



The Shooting Star

July 2018

Newsletter

“Dedicated to the study, appreciation, and conservation of the native flora and natural communities in Illinois.”

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Milkweeds of Illinois
Tuesday, July 17th at 6:30 p.m.
Carbondale Township Hall
216 E. Monroe St. Carbondale, IL

Join us as John Schwegmann discusses the habitat suitability, seed dispersal mechanisms, and pollination systems of the 18 milkweed (*Asclepias*) species that occur in Illinois and one introduced species! Milkweeds can be found throughout every county in Illinois and occupy many habitats, including roadsides, prairies, hardwood forests, marshes, and swamps. Their flowers are highly specialized – don’t miss the chance to learn about these fascinating plants and their unique features!

John Schwegmann attended Southern Illinois University for his Bachelors of Arts in Zoology (wildlife biology) in 1964 and Master's of Arts in Botany in 1969. He has worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources at the Mermet Lake State Fish and Wildlife Conservation Area and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, establishing a natural area program and a native plant conservation program. He principally promoted and was the first president of the formation of The Natural Areas Association, a professional society for nature conservationist, and was a founding member of the Illinois Native Plant Society, additionally authoring "The Natural Heritage of Illinois."



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

Hello members!

Summertime is here in southern Illinois and so far it's been great. Regular rains are keeping things green and I have seen many neat flowers on my explorations throughout the area. A friend and I found Blue Jasmine (*Clematis crispa*), a state endangered species neither of us had seen before, down by Horseshoe Lake conservation area in Alexander County. It had not been seen

"There's so much more we need to do to save our rare plants."

in this location since 1993 and it was a fortuitous encounter because a week later the roadside was mowed. There's much more we need to do to save our rare plants.

Earlier in June we hosted a sedge identification workshop that was extremely informative and fun. Justin Thomas of NatureCITE was our instructor and did an excellent job teaching the class about the wonderful world of sedge identification. Read more about the workshop on page 4.

Our July program will feature John Schwegman, retired botanist from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and longtime Illinois Native Plant Society member. John will talk about the many species of milkweed in Illinois and their pollinator dynamics. See the flyer on the cover page.



Blue Jasmine,
Clematis crispa

Photo courtesy, Chris Benda

In other news, we are looking to fill some board positions as a couple officers are resigning at the end of the year. Vice President Chris Evans and Treasurer Sonja Lallemand will be stepping down and

we are looking for new members to add to the board. Let us know if you would like to nominate someone (including yourself) and we thank Chris and Sonja immensely for serving on the board and helping to make the society thrive.

Please see our calendar of events on page 3 and I look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events this year!
~ Christopher David Benda

Feature Plant of the Month

Farkleberry,
Vaccinium arboreum

Also known as high bush blueberry, its fruit is edible, although it can range from bitter to sweet in taste. Traverse rocky open woods, dry slopes, ridges, along bluffs, and glades, notably with acidic soils overlying sandstone, chert, or igneous rock. You will commonly find this shrub around eastern red cedar and post oak. The leathery, dark green, shiny leaves are 1 to 3 inches, slightly hairy underneath and lightly serrated to smooth margins. The bark has a rusty brown reddish color, growing more gray, somewhat shreddy in nature as it matures.

Southern Illinois is in its northern range limit. Deerberry (more rare) and low bush blueberry are closely related, also bearing sweet fruit for a tasty wild edible.

"As long as you have a blue or black fruit from a *Vaccinium* shrub, you know that it is edible and in most cases, delicious."

- *Nature's Garden*, by Samuel Thayer -

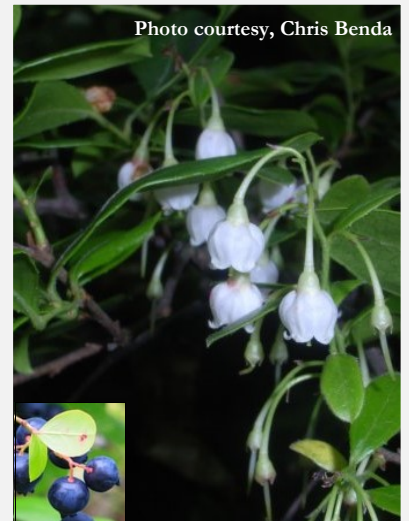


Photo courtesy, Chris Benda



2018



Southern Chapter

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Calendar of Events

July 17	John E. Schwegman	Milkweeds of Illinois	CTH
Aug. 21	Erin Medvecz	Effects of Sericea Lespedeza on Native Plant Communities	CTH
Sept. 18	Chris Benda	Flora of the Illinois Coastal Plain	CTH
Oct. 14	Scratch Brewery	Hike and Brewery Tour	Ava, IL
Nov. 20	David Barfknecht	Community Changes in Southern Illinois Acid Seeps	CTH
Dec. TBD	INPS	Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony	The Haven



CTH = Carbondale Township Hall, 217 E. Main St., Carbondale IL at 6:30 pm; TBD = To Be Determined
For more information visit <http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/southern-chapter>

The Curse of the Bradford Pear

When Bradford pear was introduced as an ornamental in 1964 by the US Department of Agriculture, it was known then that this tree possessed the weakest branch structure in nature. Also, the tree was assumed to be sterile. Bradford pears will seldom last more than 20 years before they bust themselves apart at the seams. That's actually the good news.

In an attempt to extend the lifespan of this despicable tree, other varieties such as Cleveland Select, etc. were introduced. These trees will live for about 25 years. That's little consolation for the resulting disasters that happened when these other pear varieties were introduced. After 25 years the ill effects of the steep v crotch branch structure – which all pears possess - take their inevitable course of action and cause pear limb structures to crack, split and bust. You can't fool Mother Nature, and people who plant pears will sooner or later regret that choice. Planting pears borders on - if not crosses the line – of negligence. To read more, visit <https://gmol.co/2GTHqn1>.



Summary of Past Events



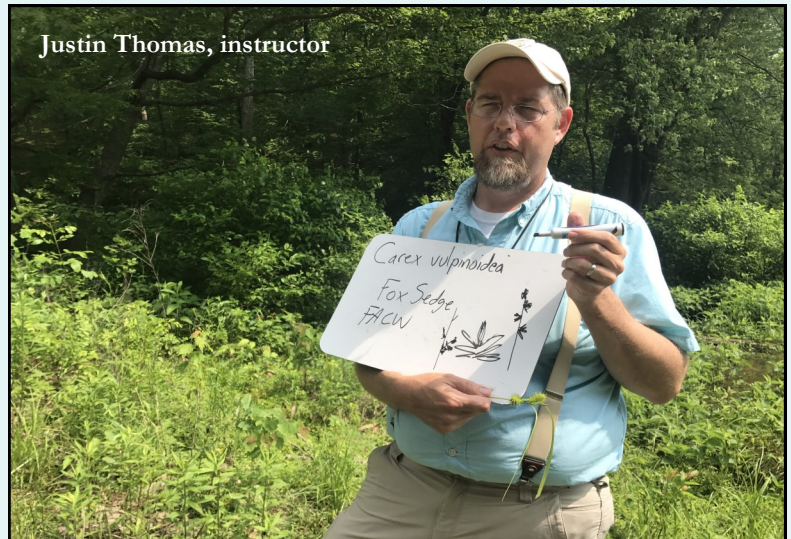
June Program, Sedge Workshop, by Justin Thomas

Thanks to all those who attended the sedge identification workshop earlier in June. We saw an amazing diversity of graminoids during the two-day workshop. Many thanks to Justin Thomas of NatureCITE, who instructed the workshop. Justin's teaching style was very easy to learn from and we all appreciated his patience and tutelage.

The workshop started with a short introduction in the visitor center of Giant City State Park. After covering the basics, we went into the field and started at the Little Grassy Boat Landing at the end of the road that leads to the campground. After seeing a number of wetland and upland forest species, we went to Shelter One for lunch. After lunch we looked at more material that was seen in the nearby area. Thanks to David Barfknecht and Marisa Szubryt for helping find many of the species presented.

The next day we met at Rhonda and Robert Rothrock's Prairie in Jackson County near Little Grand Canyon. Their property is a nature sanctuary for plants and animals and an amazing diversity of sedges were seen here. The total number of plants learned during the workshop was 49 and 39 of those were in the *Carex* genus. It's like Justin said, "20% of the sedges you see 80% of the time." There are 193 species in the *Carex* genus in Illinois and we saw 39 species which is 20%! A selection of sedges seen during the workshop is available on our website at <https://ill-inps.org/sedge-identification-workshop-photos/>.

Photos courtesy, Chris Benda



Local Events & Announcements

Let the Sun Shine In! Oak Management Survey

Oak trees support more than 100 different kinds of animals. However oak trees are slowly disappearing from southern Illinois forests, say a group of scientists who study the region's forests. They blame its loss on the lack of sunlight in our forests.

Without more sunlight, Southern Illinois forests may be the first in central North America to completely convert from a forest dominated by oaks to one dominated by shade-loving species, such as maple.

A darker forest means fewer songbirds, waterfowl and other wildlife. That's because sunlight gives life to wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. Bees, butterflies and other pollinators feast on these flowers, while the forest floor provides cover for birds and other wildlife to raise their young. Shawnee National Forest's hope is by making our forests sunnier can we save the diversity of life that depends on them. Using fire and selective removal of trees are two management techniques that can open a forest, and both are being used at the national forest.

As part of the **Let the Sun Shine In!** campaign, a study is being conducted to better understand management techniques that are currently being used in oak ecosystems. The results from this survey will be used to inform an oak ecosystem recovery guide that is being developed for southern Illinois.

The survey should take approximately ten minutes. Please complete it by Friday, July 6. To access the survey, visit <https://bit.ly/2MeTmT2>.



Monarch License Plate

The Midwestern states have seen an 88 percent decline in the number of monarchs and a 64 percent decrease in the amount of available milkweed, serving as the monarchs' only egg-laying habitat and food source.

There is a fun and easy way that you can help protect monarchs in Illinois!

Illinois residents can sign up to purchase a license plate with a new monarch butterfly decal. All of the funds received will go to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to support roadside monarch habitat throughout our state and help to save this magnificent species.

1. Fill out the form (see page 6 or e-mail Kay Macneil at gardenclubsill@aol.com)
2. Write a check to the "Illinois Secretary of State" for \$10 (cash also accepted)
3. Mail form and \$10 to:

Secretary of State
Vehicle Services Div., Special Plates Division
501 S. Second St. Rm. 520
Springfield, IL 62756-5100



Photo courtesy, Monarch Watch



Secretary of State
Vehicle Services Department
Specialty License Plates Request

This space for use by
Secretary of State.

Secretary of State
Vehicle Services Department
Special Plates Division
501 S. Second St., Rm. 312
Springfield, IL 62756

This request may only be processed
in the Springfield Office.

WWW.CYBERDRIVEILLINOIS.COM

Specialty license plates are authorized by Illinois statute with the primary goal of raising funds for a specific organization(s). The plates are available to the public and are not awarded based on specific qualifying criteria.

- The Secretary of State will begin production of a new specialty plate category after receiving 2,000 requests for the plate.
- Design and color of the plates is at the discretion of the Office of the Secretary of State.
- A non-refundable Specialty license plates fee must accompany each plate request. The fee will be deposited into the special fund as designated by statute regardless of whether or not the plates are produced.

Name of Specialty Plate Being Requested: "Monarch Roadside Habitat" Date: _____

Current License Plates #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Vehicle Owner's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Telephone Number (8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.): _____

Signature: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

FOR OFFICE
USE ONLY

Name of Specialty Plate: _____ Date Received: _____

Vehicle Owner's Name: _____

Fee Received (check number): _____

Local Events & Announcements

Flora of Crab Orchard Visitor Center, presenter Dr. John Van Dyk

Monday, July 23rd at 7 pm For more information, call Ruth Kelly at 618-684-2196 or e-mail at rth_kelley@yahoo.com.



Plant Blindness in the Illegal Trade of Wildlife

Plant Blindness is the far too common human “inability to recognize the importance of plants in the biosphere and in human affairs.” Plant Blindness has many harmful consequences. It contributes to the [underfunding and understaffing of and inattention to plants](#), compared to animals, throughout conservation programs and laws. These problems are ubiquitous in government and occur even in the environmental community.

The statement points out that although illegal trade in plants is often overlooked, it should not be. Some reasons include:

- More than 365 CITES-listed plant species, across 39 families, **are openly traded via Amazon and EBay**. (CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.)
- A recent IUCN assessment indicates that wildlife trade is the leading threat to 57% of all known cacti species (approx. 1,500)
- Orchids comprise more than 70% of listed species under the CITES, with hundreds illegally traded as food, for horticulture and for use in medicines.
- Ninety percent of ladies slipper orchids are threatened with extinction globally, largely due to unsustainable harvest for horticultural trade
- Two cycad species have already been classified as Extinct in the Wild due to illegal trade.

Rare species are not the only plants threatened by illegal trade. Plant species can become targets of overharvesting almost on a whim. To read more about plant blindness, visit <https://plantsocieties.cnps.org/index.php/about-main/plant-blindness>.

Seeking Plant Populations for Seed Bank

The Dixon National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank is housed at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Their mission is to bank the seeds of 545 species that have restoration value for common habitats within the tallgrass prairie region. Their collecting strategy is to make at least one collection of all 545 taxa in each of 12 ecoregions that span the tallgrass prairie region. Of those 12, four occur in Illinois.

David Sollenberge, the Seed Bank Manager, is seeking plant species to preserve in the Seed Bank. He is looking for >50 individual plants that will produce >3000 seeds. Species include:

Dioscorea villosa, *Lathyrus venosus* (this species is deer candy so be sure your population actually yields mature fruit), *Lysimachia thyrsiflora*, *Packera plattensis*, *Polytaenia nutallii*, *Sagittaria latifolia*, *Thaspium trifoliatum*, *Schoenoplectus pungens*.

Be sure to check out the entire target list, <https://www.sciencecollections.org/content/restoration-collection-target-species>, to help us locate species that may not have been collected in your particular ecoregion.

Mr. Sollenberge is also reposting a list from earlier in the fall with additional species:

Agastache scrophulariifolia, *Apios americana*, *Apocynum androsaemifolium*, *Arisaema dracontium*, *Asclepias purpurascens*, *Asclepias sullivantii*, *Betula nigra*, *Cardamine bulbosa*, *Carex cephalophora*, *Carex emoryi*, *Carex gravida*, *Carex scoparia*, *Carex sparganoides*, *Carex typhina*, *Chelone glabra*, *Clematis pitcher*, *Desmodium paniculatum*, *Dichantheium cladestinum*.

For more information, contact David Sollenberge at dsollenberger@chicagobotanic.org, (847) 835-6957.

MASTER NATURALIST

FALL 2018 CLASS
CACHE RIVER WETLANDS CENTER



RETURN TO THE CACHE!

The first southern Illinois Master Naturalist course was held at the Cache River Wetlands Center, and this fall we are RETURNING! Join us to become a Master Naturalist in the heart of one of Illinois' most magnificent ecosystems.

When: Thursdays, Sept. 6 - Dec. 6

Times: 8:45 am - 4:15 pm

Where: 8885 IL-37, Cypress, IL 62923

Cost: \$250 for 12 weeks of instruction and Master Naturalist manual
Applications due August 17

For an application or more information about the program, contact:

Erin Medvecz

Extension Educator, Energy & Environmental Stewardship

P.O. Box 604

515 E. Vienna Street, Suite G

Anna, IL 62906

618-833-6363 | emedvecz@illinois.edu

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University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunity in programs and employment.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact your local Extension office.

Tree Identification Workshop

July 24th, 2018 6:00pm-8:00pm

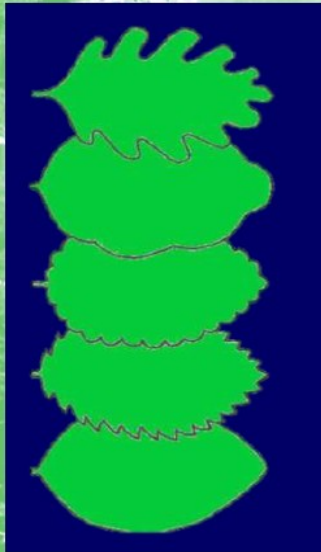


Dixon Springs Ag Center

354 State Highway 145 N, Simpson, IL 62985

Tuesday July 24, 2018 6:00PM to 8:00PM

**Come learn how to identify different
species of trees around you!**



Activities Include:

Tree Identification Tips

Tree Identification Demonstration

Tree Identification Hike

Kids Scavenger Hunt

Please RSVP by July 23, 2018 by calling 618-695-3383 or emailing cwevans@illinois.edu

For more information:

Chris Evans — cwevans@illinois.edu, 618-695-3383

Mary Marsh — mary2@illinois.edu



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University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences— United States Department of Agriculture.—Local Extension Councils Cooperating provides equal opportunities in programming and employment.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, contact Dixon Springs Ag Center at 618-695-2441.

Invasive Species Corner



Technical Forestry Bulletin • NRES-1602

Invasive Plant Phenology Report June 2018

To read the entire report, visit
<https://bit.ly/2yJYiNM>.

Christopher W. Evans, Extension Forestry and Research Specialist
Kevin Rohling, Forestry Technician
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences



This University of Illinois Extension Technical Forestry Bulletin series provides monthly reports on the development of invasive plant species in Illinois. Reports are summarized by region and produced from field observations collected between the 8th and 14th of each month.

Phenology is the study of seasonal natural phenomena. This observational project tracks the phenology of invasive plant species in Illinois throughout the growing season, noting when plants initiate growth, start flowering, ripen seeds, become dormant, etc. Data on the phenology of invasive plants is critical information for the development of effective management programs.

June 2018 General Summary

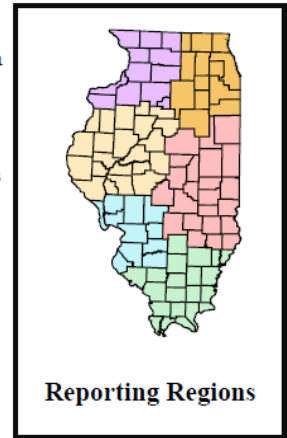
June transitions us from late spring into early summer, when some spring flowering species are setting seed or developing fruits, others are beginning to bloom, and still others are developing resources to use at a later time. As was the case last year, poison hemlock and wild parsnip are either in bloom or just past in all regions. Several grass species are either flowering or nearing flowering stage. Teasel in the south are nearing flowering stage, but are not as far along as they were in June 2017.

Regional Reports

South

- Japanese chaff flower (*Achyranthes japonica*) – Vegetative growth 12”-18” high
- Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) – Full bloom
- Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) – Setting seed
- Poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*) – Flowering but past peak; fruit developing
- Common teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*) - Flower buds developing but no flowers yet
- Cut-leaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*) - bolting but no flower buds observed
- Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) – Immature fruit developing, full leaf expansion
- Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) – Still blooming
- Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) – Full leaf expansion, past flowering, immature fruit developing
- Sweet clover spp. (*Melilotus* spp.) - Blooming

- Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) – Vegetative growth ~ 12” high
- Wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) - Flowering
- Princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) - Past bloom, leaves expanding, immature fruit present
- Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) - Blooming
- Phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) - Vegetative growth, no flower development observed
- Callery (Bradford) pear (*Pyrus calleryana*) - Full leaf out; fruits forming
- Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) - Past bloom, immature fruit developing
- Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*) - Flower heads starting to developing but not yet open



Reporting Regions

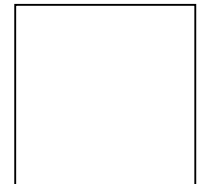
Southwest

- Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) - Fully leafed out with fruits to ~1” long
- Mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) - Starting to bloom (~5%); fully leafed out
- Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) - Fully leafed out; no flower buds present
- Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) - Brown with seeds still firmly attached

Interested in becoming an invasive plant phenology observer?

The University of Illinois Extension Forestry Program relies on observations from volunteers to produce the monthly invasive plant phenology report. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer observer should contact Chris Evans, Extension Forester at (618) 695-3383 or cwevans@illinois.edu. Volunteers are asked to make monthly observations on three to four invasive species in their area.

INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
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Carbondale, IL 62903-0271



southernillinoisplants@gmail.com
www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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Illinois Native Plant Society, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903

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Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

Erigenia, our scientific journal, is now available digitally as well as in print.
Please indicate your preference for receiving the journal.
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 Kankakee Torrent

I would like to help with:

- Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level) Giving Workshops &/or Seminars Public Media/Communications
 Leading Field Trips & Tours Public Speaking Writing/Submitting articles
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