the Monroe County Annex, 901 Illinois St., in Waterloo. Live herps will help with the program. Then, from 1:30 PM until 4 PM, Hugh will lead a "Herps Hunt" field trip at White Rock Nature Preserve near Valmeyer. Clifftop, the University of Illinois Extension Service, the SWIRC&D, and Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Society are co-hosting. Pre-registration, for either or both program parts, is required by 26 April at [clifftop@htc.net](mailto:clifftop@htc.net) or 618-458-4674.

*Please save the date: Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ ~ ~  
Wildflower Hike at White Rock!*



## LaRue-Pine Hills Appreciation Day

April 14th, 2012  
9:30am-2pm

Join us for a day in nature! Enjoy guided field trips to see unique birds, wildflowers, reptiles, aquatic life, geological features, plant communities and more in the world-renowned LaRue-Pine Hills Research Natural Area.

**Where:** Trail of Tears State Forest  
Go south of Murphysboro and turn onto  
State Forest Road off of Hwy 127

**When:** 9:30am-2pm  
Registration begins at 8:45  
at Main Picnic Shelter  
Kid's activities provided for ages 5-10

**Zam-Birding Trip:** meet at  
Pine Hills campground  
(no registration necessary.)



**For more information:**  
<http://fs.usda.gov/shawnee>  
Shawnee National Forest 618-253-7114

**\*This is a free, family-friendly event and will take place rain or shine.  
Bring a sack lunch and a lawn chair, come dressed to hike or canoe.\***

Participants will carpool to those fieldtrips at LaRue-Pine Hills





# Birding the Bottomlands



**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

The Middle Mississippi River Partnership has teamed up with the Chester Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau, Southern Illinois and Kaskaskia Valley Audubon Societies, Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site, Clifftop, and the Kaskaskia Lock and Dam to host the 2012 Birding the Bottomlands Event.

This event will highlight the Birding the Bottomlands map and brochure, which identifies dozens of public birding locations along the middle Mississippi River, in both Illinois and Missouri. Birders of all ages will have an opportunity to view migratory songbirds in their most vibrant colors.

Ten birding locations will be staffed by expert birders; two sites will offer canoe birding adventures. Our afternoon festival will feature many conservation related educational and demonstration activities.



© Brian Smith

## Birding Field Session 6 - 10 AM

Expert birders will be stationed at the U.S. Forest Service's Oakwood Bottoms, Missouri Department of Conservation's Seventy Six and Red Rock Landing Conservation Areas, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wilkenson Island Division. Arrive at your convenience and explore these "treasures of the middle Mississippi". Maps, birding charts and expert advice will be available.

Participants interested in a canoeing adventure should visit the U.S. Forest Service's Turkey Bayou and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wilkenson Island Division. You may provide your own non-motorized watercraft, or a limited supply of canoes will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Guided tours will leave at 7:00, 8:00 and 9:00 AM. Arrive early to register!

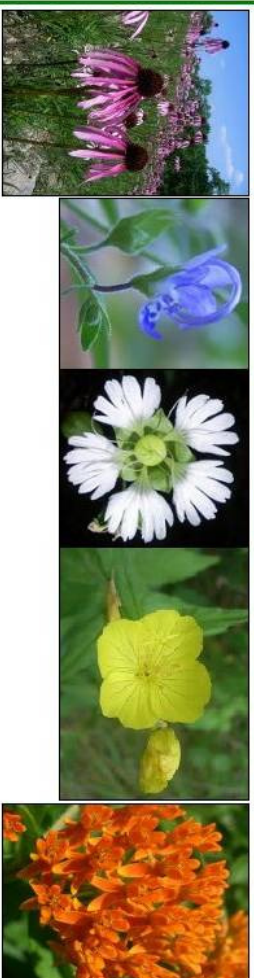
## Birding Festival 12 - 3 PM

Fort Kaskaskia State Historic Site - Visit the site of the fort constructed by the French in 1759 Illinois's first capital.

Enjoy a large selection of wildlife management demonstrations and family friendly activities. To celebrate Birding the Bottomlands, a cake cutting ceremony will take place immediately followed by several presentations and Free Again!, Inc. will be there with live birds of prey!

For lodging and meal venues in and around Chester, IL, or to get updated information related to severe weather please visit [www.midmiss.org](http://www.midmiss.org)

[www.midmiss.org](http://www.midmiss.org)



## The Flora of Southern Illinois

**Summer Course offering  
PLB 451 - 3 credit hours  
June 16<sup>th</sup> to August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

In this course, you will learn about the southern Illinois natural divisions and natural community classification with an emphasis on the identification, distribution, and ecology of the natural and introduced floristic components. This is a field-based course wherein the students travel to local natural areas for plant identification. The class will meet every Saturday from 9am to 5pm and travel to specific field sites throughout southern Illinois. Limited time will be spent in the laboratory. Prerequisite: PLB 304 or consent of instructor. Lab fee: \$15

About the instructor: Chris Benda has spent the last four years as Regional Ecologist for the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update. This work took him throughout southern Illinois, tasked with finding the most undisturbed plant communities left in the state. He is proficient in identification of the local flora and has extensive knowledge about the natural areas of southern Illinois. Chris is a Technical Expert Consultant for the 2014 list revision of threatened and endangered plants for the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board and is serving his third term as President of the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society.





# SRPING WILDFLOWER QUIZ!!!



1. \_\_\_\_\_



2. \_\_\_\_\_



3. \_\_\_\_\_



4. \_\_\_\_\_



5. \_\_\_\_\_



6. \_\_\_\_\_



7. \_\_\_\_\_



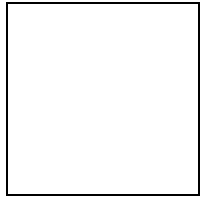
8. \_\_\_\_\_



9. \_\_\_\_\_

Answers to wildflower quiz: 1. *Erythronium americanum* - Yellow Trout Lily; 2. *Polemonium reptans* - Jacob's ladder; 3. *Dicentra canadensis* - Squirrel Corn; 4. *Hepatica acutiloba* - Liverleaf; 5. *Sanguinaria canadensis* - Bloodroot; 6. *Claytonia virginiana* - Spring Beauty; 7. *Delphinium tricornis* - Dwarf Larkspur; 8. *Stylophorum diphyllum* - Celandine Poppy; 9. *Phacelia purshii* - Miami Mist

INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER  
P.O. Box 271  
Carbondale, IL 62903-0271



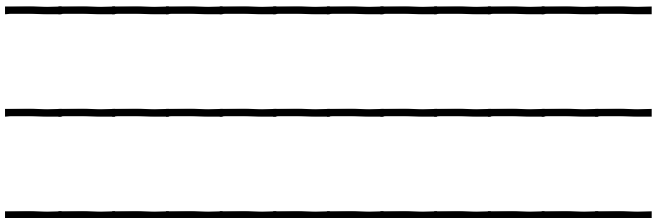
[southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)  
[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French’s Shooting Star

**Board Members**

President: Chris Benda  
Vice-President: Chris Evans  
Secretary: Karla Gage  
Treasurer: Rhonda Rothrock  
At-large: Nancy Garwood  
At-large: Jody Shimp



Special thanks to **Chris Benda** for the **Top 10 Places** talk and outing last month!

**INPS 2012 CALENDAR**

Upcoming Events:	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
<b>April 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>- INPS Spring Social at Ferne Clyffe State Park</b>		<b>Goreville, IL</b>
<b>May 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- Bruce Henry / Kevin Rohling</b>	<i>TNC Strike Team efforts</i>	<b>CTH</b>
<b>May TBA</b>	<b>- Gordon Tucker</b>	<i>Sedge ID Workshop</i>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>June 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- Matt Lechner / Scott Crist <i>Shawnee National Forest Land Management</i></b> <b>CTH</b>		

Please look for more programming in upcoming newsletters for 2012.

**Past Events:**

<b>January 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- Damon Lesmeister</b>	<i>Conflicts in Conservation</i>	<b>CTH</b>
<b>February 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- Josh Nickelson</b>	<i>Winter Tree ID</i>	<b>SIU campus, Ag bldg.</b>
<b>March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>- Chris Benda</b>	<i>Top 10 Places in Southern Illinois</i>	<b>CTH</b>
<b>March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>- Chris Benda</b>	<i>Hike to Degognia Canyon</i>	<b>Rockwood, IL</b>

CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 Main St.

**Half of Species Found by “Great Plant Hunters”** More than 50% of the world's plant species have been discovered by 2% of plant collectors, scientists have found. With an estimated 15-30% of the world's flowering plants yet to be discovered, finding and recording new plant species is vital to our understanding of global biodiversity. Read more at... <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/03/120324150300.htm>