



The Shooting Star

November 2018

Newsletter

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

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2018 Southern Chapter Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony

Saturday, December 1st at 1:00 p.m.

Scratch Brewing Company
264 Thompson Rd. Ava, IL

Please join us for a great social in a unique location! All proceeds from the dinner will benefit our conservation fund, which will be dedicated towards conservation projects in southern Illinois. This year's Conservation Award recipient is Sonja Lallmand, our outgoing chapter treasurer, for her efforts in creating and sustaining the Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium, as well as her service to INPS.

For dinner, we will enjoy Scratch pizza and salad, with your choice of beverage. Tickets are \$20. You can register and buy your tickets online by visiting <https://ill-inps.org/2018-southern-chapter-holiday-dinner-registration/> or reserve a spot by mail.

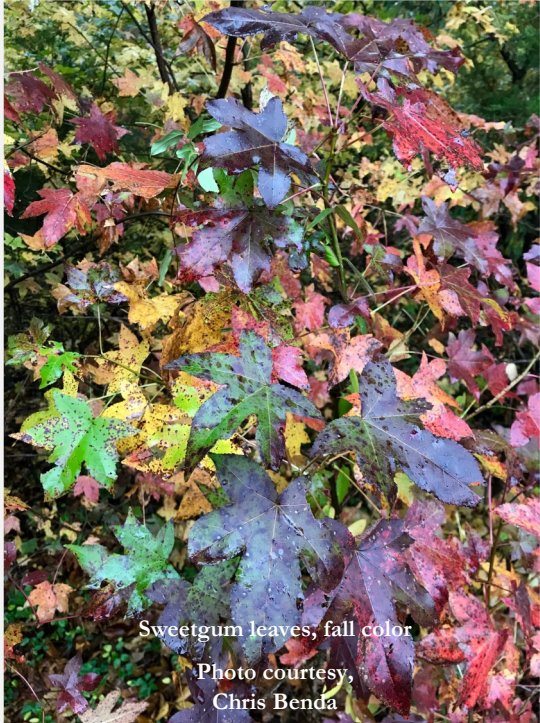
Send \$20 along with your menu choice and contact information to P.O. Box 271 Carbondale, IL 62903. Registration closes November 29. For those of who can't attend the holiday dinner and award ceremony, but would like to contribute to the conservation fund, a donation can be made by visiting <https://ill-inps.org/southern-chapter-conservation-fund-donation-page/>.



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Message from the Southern Chapter President



Sweetgum leaves, fall color

Photo courtesy,
Chris Benda

Wow, what a spectacular autumn it's been! The heat broke much earlier this year than last year and although I missed having a few weeks of 70-degree days with the windows open, I enjoyed the cooler weather as I wrapped up field work for this season. The fall colors have been incredible this past week as everything seemed to change color all at once.

We have 2 events remaining for 2018. On November 20th, Southern Illinois University graduate student and INPS member David Barfknecht will present about his research with acid gravel seeps in southeastern Illinois. The presentation will be at 6:30 pm at the Carbondale Township Hall, please see page 3 for more details.

On December 1st, we will be holding our annual holiday dinner and award ceremony, with proceeds going to support our conservation fund. This year's award recipient is Sonja Lallemand. Sonja is leaving the Southern chapter board after serving as Treasurer for 6 years. She was pivotal to creating and maintaining the Illinois Indigenous Plant Symposium, a conference that includes a native plant sale, and is a conference that is well attended and topical every year. Please

sign up for the dinner on our website and consider making an additional donation to the conservation fund.

Stay tuned for upcoming programming for 2019 in the December newsletter. I always look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming events this year. ~ Christopher David Benda

"[Sonja Lallemand] was pivotal in creating and maintaining the Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium...a conference that is well attended and topical every year."

Feature Plant of the Month **Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus aromatica***

The vibrant fall colors have brought attention to this common shrub. From a distance, it could be misconstrued as poison ivy (also in the *Rhus* genus) with its trifoliate leaves. Its namesake comes from the aromatic fragrance the leaves and twigs exude when they are broken or bruised. It can be found in open to semi-open areas, such as upland rocky woods, limestone glades, sandy savannas, sand prairies, and thinly wooded bluffs. It can live in mesic conditions, but can succumb to other vegetative competition. This shrub spreads by root suckers and is an excellent addition to native gardens. It develops catkins in the summer through winter and produces tiny yellow flowers in the spring. The hairy red fruits (or berries) can be used to add a unique flavor addition to lemonade.



Photo courtesy,
Chris Benda

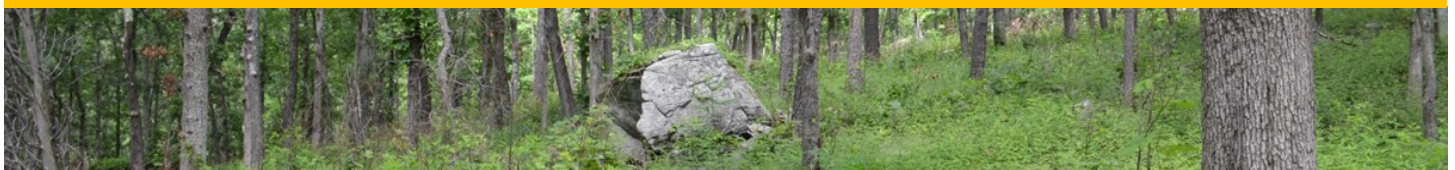
2018



Southern Chapter
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Calendar of Events

Nov. 20	David Barfknecht	Community Changes in Southern Illinois Acid Seeps	CTH
Dec. 1	INPS	Holiday Dinner and Award Ceremony	Scratch Brewery Ava, IL



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>

Community Changes in Southern Illinois Acid Seeps Tuesday, November 20th at 6:30 p.m. Carbondale Township Hall 216 E. Monroe St. Carbondale, IL



Acid seeps are highly-valued natural communities in southern Illinois and are known to harbor unique and ecologically specific plant communities compared to the adjacent hardwood forests within the Shawnee National Forest. However, the invasive of exotic grass *Microstegium vimineum* and stream down-cutting have resulted in floristic community shifts since the 1960s. This presentation will summarize the results of these shifts both taxonomically/phylogenetically and propose what processes are responsible.

Dan Barfknecht is a doctoral fellow in the Plant Biology department at Southern Illinois University who studied acid seeps for his Master's degree. He previously completed his undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2014 while studying polyploidy in the California vascular flora. This program is free and open to the public!





Summary of Past Events



October Program, Hike and Scratch Brewery Tour by Chris Benda and Scratch Brewery Company

The weather did not want to cooperate with our event for October. It was a cold rainy day and so just a couple new INPS members and I walked a long a trail at the end of Lone Oak Road on the north side of Kinkaid Lake. My fellow hikers recently moved to the area and wanted to know more about the native plants on their property, so we had a wonderful time looking at woodland species and sharing stories about them.

After the 2-hour hike, we drove nearby to Scratch Brewing Company where we were joined by 2 more board members. The atmosphere was quite energetic so we sat in the main area and had appetizers instead of using the adjacent Serpent room. After the drinks and appetizers, we toured the grounds of the brewery and talked about plants.

The owners of Scratch (Marika Josephson and Aaron Kleidon) have a very neat and successful operation going on at the site of the family farm outside of Ava. It was fun to see their enthusiasm and creativity with thinking about how to use plants in brewing and other uses. And of course it was great to sample some of their delicious brews! We had such a wonderful day there that we decided to book our holiday dinner there as well. We hope to see you there!



Photos courtesy, Chris Benda



Cut leaved grape fern
Sceptridium dissectum var. *dissectum*



Many-rayed Aster
Symphyotrichum anomalum

Local Events & Announcements

INPS Southern Chapter Supports “Let the Sun Shine In!” Initiative

Oak woodland communities are some of the most threatened communities in southern Illinois. Historically, the woodlands/forests of southern Illinois were much more open allowing for a diverse and robust ground layer of herbaceous vegetation. It has become clear that many of our native upland oak woodland and forest plant species are being lost to shading. As their numbers decline from our landscape, they become more vulnerable to threats like invasive species and selective predation. In addition, we are concerned that the seed banks that hold the genetic resources to restore our forests will lose viability over time we don't restore light to our oak systems.

As much as we understand the threats to our oak woodland and forest systems, we also know that great care and knowledge is needed to properly restore our native communities. We endorse the *Let the Sun Shine In!* approach which uses monitoring to evaluate forest management actions that include objectives for maintaining systems, not just oak trees.



Illinois Environmental Council, Environmental Executive Report

This report discusses recommendations for how the Illinois Governor can become an *Environmental Executive*. It includes backgrounds on key environmental issue areas and specific recommendations for how the Governor can protect the environment in their role. To read the report, visit <https://ilenviro.org/>.



The **Illinois Native Plant Society Southern Chapter** would like to note the passing of Henry Barkhausen, who was instrumental in preserving the Cache and the Wetland Center's namesake. To read his entire obituary, please visit <https://www.harborlightnews.com/articles/henry-barkhausen-avid-sailor-maritime-historian/>.

“His relatively brief and successful time with the Conservation Department, coupled with Alice's [his wife's] knowledge and keen interest in the subject, led to his long and extensive involvement with conservation causes as a private citizen in subsequent years – as a trustee, board chairman, and then life trustee of the Illinois Nature Conservancy and, in particular, through perseverance and creative diplomacy dealing with public officials and farming interests, his pivotal role in preserving and helping to restore the Cache River Wetlands in southern-most Illinois, a wetland region of international significance on which federal and state agencies and private conservation organizations have collaborated and which boasts the greatest biodiversity found in Illinois. The Cache River Wetlands visitors center and natural history museum bearing his name is a testament to his efforts.”



Giant City State Park

Illinois Botanizer's Best of Illinois Nature 2018

Sunday, December 2nd, 2 – 3 pm

Botanist Chris Benda (aka Illinois Botanizer) travels throughout Illinois every year, visiting nature preserves, leading nature tours for the public, and encountering all kinds of neat plants and animals. Join him as he presents photographs highlighting his best nature encounters of 2018. No registration is required. Meet at the Giant City Visitors Center. For more information, call 618-457-4836.



Tupelo Wild Ones

A Small Farm Working with Nature, speaker Courtney Smith

Monday, November 26th, 7:00 pm

Carbondale Township Hall, 216 E. Monroe St., Carbondale, IL

Owner of Flora Bay Farms, Courtney will discuss ways to use native flowers and plants in flower arrangements. For more information, call Ruth Kelly at 618-684-2196 or e-mail at rth_kelley@yahoo.com.



Governor-elect Pritzker, IDNR Needs Your Attention, by Les Winkler

“The DNR manager should put plants and animals of the state first. That includes making appointments to other positions within the department. I am of the belief that when the DNR director is concerned first and foremost with the state’s plants and animals, that attitude will be passed down the chain of command.”

“Wildlife and fisheries biologists are covering five or six counties. Conservation police officers each cover several counties. When you consider they are working in some of the most remote places in the state, it’s easy to see their job is nearly impossible.”

“Some of the dedicated public services are administering 10 to 12 sites. That’s beyond ridiculous—it’s irresponsible. Some state parks in our region don’t have a single full-time employee. We the people deserve better than that. The state employees deserve better than that.”

To read this entire editorial, visit <https://bit.ly/2T5QzzM>.



Invasive Species Corner

Shawnee Group of the Sierra Club and the Forest Restoration Support Team

Invasive Species Pull

Giant City State Park

Saturday, November 17th from 1-4pm

Saturday, December 8th from 1-4pm

- Please meet at the Visitor’s Center
- Both events will focus on eradicating Wintercreeper *Euonymus* and other woody invasive species from the Fern Rocks Nature Preserve
- Please dress for potentially cold weather and working off-trail in the woods, water and snacks provided
- For RSVP or questions, contact Nathan Speagle at: volunteerFRST@gmail.com



Wilderness Invasive Plant Mapping Day

December 4, 2018

9am—4pm

Burden Falls Wilderness Area

Shawnee National Forest



Join the Shawnee National Forest and the University of Illinois Extension Forestry Program for a fun off-trail hike and invasive plant mapping day in the Burden Falls Wilderness Area in the Shawnee National Forest. Not only will you get to explore the Burden Falls Wilderness, but you will be helping out the National Forest by mapping invasive plants along the way.

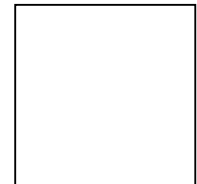
No previous mapping or plant identification experience required. We will provide training and be working in groups.

This event is free, but RSVP required (Email Chris Evans at cwevans@illinois.edu or call 618-695-3383). Please note this is an all-day off-trail hike through rough terrain in winter conditions. Please bring water, a lunch, and be sure to dress appropriately for the trail and weather.

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 the University at 618-695-3383.



INPS SOUTHERN CHAPTER
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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

President: Chris Benda
VP: Chris Evans
Secretary: Erin Medvecz
Treasurer: Sonja Lallemand
At-large: Nancy Garwood
At-large: Jean Sellar
At-large: Jody Shimp
At-large: Marisa Szubryt
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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.

- Email only Postal Mail only Both

Chapter Affiliation

- Central (Springfield) Northeast (Chicago)
 Forest Glen (Westville) Quad Cities (Rock Island)
 Grand Prairie (Bloomington) Southern (Carbondale)
 Irene Cull (Peoria) Other/Uncertain _____
 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
 Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars Fund Raising Photography
 Website Assistance/Managment Other: _____