



The Shooting Star

December
2020

Newsletter

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

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INPS 2021 Grant Opportunities Research and Survey Grants Open through January 31, 2021

Students, citizen scientists, conservation groups and institutions are alerted to consider applying for an INPS Research Grant for up to \$2500 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.

INPS is also excited to continue its new second grant for 2021: the Survey Grant. This grant for up to \$5000 will fund searches for Illinois Endangered, Threatened or certain rare species for which current data is inadequate to assess their status and for which field surveys and recovery recommendations are needed. INPS worked with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to develop [a priority list](#) of species for the surveys. Experienced botanical field surveyors, either independent or associated with an institution, are invited to apply for this grant. Partnerships are encouraged.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://illinoisplants.org/illinois-native-plant-society-2021-grants-coming-up> or [Illinois Native Plant Society \(illinoisplants.org\)](https://illinoisplants.org) and click on the Grants tab.



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

I want to use this month's president's message to discuss volunteerism and what we, as an organization, and you, as a volunteer, can do to positively impact native plants and natural areas in southern Illinois. Over the last 13 or so years I have lived in southern Illinois, I have been incredibly impressed with the dedication of volunteers and the commitment of so many people to assisting in so many ways. This truly has changed the region for the good and has had immense positive impacts to the region.

Volunteerism is an important component of stewardship and land management. There is more work to go around than there are staff and funds to do it. Volunteers can serve invaluable roles, such as partaking in invasive species management efforts, assisting with survey and monitoring of rare plants, educating and raising awareness of the importance of our native flora and natural areas, and helping with prescribed fire and other management activities.

The board of the southern chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society wants to take a more active role in promoting and facilitating volunteerism. We will provide more directed training opportunities to better equip INPS members to participate in citizen science projects. Look for us to offer more programs and workshops on identification and surveys. We also plan on partnering with other groups and agencies to offer volunteer workdays. I am very excited about this effort and look forward to working with all of you in these new ways. ~ Chris Evans

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Feature Plant of the Month

**Inland (River) Oats,
*Chasmanthium latifolium***

Also known as Indian woodoats, this grass adds unique interest to the winter landscape with its cascading, drooping seed heads, creating a fluttering effect in the breeze. The spikelets (seeds) are sometimes tinted red along the edges and its broad leaves would also be a great addition to native plant floral bouquets and winter arrangements. The leaf blades are typically a lanceolate and light green (cream color in the winter). It is tolerant of poor soils, but grows the best in moist to wet, well-drained soils. It is one of the grasses that can actually tolerate shade, but it is an eager self seeder, so you may have to take additional measures to ensure it doesn't encompass beyond the designated space.



Photo courtesy,
Barbara Kerns



2021 SINPS BALLOT



ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SOUTHERN CHAPTER

Term length = 1 year | January 2021 – December 2021

Please cast your vote at https://illinoisaces.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ag6MAAdsoB2Evsgt

PRESIDENT – Chris Evans
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



VICE - PRESIDENT – Jean Sellar
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



TREASURER – Nancy Garwood
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



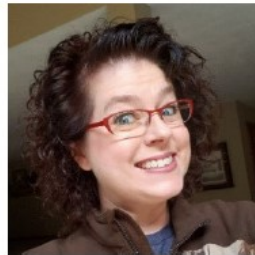
SECRETARY – Erin Garrett
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



AT-LARGE MEMBER – Nick Seaton
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



AT-LARGE MEMBER – Jen Harris
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



AT-LARGE MEMBER – Kurt Neubig
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



AT-LARGE MEMBER – Rhonda Rothrock
(incumbent) or (write in vote)



2021



Southern Chapter

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southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/southernillinoisplants

Calendar of Events

January 19	Chris Evans	Researching Invasive Plants	Virtual
February 16	Dr. Jim Whitfield	Oaks and Lepidoterans	Virtual
March 16	Ashley Morris	Population and Genetics of <i>Dalea foliosa</i>	Virtual
April 15-17	INPS	Illinois Indigenous Plants Symposium	Virtual
May 18	Tricia Bethke	Oak Pests and Diseases	Virtual



Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

Check out the 2020 annual report for this organization:

<https://www.friendsofillinoisnaturepreserves.org>

The Illinois Native Plant Society is on YouTube!

It seems like all aspects of life have changed in 2020 and we are all becoming more integrated through digital connections than ever before. Since the board of the southern chapter of INPS decided to move our meetings online for the foreseeable future due to COVID-19, we thought it would be a great opportunity to bring INPS content to a broader audience. Therefore, we have started a YouTube channel so that you can see any missed meetings; or if one was so good, you might want to watch it again! To date, we have 4 seminars from this year posted, with plans to add new content in the future. So, subscribe to the channel and you can be a part of the Southern Chapter's YouTube experience.

Please visit our channel at <https://bit.ly/35amp1Z>.



How much do you know about Mistletoe? Check out your skills with this quiz from the Illinois Audubon Society: <https://qz.app.do/mistletoe>.





Summary of Past Events



November Program, Which Grass is Which? by Erin Garrett

INPS Southern Chapter continued our virtual chapter meetings in November with Board Member Erin Garrett giving a presentation on grass identification basics. The presentation covered the basic characteristics and terminology used in identifying grasses as well as specifics on many of the common grasses found in southern Illinois. While grass identification can seem to technical and overwhelming to some people, Erin presented tips and techniques for identification that can be used in the field and that did not rely on a lot of technical know-how or exact measurements.

This presentation was just the basics and the recording is available on the Southern Chapter's YouTube Channel. Anyone that is interested in learning more about grass identification can view the recordings from Erin's full 3-part grass identification course at the University of Illinois Extension's YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/35amp1Z>



Giant Cane,
Arundinaria gigantea

Photos courtesy, Illinois Wildflowers



Little Bluestem,
Schizachyrium scoparium



Side Oats Grama Grass,
Bouteloua curtipendula



Deer Tongue Grass,
Dichanthelium clandestinum

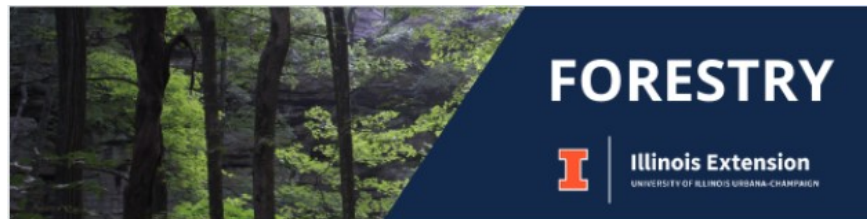
How well do you know your trees?

Knowing your trees is an important skill to have when managing a forest. The most common way to identify trees is their leaves, but trees spend almost half of the year leafless.

In this free three-part webinar series, University of Illinois Extension Forester [Chris Evans](#) will teach the basic characteristics that are used to

identify trees in winter - location, bark, twigs, buds. He will also cover in detail how to ID common and uncommon Illinois trees, and spend time focusing on the hard-to-identify groups, such as hickories. Sign up to attend one or all three sessions.

Register for this webinar: <https://bit.ly/3p6uEri>



February 1 | 2-3PM | Introduction and Basics

Characteristics used in identification, terminology, and techniques and tools for identifying unknown tree species.

February 3 | 2-3PM | Winter Identification of Common Trees of Illinois

This session will cover the characteristics used to identify in winter the tree species commonly found in Illinois.

February 5 | 2-3PM | Winter Identification of Uncommon Trees and Difficult Groups

This session will focus on tree groups that are difficult to identify by species in winter, such as oaks and hickories. Also covered are uncommon tree species found in Illinois.

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this program, please contact Chris Evans at cwevans@illinois.edu. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

Invasive Species Corner

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

<http://www.rtrcwma.org>
<https://www.frstillinois.com>
www.sipba.org

Non-Native Invasive Species Update (NNIS)

With many of the volunteer and in-person events cancelled more focus can be directed towards management on our own properties. Winter is a great time to walk your woods in search of woody invasive species such as bush-honeysuckle or autumn olive. These invasive bushes retain their leaves after the leaves of trees have fallen, making reconnaissance and identification easier from a distance. Just as your car needs maintenance your woods also need maintenance to keep unwanted species out.

For assistance acquiring tools and herbicide to manage invasive species that you encounter on your property, contact rtrcwma@gmail.com and a delivery or pickup can be organized. This assistance program is made possible through a federal LSR grant and is in collaboration with the Forest Restoration Support Team and the Southern Illinois Prescribed Burn Association.

For help with Identification of invasive species throughout the Southern Illinois region we are excited to announce the publication of an updated ID guide for invasive species in the region. This can be found under the “quick links” tab on the rtrcwma.org website. Thank you to everyone that helped to put this together.

Autumn olive, *Elaeagnus umbellata*



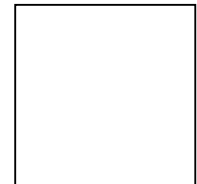
Bush honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*

The Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST) is proud to share their website to keep you up to date on invasive species and forest management in southern Illinois. Visit the website at www.frstillinois.com.

Stay tuned for the announcement of the new FRST coordinator!



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www.ill-inps.org



Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

Board Members

- President: Chris Evans
- VP: Jean Sellar
- Secretary: Erin Garrett
- Treasurer: Nancy Garwood
- At-large: Nick Seaton
- At-large: Kurt Neubig
- At-large: Jen Harris
- At-large: Rhonda Rothrock
- Newsletter: Jennifer Behnken

Know someone who would like to receive our newsletter? Please have them send their email address to southernillinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our distribution list!



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Membership Categories

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- Patron.....\$100.00
- Business.....\$125.00
- Life.....\$500.00
- Iliamna* (life).....\$1,000.00
- Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
- Erigenia* (life).....\$3,000.00

Please make checks payable to: Illinois Native Plant Society, Attn: Dr. Nancy Garwood
Life Science II—Mailcode 6509 Southern Illinois University 1125 Lincoln Dr. Carbondale, IL 62901

The Harbinger Newsletter is sent electronically by email.

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)
- Kankakee Torrent
- Other/Uncertain _____

I would like to help with:

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

My area of expertise: _____