



The Shooting Star

January 2021

Newsletter

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

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Researching Invasive Plants

Tuesday, January 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Presentation, Zoom

Invasive plant species threaten our natural ecosystems and native plant communities. This presentation will review several of the invasive plant research projects being conducted by the University of Illinois Extension Forestry Program, including using drones to map invasive species, timing on control efforts on garlic mustard, and herbicide choices for bush honeysuckle and Japanese siltgrass.

Chris Evans, University of Illinois Extension



Forestry and Research Specialist, will provide this talk. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/y29wt6fr>.

This program is free and open to the public!

Japanese siltgrass,
Microstegium vimineum



Amur honeysuckle,
Lonicera maackii



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Message from the Southern Chapter President

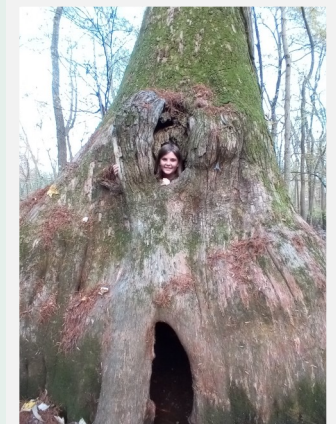
Hello and Happy New Year!

Below: Evans family adventures, Lower Cache Access

While I am sure most of us want to forget 2020 as quick as we can, I prefer to focus my reminiscences on the good things that happened this past year. One of the major botanical highlights for me was that I finally started to get a good handle on some of the local wetland species, including the rushes! This group has been evading me for a while, but leading the Southern Chapter’s Kayak Botany Tour forced me to buckle down and learn these plants! I am very happy I did, as I now have a much deeper appreciation for the diversity of wetland ecosystems.

This past year also provided ample opportunity to explore more of southern Illinois with my kids. We did a couple backcountry camping trips on the Shawnee National Forest, spent a lot of time in canoes and kayaks at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, and played in innumerable creeks! Being able to pass along to my kids a deep appreciation for nature and a love of the native plants and natural ecosystems is wonderful blessing!

I sincerely hope that all of you are also able to think back on some of the good things that happened in 2020 and hope that 2021 brings us much more of the good and much less of the bad. ~ Chris Evans



“Being able to pass along to my kids a deep appreciation for nature and the love of plants and natural ecosystems is a wonderful blessing!”

The Illinois Native Plant Society is on YouTube!

A reminder to take some time to check out recorded presentations by visiting <https://bit.ly/35amplZ>.



<i>Feature Plant of the Month</i>	Poverty Oats, <i>Danthonia spicata</i>
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This grass looks like it received a perm treatment by the appearance of its curly brown leaves at the base, also known as curly grass. You’ll see these unique tufts in sandy or rocky woodlands, an assortment of drier prairies (sandy, gravel, dolomite), glades, tops of rocky embankments, and overgrazed pastures, namely areas of few competing vegetation. The blades of the basal leaves are thin and delicate, about five inches long and hairless. This is the only grass in the *Danthonia* genus in Illinois. In the growing season, the Leonard’s Skipper, Indian Skipper, and Sprinkled, Green-Striped, and Slant-faced grasshoppers all feed on the foliage.



Photo courtesy, Jennifer Behnken



2021



Southern Chapter

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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

Missouri Natural Areas Newsletter

Check out some interesting articles in this newsletter, including Factors Affecting the Viability of Mead's Milkweed, On the Nature of Being, and Cryptogam Conservation by visiting

<https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/sites/default/files/downloads/NANewsletter2020.pdf>.



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 \(illinoisplants.org\)](#) and click on the Grants tab.

Local Events & Announcements

Stay tuned for 2021 Cache River Wetlands Center Calendar of Events

Frog and Toad Survey Volunteer Orientation, Saturday, January 30th, 1—3pm



Giant City State Park

Winter Walk in the Woods

Saturdays, January 16th and 30th

10— 11:30 am and 10am—12pm

It may be cold outside, but winter is a great time to get some exercise and fresh air as we take in the natural beauty of Giant City State Park. Join the Natural Resources Coordinator as we take a leisurely stroll through the winter woods. Trails range from 3/4 of a mile to 2 miles.

Winter Tree ID Hike

Saturday, February 6th, 1—3pm

Identifying trees is a snap when you know what to look for. Join Jennifer Behnken, Community Forester for the Missouri Department of Conservation, as she shares easy and fun tips to discover trees in winter! We will be hiking the 1-mile Giant City Nature Trail.



In order to prevent the spread of COVID 19 and to help keep program participants safe, all programs will take place outdoors and will have a limited registration of 10 or less people. Please remember to bring a mask. If social distancing of at least 6 feet is not possible, masks **must** be worn.

Registration is required for all programs. Please call the Giant City Visitors Center at 618-457-4836 for more information or to register.

All programs are free!

Happy Hiking!

Trees Forever is looking to hire a South Central and Southern Illinois Field Coordinator. This position plays a critical role in developing and nurturing partnerships with local and regional partners and sponsors. Educational and event planning and presentations are important elements of this position. For more information to apply, visit <http://www.treesforever.org/Career>.



Assess the Status of the Monarch Butterfly

On December 15, 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that listing the monarch as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act is warranted, but precluded by higher priority listing actions. The decision is the result of an extensive status review of the monarch that compiled and assessed the monarch's current and future status. The monarch is now a candidate under the Endangered Species Act; we will review its status annually until a listing decision is made.

Read more on this update by visiting <https://www.fws.gov/savethemonarch/SSA.html>.

Wildlife habitat Council, On-Demand Webinars

Check out some interesting webinar topics, including How to Make the Greatest Impact for Bees and Butterflies, and Easy Steps to Start Using Drones to Manage Invasive Species by visiting:

<https://www.wildlifehc.org/knowledge-center/on-demand-webinars/>



Here are more interesting facts on mistletoe, thanks to this Smithsonian Magazine. Pay attention to the mention of Dr. Daniel Nickrent, SIUC professor and INPS member: <https://bit.ly/35u1z1H>.

How well do you know your trees?

There is still time to register!

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/3p6uErj>



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

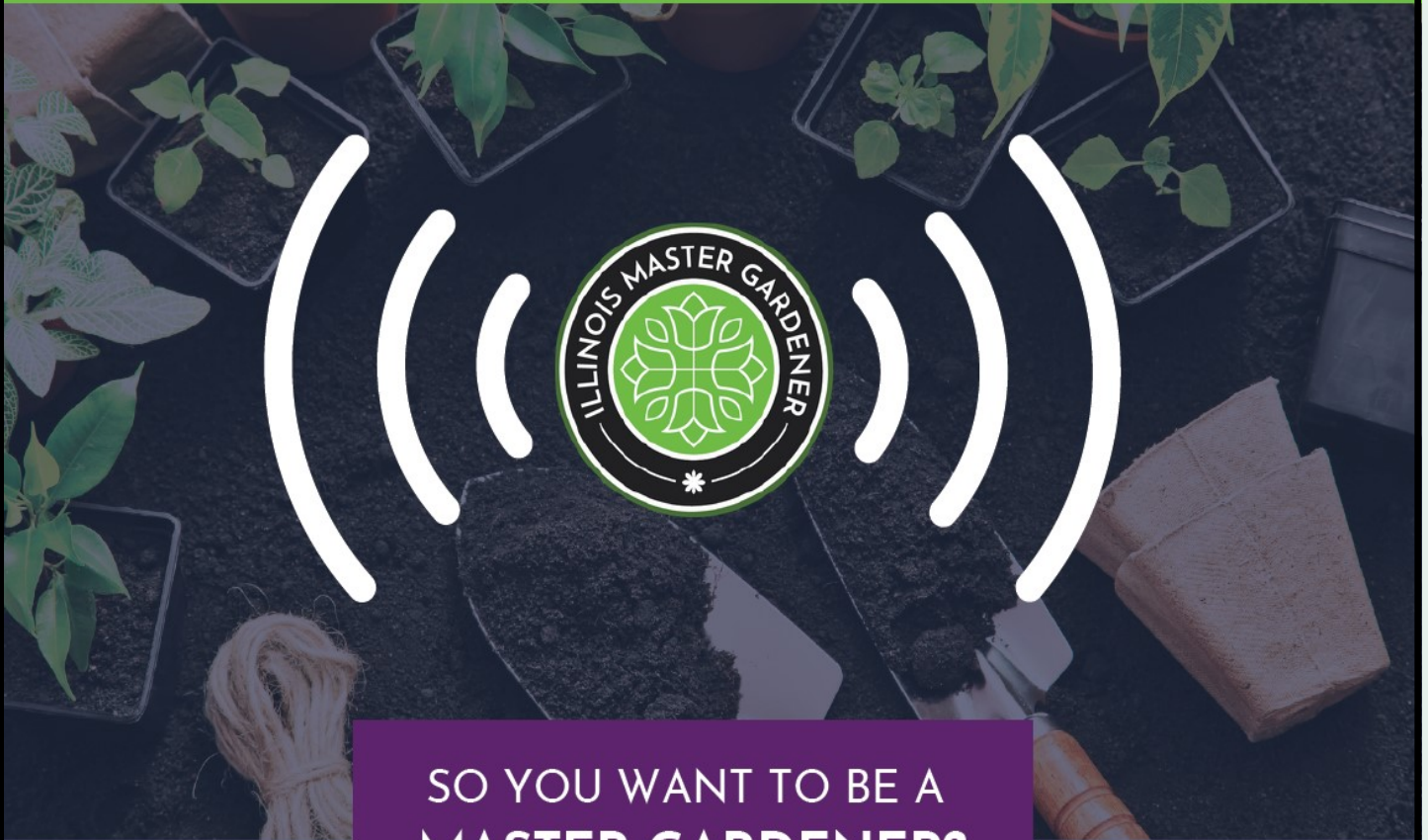
This session will cover the characteristics used to identify in winter the tree species commonly found in Illinois.

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.

2021 ONLINE HYBRID MASTER GARDENER TRAINING



SO YOU WANT TO BE A
MASTER GARDENER?

FEBRUARY 16 - MAY 4, 2021

Change the world through gardening!

Illinois Master Gardener Training is now being offered in a new hybrid format. Study online at your own pace then attend weekly live webinar sessions on Tuesday mornings. We will offer optional socially-distanced field trips.

TOPICS: Botany; Soils and Fertilizers; Plant Diseases; Entomology; Integrated Pest Management; Annuals and Perennials; Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines; Lawns; Small and Tree Fruits; and Vegetables.

Applications due February 2

Contact Erin Garrett
to apply!
emedvecz@illinois.edu
217-300-6735



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Invasive Species Corner

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

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

Non-Native Invasive Species Update (NNIS)

We would like to take this opportunity to revisit a volunteer program in Southern Illinois. With the new year has come some exciting changes for the Forest Restoration Support Team (FRST). We are happy to welcome Isaiah Tanner as the new FRST volunteer coordinator.

Isaiah is a southern Illinois transplant, Saluki, and passionate conservationist. He joins the organization with five years' experience in volunteer coordination and conservation project management. Isaiah sees forest health as the responsibility of all who enjoy our land, air, and water, with some of the biggest gains to be made on private lands. In his free time, he can be found biking, climbing, paddling, or otherwise exploring our beautiful public lands.

The Forest Restoration Support Team is a community-driven workforce of private landowners and volunteers, working together for healthier Illinois forests. Our educational workshops and volunteer workdays are open to everyone interested in learning more about the identification, ecology, and control of non-native invasive species. Membership is not required to participate.

Please visit the FRST website at frstillinois.com and read the invasive species blog along with more information on how to join. To contact Isaiah, email volunteerFRST@gmail.com.

Shifting gears to talk about management and where things are during this time of the year. Now is a great time to get out and remove any woody invasive species in your woods. If you have invasive species like honeysuckle, autumn olive, princess tree or burning bush on your property there are a few different options to get them removed. For more information on management and ID of invasive species the rtrcwma.org has a management and ID guide in the quick-links tab. Both are **available** for download.

Please welcome Isaiah Tanner as the new FRST volunteer coordinator! He joins the organization with five years' experience in volunteer coordination and conservation project management. Isaiah sees forest health as the responsibility of all who enjoy land, air, and water, with some of the biggest gains to be made on private lands.



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

WINEBERRY

Rubus phoenicolasius

INVASIVE SPECIES SERIES | JULY 2020

I
ILLINOIS
Extension

Wineberry

CHRIS EVANS

University of Illinois Extension
Forestry and Research Specialist



WINEBERRY (RUBUS PHOENICOLASIUS)

Wineberry, also called wine raspberry or Japanese wineberry, is an invasive shrub in the Rubus genus (blackberries and raspberries) that can form dense thickets and has the potential to impact native ecosystems. As of 2020, wineberry is not regulated in Illinois, but recent discoveries of new populations in Madison and Jackson counties has prompted an increased concern about this plant's invasive potential in Illinois.

IDENTIFICATION

The growth form of wineberry is a multi-stemmed cane-fruit typical of Rubus genus (raspberries and blackberries). Canes usually are 3 to 5 feet in length, but may reach 10 feet tall at times. Canes are covered in dense, glandular hairs (usually reddish) and thin, straight prickles, giving the plant a reddish coloration.

Leaves are compound with 3 to 5 (usually 3) leaflets. The central (terminal) leaflet is larger than the others. Each leaflet is coarsely toothed with a silvery to bright white, wooly underside.

Flowers are greenish-white with five petals and bloom in late spring. The leafy structure below the flower petals (calyx) closes after flowering is complete and covers the developing fruit until it is almost ripe. Fruit are bright red when ripe. As is typical of raspberries, the fruit core remains on the stem with the ripe fruit when picked. The stalk (pedicel) and the calyx of each flower has the same dense covering of reddish hairs as the canes.

Wineberry may be confused with other blackberries and raspberries, but the combination of white, wooly underside of the leaves and the dense glandular hairs on the canes will separate this from the other species.



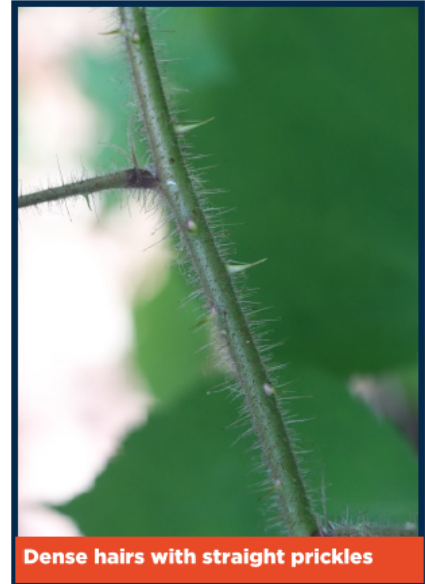
Wineberry leaves have a white, wooly underside.
Photo: Chris Evans



Dense, red glandular hairs



First-year primocane



Dense hairs with straight prickles

Photos: Chris Evans

ECOLOGY

Canes are biennial with the first-year canes (primocane) being long, unbranched, and sterile (does not form flowers). In their second year, the primocanes developed lateral branching. Flower and fruit production are only on second-year canes (floricanes). While each cane only lives for two years, the plant, itself, is perennial, with new canes produced each year.

Wineberry populations seem to prefer open disturbed sites, such as canopy gaps in forests or old fields. The presence of high light availability and exposed soil seems to be important for initial seedling establishment; however, once established, populations can persist in more closed conditions. Established wineberry populations have been found in a wide variety of site conditions, including growing in relatively heavy shade to full sun, dry soils to seasonally flooded bottomlands, and rocky infertile sites to rich soils.

IMPACTS

In addition to spread via fruit, wineberry can also spread by layering or tip-rooting, where the tips of the canes come into contact with the ground and form roots. This allows wineberry to form dense stands, even in sites with inadequate light availability for fruit production.

Dense stands in natural ecosystems have the potential to limit tree regeneration and development of the native understory flora.

CONTROL

Few studies have evaluated control strategies, but foliar application of systemic herbicides, such as triclopyr or glyphosate, have been reported to be successful. Hand-pulling has also been reported as a successful strategy for only small individuals.

UNITED STATES DISTRIBUTION

Wineberry was first introduced to the United States in 1890 as breeding stock for other *Rubus* cultivars and has a long history of horticultural and agricultural use. It is still currently sold as a garden plant for fruit production. Wineberry has escaped populations in 24 states, mostly throughout the eastern United States. It is recognized as an invasive species on a formal state list in 16 states, including being regulated or restricted in four states.



WINEBERRY IN THE UNITED STATES

Known populations: Arkansas, Alabama, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Listed as Invasive: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

Regulated Species: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin



Wineberry produces a colorful ripe fruit.
Photo: Les Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org



**COUNTY-LEVEL
DISTRIBUTION OF
WINEBERRY IN ILLINOIS
JULY 2020**

Pink indicates historic populations.
Red indicates current populations.

REPORTING NEW POPULATIONS

This is a priority species to watch since several new populations of wineberry have been recently reported in Illinois. Report any suspect populations of wineberry in Illinois by either emailing Illinois Extension Forester Chris Evans (cwevans@illinois.edu) pictures of the suspect population and location information or, preferably, submit a report to the EDDMapS database using an app such as [EDDMapS Pro](#) or the [Great Lakes Early Detection Network](#). Both apps are available at apps.bugwood.org. These apps are free downloads, but you do need to create an account to use them.

WINEBERRY IN ILLINOIS

Herbarium and historic records indicate that wineberry has previously been found escaped in Illinois in Jersey, Lake, Massac, and Morgan counties though the status of those populations is currently unknown. There was an additional record from Morgan County from the botanical data collected during the *Illinois Natural Areas Inventory* update (2008-2012). Two additional recent observations were submitted to *iNaturalist* from Cook County (2016-2018). In 2018, two populations were reported in Madison County and are currently being actively managed. With the addition of a new population reported in 2020 in Jackson County, wineberry is known to exist in seven counties in Illinois.

SOURCES:

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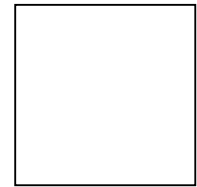
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Dodecatheon frenchii –
French's Shooting Star

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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.

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- Leadership & Organization (serving on board at State or Chapter level)
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