

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



Prairie Trout Lily at Denby Prairie State Nature Preserve in Macoupin County, Illinois. ☞ Chris Benda

The beautiful Prairie Trout Lily, *Erythronium mesochoreum*, is a rare wildflower in Illinois. It only occurs in a few counties east of the Mississippi River, all in Illinois. For over 10 years, ever since I learned of the existence of this wildflower and that it occurred in Illinois, I have wanted to see this species in bloom. It differs from the much more common White Trout Lily, *Erythronium albidum*, by its spreading tepals at maturity (instead of reflexed), erect and conduplicate (folded) leaves, drooping fruit, and solitary nature instead of rhizomatous growth with many vegetative leaves. ☞ Chris Benda, Editor

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Message from the President



Dear INPS Community,

I have been involved with the Illinois Native Plant Society (ILNPS, to differentiate us from Indiana or Iowa, they both use INPS) since becoming a member of the Central Chapter around 1999/2000ish.

I enjoyed the monthly meetings, socializing beforehand as we often went to dinner prior to the meeting. And I helped some with the native plant sales. I also learned a lot about Illinois flora, so different in many aspects from my dry country Montana roots. I made friends and it was through this chapter that I met Floyd. Along with Guy Sternberg, Floyd was one of the founders of Central Chapter and we met when he showed up at a plant sale workday in 2004.

Upon marrying Floyd and moving to Joliet I quickly learned I missed the ILNPS. The Northeast Chapter was a bit defunct at the time, no leadership or activities, so I asked to become an at-large member of the board serving, I think, from 2006-or so onward at-large, as chapter president, president-elect, and president until 2016 when I finished my duties as past-president.

Floyd and I helped get the Northeast Chapter active again, largely based on field trips with brew pubs following the field trips. In 2008, the Northeast Chapter hosted the Annual Gathering. I have helped organize a total of three more Annual Gatherings, as well as plant sales, staffed tables at events, gave presentations and three symposiums hosted by the Kankakee Torrent Chapter, which we organized into being. And herein is the amazing thing about the Illinois Native Plant Society, individual members can make things happen. Good ideas are good ideas and the ILNPS can help to bring ideas to fruition if the ideas meet and support the ILNPS mission statement. Share your ideas with your chapter or state board.

As an example, Illinois native Robert Hendrickson, moved a few years ago from the Chicago area to Hannibal, MO and joined the Central Chapter this year. This west-central area of Illinois is sparsely populated and Central Chapter's Springfield meeting site is about 100 miles from Hannibal. To share his enthusiasm for native plants, he organized a three-day seminar featuring three speakers from Illinois, including his mentor, Henry Eilers, as a presenter. Hendrickson worked with Eilers back in 1974 in Litchfield, IL, (Read Henry's [blog!](#)). Hendrickson matched his passion with an idea and a perceived need to create The [Great Gardens Conference](#), June 2-4 in Hannibal, Missouri.

As the board develops and organizes committees to implement some ideas from our Strategic Planning meeting, we will be reaching out to members. Links to the Membership Survey and a summary of the Strategic Planning meeting should be available on the website soon. These will help shape our plans for the future.

Enjoy the spring wildflowers!

Janine Catchpole - President INPS

INPS Chapters

CENTRAL CHAPTER

Springfield

Trish Quintenz (President)

trishquintenz@gmail.com

FOREST GLEN CHAPTER

Champaign/Urbana, Danville

Paul Marcum (President)

marcum@illinois.edu

GRAND PRAIRIE CHAPTER

Bloomington/Normal

Joe Armstrong (President)

jearmstr@ilstu.edu

KANKAKEE TORRENT

CHAPTER - Bourbonnais

Floyd Catchpole (President)

fcatchpole@comcast.net

NORTHEAST CHAPTER

Chicago

vacant (President)

northeast.inps@gmail.com

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER

Rock Island

Bo Dziadyk (President)

bohbandziadyk@augustana.edu

SOUTHERN CHAPTER

Carbondale

Nick Seaton (President)

southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

Welcome New Members

Central Chapter

Cody Azotea

Chelsy Buffat

Vicky Carson

Karla Frank

Suellen Frederick

Joyce Harms

Robert Hendrickson

John Nolan

Leah Wilson

Forest Glen Chapter

Fred Delcomyn

Grand Prairie Chapter

Ricky Gieser

Kankakee Torrent

Michele Clayton

Juleigh Miller

Elsbeth Stanzil

Northeast Chapter

Alex Barnes

Carole Bass

Amee Foster

Kat Gerdts

Trish Gibbons

Marie and Jonathan Gray

Rick Hennessy

Jeanne Krulewich

Frank Lawrence

Mark Liechty

Christina Lovering

Mercedes Main-Duplechin

Julianne Phipps

Sandra Pufahl

Kevin Scheiwiller

Mario Sprindys

Robert Sullivan

Mary Tworek-Tupper

Theresa Winter

Rosemary Wisnosky

Quad Cities Chapter

Merrilee Batten

Alice Henry

Julie Schneider

Rebecca Wells

Southern Chapter

Makenna Baxter

Patricia Dunbar

Kenneth Lynn

Robert Mohlenbrock

Claire Watson

INPS News

Save the Date: INPS Annual Gathering

Hosted by the Central Chapter, the 2023 Annual Gathering is scheduled for Friday evening September 29; Saturday, September 30; and concludes on Sunday, October 1. The location will be the State House Inn in Springfield, IL. We are thrilled to announce Dr. Doug Tallamy, award-winning author, speaker, and Professor of Agriculture in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware as keynote

speaker at this year's Annual Gathering! Dr. Tallamy will speak on the subject of his latest book, "The Nature of Oaks." Watch for agenda and registration details later this summer!

Annual Central Chapter Native Plant Sale May 13th in Springfield



* New at the sale this year *

We are excited to offer pollinator garden signs from Victory Garden of Tomorrow at this year's sale! Adding signage to your native plant garden can be a very helpful educational component as well as a beautiful artistic expression. These six designs will be available for only \$20 each!! A special thank you goes out to Springfield's Wild Birds Unlimited for ordering the signs for us!



Southern Chapter To Host Indigenous Plants Symposium and Native Plant Sale

Join the Southern chapter in Carbondale on Saturday, April 29 at Morris Library's Guyon Auditorium for a day full of presentations from students, practitioners, and researchers. The theme is "Illinois Plants in a Changing Climate." On Sunday, April 30, get outside for a botanical hike at Wildcat Bluff. Then on May 13, they are holding a native plant sale at Turley Park in Carbondale in conjunction with Green Earth.

Other INPS Chapter News

For additional information about each chapter, follow the links on our Chapters [webpage](#).

Registration Open for the North American Prairie Conference in Altoona, Iowa

2023 NORTH AMERICAN PRAIRIE CONFERENCE























The 2023 North American Prairie Conference is scheduled to take place June 26-29 in central Iowa. Join prairie experts, enthusiasts and more for America's oldest and most celebrated native grassland conference!

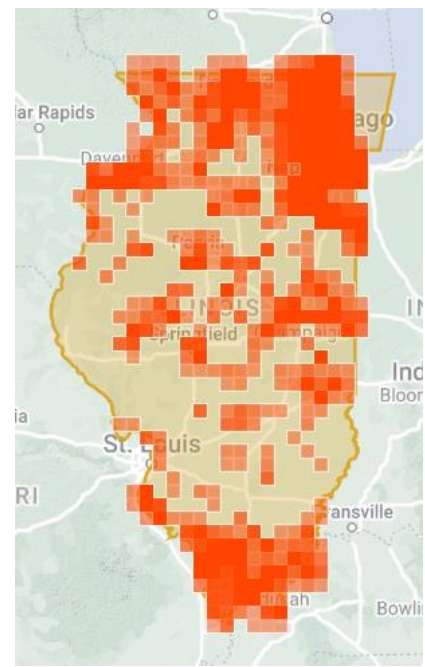
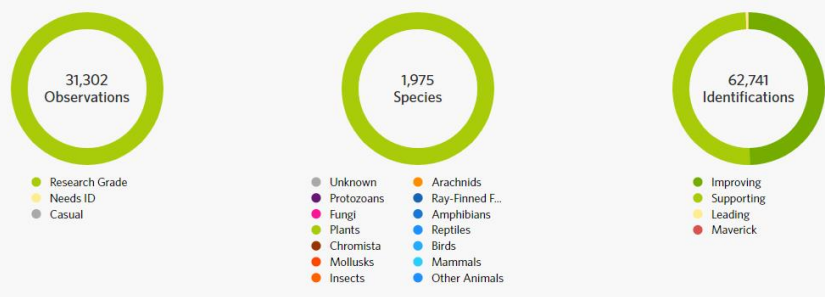
REGISTER TODAY

2022 Illinois Botanists Big Year Results

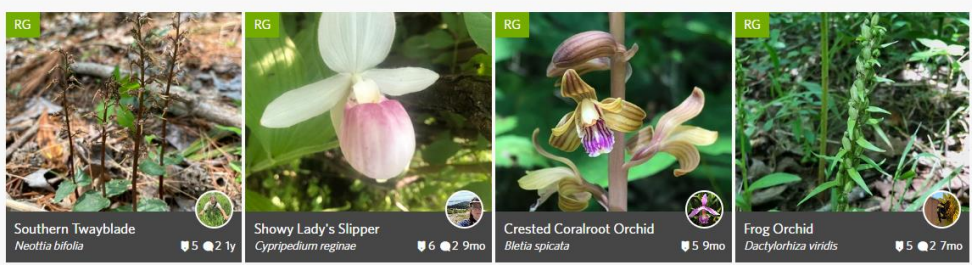
Congratulations to Paul Marcum, the big winner of the 2022 ILBBY competition!

Most Observations		Most Species		Most Observed Species				
 	sedge	3,298	 	sedge	1,223		Prairie Trillium	173
	grantfessler	2,177		rynxs	1,040		Virginia Spring Beauty	172
	rynxs	1,866		grantfessler	906		Bloodroot	154
	danielpohl	1,809		sanguinaria33	756		Mayapple	148
	mrostrowski	1,624		danielpohl	747		Common Milkweed	145
	psweet	1,402		elfaulkner	700		Virginia Bluebells	135

Stats



Most Comments and Faves



Event to Honor Henry Eilers, longtime INPS Central Chapter member, in Hannibal, MO

Hannibal's The Great Gardens Conference
"Natives, Meadows & Prairies"



A three-day event focused on why native plants in the landscape... small yard meadows... and prairie projects are essential for our well-being and also for our community and our planet.

June 2 thru 4, 2023
Hannibal, MO
 Conference to benefit Hannibal Parks & Recreation Department for native plants and prairie projects

Conference Schedule
Friday, June 2 Film plus Q&A 7:00 pm
 "Urban & Suburban Meadows... Bringing Meadows to Big and Small Spaces" 60 minute film followed by Q&A session
 Bluff City Theater 212 Broadway, Hannibal \$5.00 Seating limited.

Saturday, June 3 Workshop 9:00 - 4:30
 Conference sessions by native plant and prairie experts with topics focused on native plants, meadow and prairie projects, pollinator gardens and more.
 Native plant sale, visit with environmental organizations, free gardening information.
 The Depot 314 South Main, Hannibal \$25.00 Seating limited.

Sunday, June 4 Garden Tour 9:00 - 4:00
 Drive-yourself tour of 6 native plant gardens and prairie projects with representatives on-site. Open to Saturday conference attendees only. No charge. Location map available Saturday.

Tickets: www.tggc.org

Welcome to Hannibal's THE GREAT GARDENS CONFERENCE
 "Natives, Meadows & Prairies," a three-day event focused on why native plants in the landscape. Small yard meadow and prairie projects are essential not only for own well-being, but also for our community and our planet. Conference profit benefits Hannibal Parks & Recreation Department in support of their native plants and prairie projects. www.tggc.org
 June 2 thru 4, 2023 in Hannibal, MO

Seeds

By Fred Delcomyn, certified master naturalist and professor emeritus of the School of Integrative Biology at the University of Illinois and co-author of *A Backyard Prairie*

Who among us has not marveled at the spectacular color of a tallgrass prairie in full bloom? Not even a devoted city-dweller could fail to be mesmerized by the riot of color as far as the eye can see.

But how many of us stop to consider what the purpose of all that color is – to attract pollinators so that seeds can be produced? All too often we are distracted by the colorful and showy flowers and fail to appreciate the end



Gray-headed Coneflower

result. Seeds are, after all, mostly dull and uninteresting. Ah, but there's more than meets the eye in seeds. Botanists have identified several methods by which seeds are dispersed, such as gravity, animals, and wind. Some seeds, like those of gray-headed coneflowers (*Ratibida pinnata*), ripen on the seedhead and when mature fall off the stem, letting gravity do its work to get them to the ground.

The method works to get seeds to the ground (or we wouldn't have many new coneflower plants), but it does not help spread seeds away from the mother plant.



**Gray-headed
Coneflower seedhead**

Seed dispersal by animals is a method that does spread seeds far and wide. Take for an example my least favorite prairie plant – Illinois tick trefoil (*Desmodium illinoense*). In my opinion, this plant does not have much going for it. It is tall and scraggly, with rather small purple-violet flowers scattered on the stems. It's certainly not a crowd-pleaser. But what it is really good at is scattering its seeds. It is just about impossible to walk through a prairie where these plants are growing without collecting a small (or not so small) sample of seeds since the seeds have Velcro-like tiny hooks all over and hence adhere tightly to clothing should

you brush by a plant. Any animal that does the same, a deer, coyote, or rabbit, will also be an unwitting accomplice in spreading the seeds well away from the mother plant. I may not like them, but I can admire the success of their method of seed dispersal.



Butterflyweed

The method of seed dispersal people are most familiar with, though, is probably dispersal by wind. There are too many examples to list them all, ranging from iconic milkweed species such as butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) to goldenrods like stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*). They all have in common small to-medium sized seeds attached to fluffy hairs called silk. When the seeds are mature, the silk is caught by the wind and blown away, spreading the plant far and wide.

There's another prairie plant that uses wind-aided dispersal you may not ever have considered: white wild indigo (*Baptisia alba*). I can just hear your objection – these plants have heavy seed pods and no fluff. How can they be wind-dispersed? As you may remember, white wild indigo are tall plants, typically reaching heights of more than three feet. Flowers, and then seed pods, form on long racemes that grow from a central stem. In fall, the seeds develop in small pods. Nothing unusual about any of this, and certainly not a description that makes you

think of wind-aided dispersal. But then in late fall, the central stalk of the plant tends to break, leaving the plant with its seed pods untethered to anything. Fall winds then pick up the stalk and blow it along the prairie, ensuring that when the seed pods finally open, they do so some distance from where the plant originally grew. It's not unusual to see dozens of these tumble-weed-like plants blowing along a prairie.



White Wild Indigo fruit

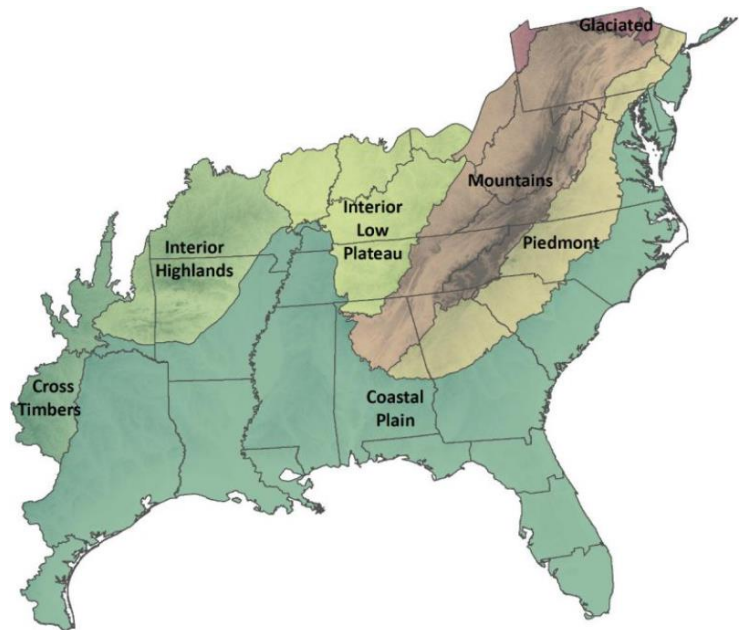
One thing that fascinates me about prairie is there always seems to be some new facet of natural history just waiting to be unraveled by an observant visitor. Keep your eyes open. You never know what you might see.

The 21 Anti-Theses of the Flora of the Southeastern United States Project

By Alan Weakley, lead author of the Flora of the Southeastern United States

In April 2022, Alan Weakley, along with Michael Lee and the greater Southeastern Flora Team, released the 2022 edition of the Flora of the Southeastern United States, which covers 10,719 vascular plant taxa. This work includes southern Illinois, as well as areas to the south, west, and east. Their work aims to make the Flora more accessible and user-friendly. In light of this, Alan compiled this humorous list of things to avoid when writing a Flora book.

1. "Keys should be written by those who don't need them (the expert on a genus) for those who won't be able to use them."
2. Floras are bound books; they should be as heavy as possible and made with weak bindings (they belong on a table in an herbarium, not in the field).
3. Digital products are not real.
4. Floras should be written once and not revised. Knowledge is eternal (did Moses need to go back to the mountain for a new set of stone tablets?).
5. Floras should be written as drily as possible. If any touch of humanity or humor appears, it degrades the science.
6. No pictures. There's nothing worth showing that can't be described in a minimum of 30 highly technical words.



Geographic area covered by the 2022 edition of the Flora of the Southeastern U.S.

7. Keep habitat descriptions as general and vague as possible: “woods”, “roadsides”. That way you won’t ever be wrong.
8. Make sure to use Latinate words that show you are a well-trained botanist. If a sepal is dark, call it “fuscous”. If it’s grooved, call it “vallecular” or “canaliculate”.
9. Glossaries of technical terms should have no pictures. Make definitions technical and circular by reference. “Vallecular = characterized by having a vallecula.”
10. If two genera look superficially similar and are often mistaken for one another, make sure they are keyed far apart from one another.
11. Start keys with the most technical characters possible, then proceed to more obvious, readily observable characters.
12. In keys, never use vegetative characters that are apparent throughout the growing season, when you can (and should) rely on features of the ephemeral flowers or of the fruits (that never set). Plants in sterile condition were never meant to be IDed.
13. In keys, use terms with general meanings (“bracts”) without explaining their specialized meaning in that genus -- “bracts absent” [how do I know that they’re absent if I don’t know what I’m looking for?]
14. In keys, use relative terms based on your own extensive experience: “Plants large and coarse...” vs. “Plants smaller and more gracile...”. Perhaps the user will eventually acquire that same experience.
15. In keys, use characters that depend on the plant having been dried as an herbarium specimen (“leaves blackening on drying”).
16. In keys, never use characters that are most apparent when the plant is fresh (plants should only be IDed from specimens in an herbarium).
17. In keys, use words ambiguously: “sepals reddish-brown” vs. sepals “mostly greenish”. What does that ‘mostly’ mean? That most of the sepal is “greenish”? Or, that in most of the species that are keyed there, the sepals are greenish, but some of the species have sepals that are “reddish-brown” or maybe flaming hot pink?
18. Write family keys using technical and obscure characters: “placentation axile” vs. “placentation parietal (often intruded).”
19. Follow a strict procedure of key to family, key to genus, key to species, key to infraspecies. If someone can’t key a plant to the family, they don’t deserve to know.
20. Early in a key, use characters requiring mature fruits. Later in the key, use characters requiring newly opened flowers. Ha!, no pain, no gain.

21. Keep the riffraff out of botany; “no PhD? Then why do you think you can use a flora?”

Focus on a Natural Area – Bear Creek Relict Botanical Area

By Chris Benda, Plants of Concern Southern Illinois Program Coordinator and Harbinger Editor

Despite all the challenges we continually face when seeking to preserve and maintain natural areas, many high quality natural areas persist across the state. A lesser known one located close to my home in Jackson County is Bear Creek Relict Botanical Area. One of 80 natural areas within the Shawnee National Forest, the Bear Creek area is a category VI site, meaning presence of an unusual assemblage of vascular plants. The sandstone cliffs



Bear Creek

and boulders along Bear Creek also host a diverse array of rare and interesting plants.

Wild Azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*) grows on the rocky, thin soils of the sandstone canyon along Bear Creek. This species can only be seen at 7 sites in 3 counties in Illinois. Another plant of acidic soils is Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), an uncommon species in southern Illinois. But the heart of the natural area is the



Goldie's Fern

sandstone cliffs that contain Forbe's Saxifrage (*Saxifraga forbesii*) and French's Shooting Star (*Primula frenchii*). These rare plant species are only found within the Greater Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Ferns also abound at this site. Conservative species such as Silvery Spleenwort Fern (*Deparia acrostichoides*), Glade Fern (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*), and Spinulose Shield Fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*), as well as the seldom encountered Goldie's Fern (*Dryopteris goldieana*), can all be seen in this area.



Wild Azalea at Bear Creek

Other splendid vascular plants at the site include Showy Orchis (*Galaeris spectabilis*), Carey's Sedge (*Carex careyana*), Dwarf Crested Iris (*Iris cristata*), Goat's-beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), and Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*). This site can be accessed from Hickory Ridge Road just south of Little Grand Canyon, and although some dirt paths bisect the site, off-trail navigational skills are needed to explore this expansive area.



French's Shooting Star

Other News, Articles, Web Links, & Videos

National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder, Host Plants by Ecoregion

Discover the host plants that are native to your ecoregion at the National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder, Host Plants by Ecoregion [website](#). You can buy native plants at annual native plant sales, held by your state's Native Plant Society, nature centers and habitat programs at select affiliates of the National Wildlife Federation.

Homegrown National Park, Get on the Map!

Homegrown National Park is a grassroots call-to-action to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks. Watch the video by Dr. Doug Tallamy, visit the Homegrown National Park website, and Get on the Map! <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/>

Field Museum Offers Downloadable Field Guide

New Rapid Color Field Guide to Selected Plants that Threaten Chicagoland Natural Areas, <https://fieldguides.fieldmuseum.org/guides/guide/1547>

A Photo Guide to Some Outstanding Mosses of the Morton Arboretum

This [guide](#) includes the 56 moss species that are most commonly seen along trails. The majority of the included mosses can be found on trees, branches, stumps, logs, rocks, gravel, and soil.

Hirono, Braun Introduce Resolution Designating April 2023 as National Native Plant Month

U.S. Senators Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Mike Braun (R-IN) introduced a [bipartisan resolution](#) designating April 2023 as “National Native Plant Month” and recognizing the importance of native plants to environmental conservation and restoration, as well as in supporting a diversity of wildlife.

The Mystery of *Thismia Americana*, the Parasitic Plant Found Only in Chicago

"WHAT HAPPENED TO *Thismia americana*?" It's a question that fascinates botanists around the world, but one that few in the general public have probably ever considered, despite the fact that it has been asked for well over a century. More read at this [link](#).

The Weedkiller Dicamba Is Poisoning Wildlife Habitat. Will the EPA Finally Act?

Blamed for destroying crops and fraying community ties, the widely used herbicide also poses a threat to the plants birds need, experts say. Read more in this National Audubon magazine [article](#).

The Little-Known World of Caterpillars - An entomologist races to find them before they disappear

Some scientists warn of an insect apocalypse. The flying-insect community has been “decimated,” a research paper said. Read more in this New Yorker [article](#) about David Wagner, an entomologist who teaches at the University of Connecticut.

An App for Naturalists Offers a Shared Sense of Reality

A not-for-profit initiative of the California Academy of Sciences and the National Geographic Society, iNaturalist says it aims to connect people to nature through technology. But in a moment that can feel like everything is subject to dispute — the cause of inflation, the nature of gender, the legitimacy of an election — iNaturalist has also gained recognition as a rare place on the internet where people with different points of view

manage to forge agreement on what constitutes reality. Read this interesting [perspective](#) in the *New York Times* (article may be behind a paywall) about a website familiar to many INPS members.

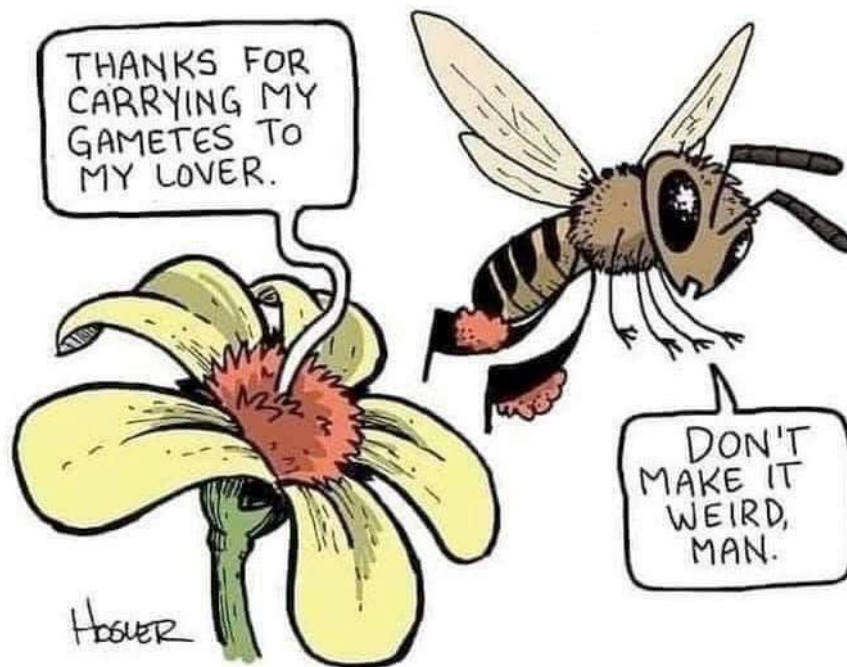
When It Comes to Garlic Mustard, Doing Less Is More

Until recently, ignoring problems in hopes they'll go away hasn't served me well. However, a decade-long study done by Cornell University researchers has clearly shown that avoidance is the best way to manage garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), a pernicious exotic plant. Read more at this [link](#).

Videos

- *Orchid Conservation in Illinois and Beyond After 25 years: Highlights and Challenges Ahead*, a [presentation](#) by Dr. Lawrence Zettler, professor at Illinois College
- *Updating *Styrax americanus* occurrences in Illinois*, a [presentation](#) by Chris Benda for the INPS Southern Chapter
- Tom Rosburg Golden Hills seminars, Golden Hills, a nonprofit serving rural western Iowa, hosted plant identification webinars by Drake University professor Dr. Tom Rosburg. Check out the plant identification videos at this [link](#)
- *Indiana's Native Orchids*, a [presentation](#) by Michael Homoya, retired Indiana State Botanist <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pjvJLEYkSuo>
- Plants of Concern 2022 Annual Recap Meeting, a [presentation](#) by Katie Kucera and Chris Benda

Botany Humor



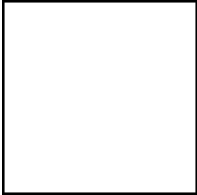
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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www.illinoisplants.org



**Illinois
Native
Plant
Society**

The Harbinger Spring 2023

You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at <https://illinoisplants.org/online-membership-form/>.

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!



Join us!

- New Member
- Renewal
- Address Change only
- Additional Donation

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Membership Year _____

Email _____

Membership Categories

- Student.....\$15.00
- Individual.....\$25.00
- Family.....\$35.00
- Institutional (nonvoting)..\$20.00
- Supporting.....\$50.00
- Patron.....\$100.00
- Business.....\$125.00
- Life.....\$500.00
- Iliamna* (life).....\$1,000.00
- Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
- Eriogonum* (life).....\$5,000.00

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Illinois Native Plant Society
INPS, Membership, P.O. Box 60694, Chicago, IL 60660

The Harbinger Newsletter is sent electronically by email.

Check here to receive the newsletter BY MAIL

Chapter Affiliation

Eriogonum, 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

- 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: _____