



# The Shooting Star

## January 2020

# Newsletter

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

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*2009-2019: Reflections on a Decade of Service*  
*Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.*  
*Carbondale Township Hall*  
*216 E. Monroe St., Carbondale, IL*

The Southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society became active in September 2009 after a brief period of inactivity. Over the past decade, the chapter board organized many events and programs and has established itself as a valuable organization in the conservation community in southern Illinois. Join former INPS Southern chapter president Chris Benda for a talk highlighting the past accomplishment of the chapter with photos and entertaining commentary.

Chris Benda is a botanist and teaches the Flora of Southern Illinois at Southern Illinois University and many classes at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. He can be reached through his website at <https://illinoisbotanizer.com/>.

This program is free and open to the public!



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## Message from the Southern Chapter President

Hello and welcome to 2020. As the incoming president of the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My family and I moved to southern Illinois about 13 years ago and we were immediately awestruck by the incredible diversity of natural communities and native species that call this region home. I truly feel blessed that I get the opportunity to explore the vast amount of natural areas in southern Illinois and work to enhance native species on my own bit of property. I am encouraged by all of the dedicated private landowners and public land managers I have met over the years that are working to protect, restore, and enhance southern Illinois ecosystems. Years ago, which I was asked to be involved with the Native Plant Society, I jumped at the chance! Over the years, I have served on the board, gave presentations at meetings, lead hikes, and even conducted a few photography workshops. Moving into the position of chapter President is really an honor and I greatly appreciate this opportunity.



Photo courtesy, Chris Evans

Moving forward, I want to make sure that the chapter keeps up the great work underway. Every year we try to offer ways to explore the wonderful diversity of native plants in southern Illinois through a broad variety of programs, workshops, and hikes. Our annual Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium continues to grow and provides an opportunity for a deeper dive into the native species of southern Illinois. In addition to these established programs, I want to expand our chapter's influence on native plant and natural area conservation through volunteer opportunities, citizen science, partnering with land management agencies. We, as INPS members and native plant enthusiasts, have a lot to offer southern Illinois and I am excited about further developing this aspect of the chapter.

I hope to see everyone this year at our INPS events. Please feel free to get in touch with me or any of the other chapter board members to learn more about ways to be involved with the Society or to just talk about native plants! ~ Chris Evans

**"My family and I moved to southern Illinois about 13 years ago and we were immediately awestruck by the incredible diversity of natural communities and native species that call this region home."**

### Feature Plant of the Month

**Buckbrush, Coral Berry**  
*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*

Pops of color can still be seen on the winter landscape in the clusters of magenta berries of this shrub. Also referred to as Indian currant, this species occurs in open woods, fields, pastures, and thickets, spreading by runners to create large groupings. It is adaptable to a wide variety of soil conditions. It could be misconstrued as bush honeysuckle since it's in the same family, Caprifoliaceae, but rest assured, this is a native species. In the summer, it produced bell-shaped white flowers which eventually transform into the clusters of berries in the fall. Coral berry are a popular food source for white-tailed deer. The buds and berries are consumed by bobwhite quail and robins. Their density and low growth form make this shrub an excellent candidate for wildlife cover.



Photo courtesy, Missouri Botanical Gardens

2020



## Southern Chapter

P.O. Box 271, Carbondale IL 62901

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www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

**Stay Tuned for the upcoming 2020 Calendar of Events!**

## **ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY 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-\$1500 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, 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 form for the Research Grant are NOW on-line. Check our website at <https://ill-inps.org>. 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 \$1500 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 on-line launch of full application details and deadlines/timelines.





## Summary of Past Events



### 2019 INPS Holiday Dinner and Awards Ceremony, by Chris Benda

The holiday dinner over the years has changed in concept and location, but it's been something we've enjoyed hosting every December. This year, like in 2018, we held the event at Scratch Brewing Company in Ava, Illinois. The owners of Scratch are lifetime members of INPS and they provided the Serpent Room free of charge. INPS members enjoyed their flavorful beverages and pizza in return. This year we recognized Barb McKasson with the 2019 Conservation Leadership Award for her efforts to act on behalf of the conservation community in southern Illinois.

Barb spent over a decade as chair of the Sierra Club Shawnee group among other things. Time and time again, it was Barb who did the hard work to organize workdays, engage the community, and provide input to the USFS and others. Barb's dedication is remarkable and commitment laudable. Her continued efforts are a great thing for southern Illinois and we are thankful for her service.

Chris Benda was also recognized for his 10 years of serving as the chapter president. His dedication and hard work are very much appreciated by the entire chapter.



## *Local Events & Announcements*

### Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Program, Pollinator Meadows



Help us spread the word about the Foundation's new Pollinator Meadows Pilot Grant Program. The program will support the conversion of turf grass to pollinator habitat in public spaces (i.e. 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. We want to make sure that as many people as possible know about the program and participate in our information gathering survey. We would like to hear from communities throughout Illinois. Responses will help shape the application and requirements involved in the pilot next year. Please email Jolie Krasinski, Program Director, at [jkrasinski@illinoiscleanenergy.org](mailto:jkrasinski@illinoiscleanenergy.org) for questions and comments. Find that survey here: <https://forms.gle/Gka265rKbpFBQg5j7>

### Giant City State Park

#### Hiking the River to River Trail Across Southern Illinois

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> 2— 3 pm

In December 2018, Chris Benda hiked the River to River trail from Elizabethtown on the Ohio River to Grand Tower on the Mississippi River and blogged about it as he hiked. Join him as he explains the challenges of this thru-hike, as well as the ecology of the land and plants observed along the trail. No registration is required. For more information, call the visitor center at (618) 457-4836.



### Cache River Wetlands Center

#### Rare and Little-Known Plants of Illinois

Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 10—11 am

Explore Illinois fauna and how unique some plants are that were photographed by John Schwegman from throughout Illinois during his career in plant conservation.

He will expound on habitat, range, and just how rare it is. Some were discovered in Illinois for the first time, and two are species new to science from southern Illinois. Enjoy the stories of discovery along with his pictures.

#### Frog and Toad Survey Volunteer Orientation

Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1—3 pm

Try a new venture by assisting in listening surveys of the frogs and toads of the Cache River watershed for the Illinois Natural History Survey! Volunteers are needed for the citizen science project. Materials will be provided for the surveys conducted four times between February and June. For questions, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 657-2064.

#### Native Plants for Pollinators

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 1pm

Now is the time to plant your pollinator field or garden! Join Metropolis Garden Club President and Master Naturalist Anne Parmley and her husband William to learn how they planted 15 acres for pollinators. Included are close-up pictures of the plants that have bloomed so far and descriptions of how each plant benefits wildlife. For more information, call the Wetlands Center at (618) 658-2064.



# Backyard Maple Syrup Production Workshop February 1st, 2020 10:00am

The fifth annual backyard maple syrup production workshop will be held on Saturday, February 1, 2020 from 10am-12pm at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center, located at 354 State Highway 145 N, Simpson, IL 62985. This program is free and open to the public.

The program will cover tree identification, equipment needs, tree tapping, sap collection, boiling, and finishing maple syrup. Participants will see firsthand the processes involved in making maple syrup. We will have a demonstration of a syrup evaporator and an optional tour of a sugarbush forest, managed for maple syrup production and utilizing a pipeline system of sap collection. **New this year is taste-testing maple syrup produced right here at Dixon Springs!**

The University of Illinois Extension will provide some activities for kids, including taste testing of real maple syrup!

If you are interested in attending this workshop, please RSVP by January 30, 2020 by calling the Ag Center office at 618-695-2441, please indicate if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program.

For more information:

Chris Evans—  
[cwevans@illinois.edu](mailto:cwevans@illinois.edu),  
618-695-3383

Bronwyn Aly—  
[baly@illinois.edu](mailto:baly@illinois.edu),  
618-252-8391

**I** ILLINOIS  
Extension



**Dixon Springs Ag Center**  
354 State Hwy 145 North  
Simpson, IL 62985  
**February 1, 2020**  
**10am-12pm**

### Program Activities

- Maple Syrup Basics
- Taste-Testing Maple Syrup
- Field Tour of Maple Syrup Collection System
- Kids Program

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

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>  
<http://www.facebook.com/rtrcwma>

Please look at the following resources for the latest in Invasive Species news.

## Grantsburg Swamp Ecological Area Cleanup

Join us in cleaning up southern Illinois' unique natural areas! Help reduce pollution that harms wildlife and plants and diminishes the natural beauty of our region.

Participants will meet at Dixon Springs Agricultural Center (354 State Highway 145N, Simpson, IL) at 12:30PM, Saturday, February 22 for hot cocoa and coffee, then carpool to the Grantsburg Swamp site along Flat Woods Road at 1:00PM. We'll return around 4:00PM with more cocoa and coffee for those who would like a warm-up!

To carpool from Carbondale, please contact Patty Weyhrich [pweyhrich711@hotmail.com](mailto:pweyhrich711@hotmail.com)

We will have trash bags, gloves, and grabbers. Participants should dress appropriately for the weather, but will have the option of working on dry ground or in wetter areas where rubber boots would be advised. Pre-registration is appreciated, please contact Kevin Rohling with questions or to register at 618-695-3383 or [krohling@illinois.edu](mailto:krohling@illinois.edu)



Photo of spider lily, Grantsburg Swamp, courtesy Chris Evans



## BEGINNER CHAINSAW SAFETY AND FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT TRAINING



**February 8, 2020**

**10am-3pm**

**Dixon Springs Agricultural Center**

354 State Highway 145N  
Simpson, IL 62985-9614

Join us for a hands-on, field training for Beginner Chainsaw Safety and Forest Stand Improvement. Participants will be trained in safe use of chainsaws, safety gear to use, chainsaw cleaning/maintenance and an opportunity to practice these skills with experts.

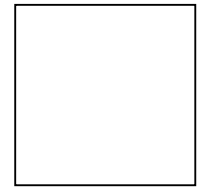
Dress appropriately with long pants and sturdy boots. Bring chainsaws and PPE (chaps, helmets, hearing & eye protection) if you have them (can loan if needed). Bring a sack lunch.

Please register early or ask questions by email [krohling@illinois.edu](mailto:krohling@illinois.edu) or phone 618-695-3383



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  
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 Evans
- VP: Jean Sellar
- Secretary: Erin Medvecz
- Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
- At-large: Nick Seaton
- At-large: Kurt Neubig
- At-large: Jen Harris
- Newsletter: Jennifer Behnken

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- Patron.....\$100.00
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- Life.....\$500.00
- Iliamma* (life).....\$1,000.00
- Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
- Erigenia* (life).....\$3,000.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society  
INPS, Membership, P.O. Box 271, Carbondale, IL 62903-0271

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**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)
- Forest Glen (Westville)
- Grand Prairie (Bloomington)
- Kankakee Torrent
- Northeast (Chicago)
- Quad Cities (Rock Island)
- Southern (Carbondale)
- Other/Uncertain \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to help with:**

- Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level)
- Leading Field Trips & Tours
- Organizing Workshops &/or Seminars
- Giving Workshops &/or Seminars
- Public Speaking
- Fund Raising
- Website Assistance/Management
- Public Media/Communications
- Writing/Submitting articles
- Photography
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**My area of expertise:** \_\_\_\_\_