It’s been a wonderful summer in Illinois this year. Sufficient rain and moderate temperatures have made botanizing a pleasant endeavor. Even those in the south have enjoyed the cooler weather and observers have reported that the plants are responding to the favorable conditions. These photographs are of Marsh Blazing Star (*Liatris spicata*) in Full Glorious Bloom (FGB) taken recently in a restored prairie at Palatine Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County.

~Christopher David Benda, Editor

GO GREEN! If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help us lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Please send your email address to illinoisplants@gmail.com to be added to our email distribution list. Please “like” us on facebook at www.facebook.com/illinoisplants.
Greetings!

Somehow it happened. The hope and excitement of spring morphed into the cynicism and exhaustion of late summer. The weeds seem to be the only thing growing in our northeast Illinois drought. At night, my hands can twitch and ache from the repetitive motions associated with cutting teasel heads, spraying and pulling weeds. Muscle memory etched in through a day’s activity.

However, in spite of reaching the point in summer when we all would like to just go to seed, the Illinois Native Plant Society has gotten good stuff done. If you haven’t seen our improved web site, check it out. And there will be training on posting and using the site at the 2013 Annual meeting, leading us to another good thing.

Please plan on attending the 2013 Annual meeting, October 4 - 6, hosted by the Central Chapter. They are planning on showing us a good time. Get your registration in soon; it will help with their planning. This event will follow the Natural Areas Association Conference in Chicago. The INPS plans on having a table at the conference to raise awareness about our wonderful group and I hope some folks will look at our Annual meeting as a chance to continue interacting with friends and to see more of Illinois natural areas.

In other news, we have a new editor for Erigenia, Andrew West. Tracy Evans has stepped down to concentrate on other matters. Thank you, Tracy, for all your hard work and great guiding hand in keeping Erigenia a journal we are proud to support. Andrew, we look forward to your involvement. Board member Andy Methven has also stepped down. Our thanks to him for his work. On that note, would anyone like to become more involved with the Illinois Native Plant Society?

See you in Springfield this October!

~INPS President Janine Catchpole

Welcome New Illinois Native Plant Society Members!

| NORTHEAST CHAPTER | SOUTHERN CHAPTER | QUAD CITIES
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The Spring 2013 issue (volume 26) of Erigenia, the Journal of the Illinois Native Plant Society, has been sent to current members. Did you get the most recent issue? If not, email the editor: erigenia.editor@gmail.com.

The INPS Annual Meeting this year, hosted by the Central Chapter, will be held October 4-6 in Springfield, IL. We hope you can join us!

A great line up of field trips and social events are planned. There will be general board meeting that is open to all members and we encourage participation from you! Please see registration details on the proceeding pages. Check out our website for more details: http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events/meetings. Online registration is forthcoming.

Please note that this meeting occurs directly after the Natural Areas conference, held in Chicago October 1-4.

Illinois Native Plant Society in the News...

The Central Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society awarded a grant in the amount of $1000 to Dennis Campbell at the Lincoln College Outdoor Center for Environmental Education in Logan County to purchase native plants for their one-acre restored prairie. Read more at: http://www.sj-r.com/top-stories/x606653113/Logan-County-site-to-serve-dual-purpose-of-education-recreation
INPS CHAPTER NEWS

NORTHEAST CHAPTER - Chicago
Diana Krug (President)
312-504-6473
northeast.inps@gmail.com

QUAD CITIES CHAPTER - Rock Island
Bo Dziadyk (President)
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qc_inps.home.mchsi.com

FOREST GLEN CHAPTER - Danville
Connie Cunningham (President)
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conniejcunningham@gmail.com

CENTRAL CHAPTER - Springfield
Annette Chinuge (President)
217-483-5893
annette@avrosystems.com

IRENE CULL CHAPTER - Peoria
Mary Hartley (President)
309-995-3356
haywool@winco.net

SOUTHERN CHAPTER - Carbondale
Chris Benda (President)
217-417-4145
southernillinoisplants@gmail.com

For more information about events, please contact your chapter representative above.

Northeast Chapter (Chicago)

Board members Jason Zylka and Rachel Goad report that the Northeast Chapter has hosted a variety of excellent field trips this season highlighting northeastern Illinois natural areas and their management. Thanks to all of the organizers and tour leaders!

On April 14th, NE Chapter Treasurer Jason Zylka and site steward Phyllis Schulte led NE chapter members on a hike to Hickory Creek, a Will County Forest Preserve, in search of the newsletter’s namesake, the Harbinger of Spring (*Erigenia bulbosa*). Members were successful in this quest, and also enjoyed a diversity of other spring ephemerals beginning to bloom.

On May 19th, NE Chapter member Scott Kobal gave a tour of Waterfall Glen Preserve, one of the gems of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District. Society members were delighted by the fern flora on the rock outcroppings in the preserve and were treated to an in depth review of the site's flora and management history. This impressive tour covered only a small area of the larger preserve, and NE Chapter members are eager to see more on a future trip.

On June 16th, NE chapter members explored McKinley Woods, guided by intrepid trip leader and NE Chapter member Floyd Catchpole. Recent canopy thinning work has allowed a rich understory flora to develop at this site as historical light levels have returned. The ravine slopes along the Des Plaines River presented a rare bit of topographic relief during the tour. As part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, McKinley Woods will continue to provide habitat to some of the rarer flora as restoration and management work continues.

On July 20th and 21st, NE chapter members were treated to tours of two sites along the north shore of Lake Michigan. On July 20th, members met at Illinois Beach State Park. Owned and managed by IDNR, this site has the distinction of being Illinois' first nature preserve. NE chapter member Karen Lustig gave an excellent tour of the south unit's diverse dune and swale flora. The following day, members explored Fort Sheridan Forest Preserve, led by NE chapter member Floyd Catchpole and NE chapter secretary Rachel Goad. The diverse flora of the ravines, restored prairie, steep lake bluffs, and beaches at this site is managed by the Lake County Forest Preserve District, which has done an impressive job of remediating damaging hydrological flow through the site. On August 18th, NE chapter members were given a tour of Sand Ridge Savanna and Green Lake Savanna, two wonderful examples of dune and swale topography and flora, which are unique in northeast Illinois. The sites are undergoing management and restoration as part of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and are currently making great strides toward becoming even richer and more diverse. Forest Preserve District of Cook County ecologists Chip O'Leary and Dan Spencer were kind enough to volunteer their time to lead the trip.

The NE chapter has two more field trips upcoming this season, and we hope you’ll join us! On September 15 we will tour Powderhorn Prairie and Wolf Lake Prairie, and on October 20 we will tour Orland Park Creek Habitat. For more information, email northeast.inps@gmail.com.

Quad Cities Chapter (Rock Island)

Chapter President, Bo Dziadyk, reports of plans to trying to initiate a Botany 101 series that will present the basics of plant diversity (bryophytes, pteridophytes, seed plants), structure, function, and ecological relationships wherein participants can discuss what plants are and what they do that is vital to human survival. A short program at each meeting is the goal.

Irene Cull Chapter (Peoria)

No news to report.

More Chapter News on Next Page…
**INPS CHAPTER NEWS**

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Chris Benda (President)
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**Forest Glen Chapter (Danville)**
Chapter President Connie Cunningham reports that Forest Glen chapter is experiencing a lull in activities unfortunately. Please stay tuned for more programming in future newsletters or contact Connie at her email listed above.

**Central Chapter (Springfield)**
Chapter President Annette Chinuge reports that it has been a busy and productive summer for the Central Chapter. The plant sale in April was a huge success and they sold about 80% of all the plants that were offered. There was also a nice selection of trees and shrubs for sale from Forest Keeling, Boehms, and Starhill Forest.

The May field trips to Ken Schall’s prairie restoration and Roberts Cemetery Nature Preserve were cancelled due to weather and hopefully will be rescheduled at a later date. Everyone enjoyed an interesting program on Rain Gardens by Andrew Holsinger at the regular May meeting. On June 1st members enjoyed a wonderful tour of Nipper Wildlife Sanctuary, led by Vern LaGesse. This is an amazing site has been restored the last 15 years by Friends of the Sangamon Valley, and a wide variety of wetland and prairie species were observed. Nipper has it’s own app, available from iTunes, and can provide visitors a virtual guided tour. At the regular June meeting, there was a unique presentation on “Illinois Plants of the Pleistocene” by Dr. Jeff Saunders. He presented what those giant sloths were eating long ago.

July featured both a potluck and a tour of Starhill Forest Arboretum in Petersburg with Guy and Edie Sternberg. There was an added bonus of an outdoor presentation on the flora and peoples of the Amazon by Noah Sabich, Development Director at Acaté Amazon Conservation. In August, Central Chapter member, Sue Dees Hargrove, presented an outstanding program on Butterfly and Moth Gardening for Illinois. The information she brought with her was delightful!

The Central Chapter has submitted two grant applications and both were approved. One grant was given to restore the woods area of the Clayville Historical Site in Pleasant Plains; the other grant was approved to eradicate bush honeysuckle from a Nature Preserve near Chatham. In addition, they donated and installed a mulched native plant flower bed around the new sign at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary. Since this is the place they hold their monthly meetings, all members felt it was a good way to thank them for their generosity and support. Those that come to our Annual meeting can get to see this wonderful area. Please see the Central Chapter’s section of our website for more information about their events, [http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-chapter](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-chapter).

**Southern Chapter (Carbondale)**
Chapter President Chris Benda reports that last July, the Southern Chapter hosted a workshop by SIU Plant Biology professor Dr. Dan Nickrent on Plant Photography. Many neat tips and techniques were learned by the participants and their stunning photographs were displayed in the chapter’s August newsletter. Participants made comments such as, “I learned about White-Balance on my camera and now want to use it more,” and “I was thrilled to find out my camera had a macro option!” Special thanks to Dr. Nickrent for organizing the workshop.

For the regular monthly meeting on August 20th, the southern chapter hosted Dr. John Van Dyk, retired education professor and amateur botanist, for a program titled, “Updates to the Flora of Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge” at the Carbondale Township Hall. John gave a wonderful presentation about the over 900 species of plants that have been documented to occur on the refuge.

The September program will host chapter president Chris Benda, who will present “The Best Natural Areas in Southern Illinois.” This presentation is scheduled for September 20th at 7:00pm in the auditorium in the Life Sciences III building on the campus of Southern Illinois University. The presentation will be followed by a hike to one of the natural areas featured in the talk on the next day, Saturday, September 21st at 1:00pm. Please contact southernillinoisplants@gmail.com for more details.

Also please visit our website for more information at [www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)!
2013 Statewide Meeting

Springfield, Illinois • October 4-6

The Central Chapter and the Officers of the Illinois Native Plant Society invite you to the society’s 2013 Annual Meeting. This event will take place at various venues and several field trip locations around the Springfield and Central Illinois area.

A special rate of $75/night + tax has been arranged for INPS members at the Quality Inn, 3442 Freedom Drive, Springfield, IL 62704, (217) 787-2250 where our morning field trips will begin. Camping at $25/night and up + tax has been arranged at the Double J Campground & RV Park, 9683 Palm Road, Chatham, IL 62629 (Springfield), (217) 483-9998

The Friday night “Mixer” will be held at Spaulding House, the sustainable “green” home of central chapter President Annette Chinuge. A tour of the gardens and home will be available for those who show up early. The presentation that night by Professor James Bray of Blackburn College on fungi and lichens is one of the most interesting of the monthly presentations the central chapter has had over the years.

Saturday’s field trips offer a range of activities, including a float trip down the Sangamon River and a tour of the Rolling Meadows Brewery. Saturday evening’s meeting, banquet catered by Maldanner’s Restaurant and multimedia program with keynote speaker Thomas Lerczak will be held at a beautiful spot on Lake Springfield - a lovely lodge surrounded by water on three sides with a cash bar to help you relax after a day of field trips A light Sunday breakfast at the Margery Adams Home, Adams Wildlife Center - headquarters of the Illinois Audubon Society - will showcase the architecture of the new addition as well as the natural areas surrounding the home. Northern and southern field trips have also been arranged for those wishing a short tour on their own way home.

This year’s INPS Annual Meeting will feature online registration. Visit our newly rebuilt website at http://illinois-native-plants.org/, and catch up on the most current information about the state INPS annual meeting as well as chapter news. There is a registration link on the Annual Meeting page (http://illinois-native-plants.org/index.php/events/meetings) and we are encouraging folks to register online. When registering for either an individual or group of individuals, you will be asked to fill in the registration form for each person and then you will be taken to PayPal to enter your payment. Payment can be made through either your PayPal account (if you have one) or a credit card. There is no need to have a PayPal account to use your credit card to pay for registration. Paper registration forms and checks can still be mailed in.

We hope to see all of you at the 2013 INPS Annual Meeting!
2013 Statewide Meeting

AGENDA

Friday, October 4
4:00 to 6:00pm - Spaulding House - Registration and check-in
4:00 to 5:30pm - Tours - Gardens with Annette Chinuge / House with Harv Koplo
5:30 to 6:45pm - Social Hour - Hor d'oeuvres, wine, beer - lower level conference center
6:45 to 7:00pm - Welcome - 2013 Meeting Welcome & Announcements
7:00 to 8:00pm Fungi/Lichen Presentation - Professor James Bray, Blackburn College

Saturday, October 5
6:30-7:30am Breakfast - On your own
7:30-8:30am - Quality Inn Parking Lot - Latecomer Registration, Morning field trips, Box Lunch Pickup
1:00pm - Meet for afternoon field trips - TBA
4:00pm - Sangamo Surf Club - State INPS Board Meeting
5:00pm - Sangamo Surf Club - INPS Membership Meeting
5:30pm - Sangamo Surf Club - INPS Banquet
7:00pm - Sangamo Surf Club - Keynote Presentation and book signing by Thomas Lerczak
8:30pm - Sangamo Surf Club - Socializing - Cash Bar

Sunday, October 6
8:00 - 9:00am - Adams Wildlife Center - Coffee and pastries
9:00am - Adams Wildlife Center - Farewell / Sunday Field Trips Depart
9:00am - Adams Wildlife Center - Website training

SATURDAY'S SPEAKER:

Thomas V. Lerczak - "Side Channels in Story and Song"

Thomas Lerczak has spent years living on the Illinois river bluffs just north of Havana, Illinois. While working with the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, he started writing articles for Illinois Audubon magazine. Finally, a book was born.

A collection of previously published nature-related articles arranged in a logical sequence formed the basis of his book, along with short memoir pieces that were placed between the main chapters. Lerczak has a fascination with the idea of "wilderness." In Side Channels: a Collection of Nature Writing and Memoir, he explains how his current life as a natural resource professional is rooted in certain childhood experiences with rivers and wild areas. Also running through the book is his philosophy - learning lessons and gaining peace & happiness from quietly observing nature.

Thomas created a unique presentation, Side Channels in Story and Song, which combines his power point slide program with readings from the book and live music - played on his guitar and sung by Thomas. When songs like Johnny Cash's Crystal Chandeliers and Burgundy and Woody Guthrie's Dust Bowl Ballads had audience members tapping their feet he knew that adding music to the program was the right move - especially after a woman proclaimed that his program was "like being at a campfire." For his INPS presentation, Lerczak will also add experiences in the book gained at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak Nature Preserve.

A book signing after the presentation will be the icing on the cake as Thomas Lerczak educates and entertains us with his special talents. You can read more about his book at http://theriverlanding.typepad.com/the_river_landing/.
Field Trips

SATURDAY MORNING:

Lincoln Memorial Garden

Lincoln Memorial Garden was established in 1936 as a living memorial to Abraham Lincoln. Landscape architect Jens Jensen was chosen to design the garden, and with the help of Garden Clubs and scout troops across Illinois, 63-acres of farmland along the newly-created Lake Springfield was converted to an upland forest and prairie garden. Jensen’s basic plan for the Garden featured eight council rings interconnected by walking paths that take visitors through a Lincoln-era Midwest landscape. Jensen was one of the first landscape architects to renounce exotic plants and thus specified only plants native to Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky – the three states in which Lincoln lived.

Our tour will take us through groves of oak and hickory trees, open meadows of prairie plants, and past small groupings of dogwood, redbud, spicebush, and woodland forbs. Time permitting, a visit to the adjacent 29-acre Ostermeier Prairie Center will allow participants to see a restored tall grass prairie similar to what Lincoln himself would have observed.

Rolling Meadows Brewery

Rolling Meadows Brewery (http://www.rmbrewery.com) began as an appreciation of good beer and a desire to create a fine product utilizing the abundance of natural resources on a family farm. Being a farm-based brewery has allowed RMB to see very clearly that what they do in one area affects everything around it. They try to grow as many inputs to their beer as possible and to source ingredients locally. They do not use genetically modified ingredients and they purchase organic when possible. Their attention to sustainability has contributed to RMB beer now being available on tap all over Illinois, including Whole Foods in Lincoln Park.

The brewery tour is given by Chris Trudeau, who is as enthusiastic about growing hops and crafting beer as anyone you will ever meet. Participants will tour the brewery, get to taste the hops that go into the brew, and investigate the unique way that Chris has of growing the hops locally that go into his brew. Of course, no brewery tour would be complete without a tasting of the various flavors of beer and a souvenir RMB tasting glass! This tour will start late-morning Saturday making it a great option for those members arriving on Saturday. The cost of the tour is $6.
Carpenter Park

Carpenter Park Nature Preserve is a 322 acre tract located on the north bank of the Sangamon River. It features high quality upland and floodplain forest communities, intermittent streams, small seeps, and sandstone bedrock outcrops. Carpenter Park has a well documented history which begins with the local Indians who wintered on the bluffs above a river they called Sain quee-mon (Sangamon). William Carpenter arrived in 1820 and opened a small farm, established a ferry, and erected a flour and saw mill on the Sangamon River. In spite of heavy use, the preserve still maintains a high quality wet-mesic floodplain forest in the Sangamon River floodplain, dominated by old growth sycamore, silver maple, cottonwood, and boxelder trees. The dry-mesic upland forest community is dominated by black and white oaks with scattered black cherry and hickory. The steep slopes and ravines support red and white oak. The canopy trees are nearly one hundred years old. This large tract along the river is an important habitat for many wildlife species including at least 82 species of birds. Ben Dolbeare will lead us on a tour and explain more of the history and ecology of this extraordinary place.

Sangamon River Canoe Trip

Enjoy a fun and relaxing canoe trip down a portion of the Sangamon River. Our guide is Chris Young, a naturalist and journalist/photographer for the State Journal-Register’s Outdoors section. We will canoe a 5-mile stretch of the Sangamon River from Gudgel Bridge to Lincoln’s New Salem. Frequent stops along sandbars will allow us to learn more about the plant and animal communities that inhabit the Sangamon River. This trip is limited to the first 15 registrants. The cost is $20.

Shoal Creek Conservation Area

The Shoal Creek Conservation Area was set aside by the City of Litchfield in 1990 and expanded 2 years later to over 260 acres. Being located on the east side of Lake Yaeger, the southern till plain topography varies from floodplain to steeply dissected ravine systems, sandstone bluffs to level uplands. Special features such as seeps, wetlands, flatwoods and barrens contribute to the biological diversity. Site inventories include lists of fungi, breeding birds, over 70 butterfly species and over 700 species of plants. Management by Shoal Creek Volunteers, Inc. has included controlled burns, species reintroductions in disturbed areas and maintenance of nature trails. Special emphasis is given to management of numerous state-listed species and communities. Some of the barrens were featured in the last issue of ‘Erigenia’.

Still in bloom may be some of the 15 species of Aster, 8 species of Goldenrod, several other composites, Gentians and fall blooming Ladies’ Tresses orchids. Also Puttyroot orchid foliage may just be emerging. Species lists can be provided electronically for those who register for this trip in advance. Henry Eilers, for whom this area was recently renamed in honor of, and INDR district biologist Mark Phipps will lead this all-day trip.
Adams Wildlife Sanctuary
The 40 acres of Margery Adams Wildlife Sanctuary serves as an urban wildlife refuge and headquarters for the Illinois Audubon Society. This site was once the private home and fruit orchards of Margery Adams who allowed it to revert back to woodland and bequeathed it to the Illinois Audubon Society upon her death in 1983. Work has been underway since 2008 to develop Adams into a wildlife sanctuary and outdoor education center. Major steps have been taken to restore Margery Adams’ home, remove numerous invasive species throughout the property, restore species diversity to the woodland and tall grass prairie, and build a 1.25 acre wetland and ephemeral ponds. Vern LaGesse, who developed and implemented the management plan to restore Adams, will be our tour guide.

Route 66 Prairie
The Route 66 Prairie is located north of Litchfield between I-55 and Old Historic Route 66. In 2009, the Montgomery County Natural Areas Guardians entered into a management agreement with IDOT, owner of this tract of over 10 acres, and expanded in 2012. It includes an early alignment of the original old Route 66 and ranges from early successional stages to a very high quality assemblage of prairie and wetland plants being typical of a moist mesic southern till plain prairie. It is also home to a large number of invertebrate and reptile species. Management consists of increasing species diversity where needed, reintroduction of fire, and controlling severe weed infestations such as Teasel.

Additional plans call for creating needed infrastructure to make the site readily accessible to the traveling public associated with Old Route 66.

Still in bloom may be Wild Ageratum and other composites, as well as several Ladies’ Tresses orchid species. Henry Eilers will lead the tour, identify species of interest, and discuss the past, present, and future of this remarkable site. After the tour, participants will be near I-55 for a southbound trip home on Sunday.

Historical Trees of Menard County
Menard County, located northwest of Springfield, has a lot to offer to the historically-minded botanist. Tour participants will be able to choose as a group to see any of several rare or historic trees in Menard County such as the 260 year-old Gudgel white oak, the fallen remains of the Pathfinder oak - the last-known Trail Tree in Illinois, a mature American Chestnut, one of the largest blackjack oaks in Illinois, and the state champion eastern red cedar. Participants will also have the option of paying a visit to Power Farm with its catalpa tree from 1822, historic cemetery, and building where Abraham Lincoln tried his first court case. In addition, the tour will take participants past the home of Elihu Hall, one of the great early botanists of Illinois, as well as to the cemetery where he rests to see his grave and older trees in the cemetery. Handouts about Hall can be provided for those who register for this tour in advance. The conclusion of this tour will put participants near I-55 for a northbound trip home on Sunday. Guy Sternberg from Starhill Forest Arboretum will lead this tour.
The Friday evening mixer will take place at the home of Central Chapter president Annette Chinuge, located at:

**4196 Spaulding Orchard Road**
**Springfield, IL 62711**

**Contact Harv Koplo at (217) 899-9175 for additional directions.**

Saturday evening’s events will take place at the Sangamo Surf Club, located on Lake Springfield at:

**405 E Lake Shore Drive**
**Springfield, IL 62712**

The final day’s activities will begin at Adams Wildlife Sanctuary:

**2315 E Clear Lake Avenue**
**Springfield, IL 62703**

**INPS T-SHIRTS!**

T-shirts will be available for purchase via the registration form or at the conference. Cost is $12.
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 28

If possible, please register online at www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events/register.

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________
City: ______________________ State: ___________ Zip: _______________________
Phone: __________________________ Email: _____________________________

REGISTRATION OPTIONS:
Select only one. Conference fees include Saturday sack lunch, banquet & Sunday pastries.

INPS Member ........................................ $65 Quantity ______  Total _________
Non-Member (Includes 1 Year INPS membership) ...$85 Quantity ______  Total _________
Student ................................................... $45 Quantity ______  Total _________

OPTIONAL:
Friday Mixer and speaker..................... No cost  # Attending ______
Canoe Trip........................................ $20 Quantity ______  Total _________
Brewery Tour......................................... $6 Quantity ______  Total _________
T-Shirts ................................................. $12 Quantity ______  Total _________
Quantity  XXXL  XXL  XL  L  M  S

TOTAL...........................................................................................................____

Field trip options: Please indicate your preferences by placing an X in the appropriate boxes below. This will aid the Central Chapter in making the necessary provisions. The canoeing field trip is limited to 15 participants.

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<th>Saturday Morning field trip options</th>
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<td>Rolling Meadows Brewery</td>
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<th>Saturday Afternoon field trip options</th>
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<td>Sangamon River Canoe Trip with Chris Young</td>
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<td>South: Route 66 Prairie with Henry Eilers</td>
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<td>North: Athens Trip with Guy Sternberg</td>
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The following is taken from the Transactions of the Illinois State Academy of Science [Volume 105 (2012) Number 3 & 4]. BOOK REVIEW 2012 - #2

**Side Channels. A Collection of Nature Writing and Memoir by Thomas V. Lerczak**


This book is an unusual hybrid: part birder’s field guide, part general natural history, and part memoir. As a study in contradictions we learn that the author grew up in urban Chicago and how he came to live in the open country near the Illinois River. We learn how, from an early age, he was drawn to nature, and especially to observation of birds. Following his ecological graduate studies Lerczak became a state biologist. In his duties as a staff member of the Nature Preserves Commission, he has come into close contact with many habitat types. Through his work and through his writing for Illinois Audubon Magazine, he has emerged as one of Illinois’ premier naturalists.

The volume is a collection of 30 chapters, fourteen of which originally appeared in Illinois Audubon magazine. Others are personal observations and reflections seen here for the first time. In the memoir-based chapters he notes that he is especially drawn to rivers. His descriptions of them, and their wildlife, are especially evocative.

Longtime Illinois residents will doubtless find much they did not already know. Lerczak always digs into the back story as he describes topics such as the habits of Great Blue Herons, eagles in winter refuges, the life of the six species of swallows along the Illinois River, the reasons why we have bur oaks in Mason County, or the territories of Redheaded Woodpeckers. We learn why hawks don’t glide over large lakes, and of the habitat needs of vultures vs. eagles. We learn why suppression of fires has the unintended consequence of changing the composition of oak forests.

Many chapters are essays on birds of this state. In part II, he travels more widely offering interesting observations of Colorado, Wisconsin, the North Cascades, the Great Lakes including Isle Royale, the Porcupine Mountains wilderness, and New York at Niagara Falls. He feels the contentment that comes from a lifetime of kinship with the earth’s community of life.

The sense of peace that one can feel in nature has led many of us to proceed down the road of environmental activism. Lerczak has stood at the entrance of this road but, in the end, rejected the politics and egos of agenda driven groups. This may puzzle those who are more politically engaged with environmental protection. But his reluctance overshadows the fact that, professionally, he has contributed a great deal to the actual preservation of thousands of acres of natural habitat within his home state. This is a major and enduring legacy that few are in a position to claim.

I note, in full disclosure, that Tom Lerczak was once a student in my Colorado field course. His sense of humor and earnest thoughtfulness were evident then as was the fact that he never went anywhere without his binoculars. It was clear in those days that his future career would bear watching.

Lerczak’s book displays an understated, companionable style as he introduces habits and habitats in a way that will appeal to novices as well as those more expert. Each chapter is a good stand-alone read. This book should be read by any natural history buff, and by anyone looking for ideas of places to explore, both near and far.

Review by Richard C. Keating, Research Associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden and Professor Emeritus at Southern Illinois University - Edwardsville.

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**In Their Own Backyard  The Riverwoods Preservation Council goes literary to preserve a wilderness (very) close to home. By Lori Rotenberg**

At first glance, the sign bearing the name “Riverwoods” might be taken literally— a marker to denote that you are entering the woods, perhaps a forest preserve. But tucked here and there, hidden among the trees, are small homes that seem to have grown in place, blending in with the natural surroundings in this southern Lake County enclave.

To many of its 4,000-plus residents, much of the village of Riverwoods, Illinois, is a natural paradise, appealing, at least in part, for what it is not. The absence of streetlights lets in the starlight. Many roads are single-laned, some only recently paved. Lacking a bustling town center, Riverwoods’ village hall is an old log cabin that once served as a Boy Scout camp.

http://www.chicagowilderness.org/CW_Archives/issues/summer2008/riverwoods.html
Finding a Diamond!
By Al Wilson

Generally finding a diamond is the result of a direct search effort. On this occasion the finding was largely the result of accidental good fortune.

In 1996 Dundee Township was successful in gaining voter approval of an 18 million dollar Bond Referendum; a funding source for the acquisition of “Open Space to preserve the diversity and rural character of the township”. Dixie Briggs-Fromm, a local farmer, died and her heirs honored her wish that her land be preserved and sold it to the Dundee Township “Open Space” Program. Use of the land was discussed with Park District representatives who, at Public Meetings, suggested constructing a 40-acre ball field and parking lot complex for the residents of the adjacent large residential development on the west side of the property. The residents strongly preferred “Passive Recreational use”.

Township officials found two populations of Hill’s Thistle (Circium hillii) and contacted The IDNR Nature Preserves Commission. They found that the site was listed on their “Natural Areas Inventory”. Their experts found that the land is part of the Barlina Moraine and 12,000 years ago the retreating glacier dropped a very large number of large boulders that now lay buried across the land on the west side of Dixie Creek. With just the tops of the boulders visible, any attempt at plowing would obviously have destroyed the equipment. As a result, the land was used exclusively for grazing cows and horses.

The surprising find of 35 Prairie Buttercups (Ranunculus rhomboideus) inspired botanical interest and many high value species were found to have survived. The Township was granted State Dedicated Nature Preserve status for the land on the west side of Dixie Creek.

The finding of threatened and endangered species shows that the original prairie soil still remains and that they were able to survive grazing. Cream Wild Indigo (Baptisia leucophea) was found to be abundant, a species noted in Dick Young’s Kane County Wild Plants & Natural Areas to be “Rare and possibly extinct”. An EPA grant was obtained to stabilize Dixie Creek and successfully address the severe stream-bank erosion (see photos on next page).

Dundee Township has hired two “Open Space Division” employees, both with environmental degrees, to take care of the whole “Open Space”, a total of 862 acres. Other acquisitions need maintenance and improvement too so the Preserve has to share their efforts. Help from IDNR, Chicago Botanical Gardens, and local volunteers have supplemented their work clearing non-native species and providing regular Controlled Burning. The site inventory has expanded to 360 species with a Site Floristic Value above 79. The township was awarded a plaque by the EPA in recognition for its Native Landscaping work.

The restoration efforts exposed a 2nd Calcareous fen located on a hill-top 40 ft. above Dixie Creek. This indicates that further treasures are likely to be found. This fen was discovered when clearing out a jungle of thirsty aliens, including 6” Dia. Calastrus orbiculatus vines that had climbed to over 50 feet up Cherry Trees. Restoration of the hydrology has now resulted in an outflow, down what is obviously, an old water course. Who knows what treasures will appear there?

The aforementioned Hill is a true prairie gravel hill that has managed to escape devastation by the mining companies. The habitat is home to five species that are being monitored annually with help from The Chicago Botanical Gardens Plants of Concern staff.

The land below the residential development property line, located on top of the hill, was not bulldozed. When clearing Buckthorn we found a more open area that was under invasion. Native prairie plants and grasses had survived in the original prairie soil. This area is now actively receiving restoration efforts; Circium hillii and an abundance of Aster azureus are now evident.

The preserve includes a nice Sedge Meadow. Restoration of the land above it has resulted in hydrological restoration. Three small exit streams have emerged and expansion is hoped for.

Dixie had farmed a 60 acre field with row crops. Restoration was started by plowing to eliminate any volunteer crop remnants. Then the planting, with a farmer’s seed drill, of 60 acres of Pioneer prairie plant seeds. This field is also receiving controlled burns and alien suppression. It’s thrilling with the hope that eventually original prairie micro-organisms will return along with more conservative species. Alongside the field a Quercus macrocarpa lives that is 44 inches in diameter, it has been able to survive for over 300 years! We have removed the alien understory to further extend its life.
INPS mourns passing of founding member

Rhoda Ashby, who was a co-founder of the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society, died after a brief illness on June 24 at age 86. Rhoda and her husband, Clark, were devoted to INPS and other local groups dedicated to the conservation of flora and fauna in our region. For many years she quietly promoted membership in these groups and served on their boards, including our chapter as treasurer. When on occasion our chapter seemed in danger of disappearing, she rallied friends to find renewed interest to keep us going. Our deepest sympathy goes to her family of three daughters as well as to Clark, emeritus professor of plant biology at SIUC. He may be reached at 11450 Asbury Circle, Apt. 431, Solomons, MD 20688.

Continued from previous page

The finding in 2012 of six specimens of Woolly Wilkweed (*Asclepias lanuginosa*) and 15 specimens of Rough False Foxglove (*Agalinis aspera*) underlines the value of continued restoration work and provides the incentive for extra effort; you never know what rewards are coming!

This diamond is an example where bought land has turned out to be a patch of original prairie soils; located among what was once a large area of crop fields. The purchase has assured the preservation of some wonderful botanical treasures.

Sue Harney, the Township Supervisor, has actively supported all the restoration efforts, welcomed trail improvements, and promoted free guided public nature walks. Mother Nature has rewarded our restoration efforts; it’s really amazing how much has been accomplished in such a relatively short time. You never know what treasure is waiting to be discovered.

Alan and Barbara Wilson are a team working to preserve native plant species for many years. Members of The Nature Conservancy, they joined a weekly restoration group working with a site steward at Lake of the Hills Fen under the direction of IDNR staff. When the steward later retired, Al took over the stewardship while Barbara managed the botanical side. For over 25 years restoration efforts with Al’s volunteers performed 36,780 hours of work. Barbara led the annual monitoring of T & E species like *Asclepias lanuginosa*. Now steward at Dixie Briggs-Fromm Nature Preserve, Al traces his love of flowers to winning a pressed flower collection award in 1939 at age 6! Barb too has a history of interest back to her youth. We appreciate the INPS efforts to preserve the native species and work with youths who are our hope for the future.

Other Relevant Events

**Autumn on the Prairie**  
Saturday, September 21, 2013  
Nachusa Grasslands  
8772 S. Lowden Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031  
10am-5pm  
This free event is open to the public.  
Activities include guided tours of prairie and savannas on foot or by vehicle, horse-drawn wagon rides, live music, kettle corn, raptor demonstrations, atlatl spear throwing, butterfly and turtle hunts, a children’s tent, and more!

40th Annual Natural Areas Conference  
October 4th – 6th, 2013  
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza (downtown)  
Come celebrate 40 years of outstanding Natural Areas Conferences. The conference provides a forum for natural resource professionals, researchers, and students to connect with and learn from others working in natural areas conservation.  
Register at:  
http://2013.naturalareasconference.org/?utm_source=NAC+2013+Reg+Reminder+%282%29_073113&utm_campaign=Website+intro&utm_medium=email
Weed law in Chicago sends native plant gardeners to court

From Jim Alwill: About 19 years ago, a volunteer group called the Prairie Dawgs started a prairie from seed around the Jubilee College State Park Historic Area entrance sign. This park is located about 10 miles west of Peoria IL just north of I-74. It was always assumed that this old town square (from the early 1800’s) belonged to the state park. The prairie dawgs did annual burns, a little bit of adding new prairie plants, and a lot of seed collecting. It had/have nearly 50 different prairie species. For reasons still not fully understood, Jubilee township board said that this 1.3 acre parcel was theirs and took the matter to court to obtain actual title to the old town square. A judge reviewed the information and ruled that the old town square belonged to the Jubilee Township and not the JCSP. We are still amazed that the judge ruled that the ground belonged to the township and not the state park. When the township received the legal title this spring, they proceeded to mow down the prairie.

The Prairie Dawgs went to the Jubilee township meeting Monday night to respectfully ask the township to stop mowing the prairie and to cancel the contract that paid $35 dollars per each mowing. This comes out to $980 dollars a year to mow a really rough piece of ground that was prairie for 19 years. The board took no action to reverse their decision to mow down the prairie. When asked why are they are mowing the prairie down, the response was that the prairie blocked the state park entrance sign and the prairie grass was unsightly and weedy. Plus they said it looked a lot better mowed.

The prairie dawgs asked at the meeting if they were to add more showy flowers and shorter vegetation, would the township quit mowing the prairie installed by volunteers 19 years ago. The township made no response to this request. It seems very vindictive on the part of the Jubilee township board.

This is a real David and Goliath saga story. I thought I heard the theme song to the movie Deliverance being quietly played during the meeting. “You got pretty teeth”. Or was it George Wallace standing in the school doorway saying segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever. Below is an article in the local paper.
Oh why oh why do there have to be chiggers for a reaction in me they sure do trigger  
The many little red bites feel like Braille  
And when they itch they make me want to wail!  
If you like evolution, then you must love the chigger  
For they would not be as bad if they happened to be bigger  
But an invisible invertebrate has all the advantage  
And leaves me with little else than to put on a bandage.  
I guess I could prevent them by staying on the trail  
Or if I took more time to scratch them with my nail  
I could spray myself with nasty chemicals and deet  
Or stay inside all together and beat the summer heat!  
But that is not my style, I was born to explore  
To see the nature and learn from it more  
Plus if there were less chiggers there’d be more tourists  
And it would be impossible to be a nature purist.

By Christopher David Benda

Bluff Spring Revival: from the Forest Preserves of Cook County

Bluff Spring Fen in Elgin has had more than its fair share of ups and downs. Gravel and sand mining and other industrial operations have long surrounded the site. Parts of the fen—a rare type of wetland that must be supplied with cool water from underground springs—were mined beginning in the 1930s. People illegally dumped abandoned vehicles and landscape debris. The site was rutted by countless off-road vehicles and inundated by invasive species. But decades ago, the tide turned. Read more at: http://fpdcc.com/bluff-spring-revival/

The Comeback of American Chestnuts?

You might be fortunate enough to have family accounts from the older generation of gathering chestnuts, or of your granddad building a fence from chestnut trees on his farm. I don't have those stories in my family traditions, but still I fell in love with the American chestnut tree when I heard of its history. Check it out at: http://www.beautifulwildlifegarden.com/the-comeback-of-american-chestnuts.html

Online photo album on Facebook: The Orchids of Illinois!

There were 50 species of Orchids originally known from Illinois. Of these, 12 have been extirpated in the state and 38 species remain extant. A large number of photographs of this unique and beloved family can be found in an online photo album on the facebook page for the Southern Chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society. All the photographs are by Christopher David Benda.

On the left: Calopogon oklahomensis (Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid)
On the right: Hexalectris spicata, (Crested Coralroot Orchid)
The next Illinois Invasive Plant Council Meeting is scheduled for August 29th, from 10-12 at the IGIA building in Springfield IL. This meeting is going to focus a lot on our new Species Assessment Procedures and should be a very productive meeting. If you plan on attending, please contact Chris Evans at Chris.Evans@illinois.gov.

Invasive Plant of the Month – Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)

In recent months Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership (NIIPP) has received several reports of giant hogweed that turned out to be cow parsnip so it seems like a good idea to provide some information about distinguishing between the two species. Giant hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum) grows up to 15 feet tall and has leaves that are 2.5 to 3 feet wide and deeply cut with sharp, coarse teeth along the margins. Its stem is 2-4 inches in diameter, hollow, ridged, and covered with reddish purple splotches and coarse hairs (hairs are especially prevalent where leaves attach to the stem). Flowers are white and umbrella-shaped, have 50 or more rays, are up to 2.5 feet wide, and bloom in late June to July.

Cow parsnip (Heracleum maximum) grows up to 10 feet tall and has leaves that are 2 – 2.5 feet wide and less deeply cut with smoother margins. Its stem is green and ridged with fine, soft white hairs with a diameter of 1-2 inches. Flowers are white and umbrella-shaped, have 15-30 rays per flower, are up to 1 foot wide, and bloom in late May to late June.

Additional resources can be found at
http://www.hamilton.ca/CityDepartments/PublicWorks/Parks/Hogweed+identification.htm
http://www.newinvaders.org/species/gianthogweed.pdf
http://illinoiscapsprogram.blogspot.com/2013/05/giant-hogweed-identification-and.html
http://www.gnb.ca/0168/GiantHogweed.pdf (cow parsnip and other look-alikes mentioned)

Boaters, anglers, swimmers, and others who enjoy Illinois' lakes and rivers are keeping their eyes peeled this summer for an aquatic “superweed.” Through the Hydrilla Hunt! program, citizen volunteers are on the lookout for a highly invasive aquatic plant named Hydrilla verticillata, or simply “hydrilla.”

For more information, including how to become a Hydrilla Hunt! volunteer, a Hydrilla Identification Sheet, fact sheets, and other resources, visit www.niipp.net/hydrilla.

Forest Service Scientists Identify Key Fungal Species that Help Explain Mysteries of White Nose Syndrome

MADISON, WI, July 25, 2013 - U.S. Forest Service researchers have identified what may be a key to unraveling some of the mysteries of White Nose Syndrome: the closest known non-disease causing relatives of the fungus that causes WNS. These fungi, many of them still without formal Latin names, live in bat hibernation sites and even directly on bats, but they do not cause the devastating disease that has killed millions of bats in the eastern United States. Researchers hope to use these fungi to understand why one fungus can be deadly to bats while its close relatives are benign.

http://illinoisisam.blogspot.com/2013/08/forest-service-scientists-identify-key.html

Woodpeckers in Detroit area thriving on diet of tree-killing ash borers, study finds

The emerald ash borer, an invasive beetle that is infesting ash trees in parts of the U.S., has had an impact on the area's woodpeckers. Researchers found a higher population of red-bellied woodpeckers in areas where trees are overrun with the bugs. "One of the easiest ways to find an infested tree when you're out in the field is to find a tree that's been heavily attacked by woodpeckers," said Andrew Liebhold, an insect scientist for the U.S. Forest Service and co-author of the study.

Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri

Available September 2013

Volume 3

Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri

“Every so often in every field of study there are stellar works. George Y’s new Flora of Missouri is one of those works.”

Missouri Botanical Garden Press

is pleased to announce the publication of the third of three volumes of the revised edition of Steyermark’s Flora of Missouri.

The third volume contains treatments of the second half of the plants, comprising 1051 species and 12 hybrids in 84 plant families. It includes 13 full-page plates of black-and-white drawings illustrating nearly all of the plants and a distributional map for each species.

The book contains treatments of a number of large and economically important plant families in the Missouri flora, including the legumes (Fabaceae), orchids (Orchidaceae), monocots (Liliaceae), mountain laurels (Kalmiaceae), prairie smoke (Oxypetalaceae), and native pea plants (Fabaceae). Each section is detailed, and there are fully updated nomenclature, taxonomy, distribution, plant uses, and conservation concerns.

The Flora of Missouri Project is a collaboration between the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Missouri Department of Conservation. One of its main goals has been to revise the late Julian Steyermark’s exemplary manual, Flora of Missouri. The new edition has grown into a three-volume encyclopedia of Missouri plant life that is an essential reference for botanists, conservationists, land managers, gardeners, and native plant enthusiasts, and anyone with a need for information on the diversity, abundance, and taxonomy of the state’s diverse flora.

Available in September 2013:

Volume 3. Dicots, Fabaceae (first part) through Zygophyllaceae.


Also available:

Volume 2. Dicots, Acanthaceae through Fabaceae (first part).


Volume 1. Introduction, Pteridophytes, Conifers, Monocots.


Corn Steyermark’s detailed chronicle of her botanical exploration in Missouri through the seasons with her husband, Julian Steyermark.


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