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Comments

In the last *Illinoensis* I commented on the loss of instruction in field plant taxonomy and flora identification with the retirement of John Ebinger of Eastern Illinois University. As a result of this I was reminded by several correspondents of the many opportunities that still exist in Illinois for the student of applied field botany. Most of our state Universities offer this instruction. With the replacement of Dr. Ebinger at Eastern with a field botanist, as indicated elsewhere in this newsletter, the outlook there is bright as well. However, the shift away from native plants by the Morton Arboretum indicates that the trend away from traditional plant taxonomy is a continuing process worthy of concern by the native plant conservation community.

There have been many developments relative to control of invasive exotic weeds of wildland habitats since the last *Illinoensis*. Articles and letters in the *American Nurseryman Magazine* have raised that industry's awareness of the problem and the role it plays in it. This culminated in the July 1, 1996 issue of the magazine including an article by Sarah Richard and Faith Campbell with a decision procedure for evaluation of the invasive potential of woody plant species. Last March a group of private organizations interested in controlling invasive exotic plants, met in Albuquerque and formed a coalition to pursue this end. Organizations interested in joining the coalition should contact Charles Henry, North American Weed Management Association, 2305 Nottingham Ct, Ft. Collins, CO 80526 (970/229-0352). The coalition will hold an exploratory-recruiting meeting at the Natural Areas Association Annual Meeting at St. Charles, IL this October.

Perhaps the most notable exotic weed development here in Illinois is the expanded biocontrol effort for control of purple loosestrife. The Illinois Natural History Survey embarked on a research and production program for leaf beetle control insects this past spring. Their program was funded by the Corps of Engineers, DNR and local governments and had a goal of producing 50,000 *Galerucella* beetles. By the end of June, they had produced and released 158,100 of the critters and more keep coming. It appears that Illinois is in the fore as regards purple loosestrife biocontrol.

John Schwegman

Natural Heritage Division Expands

The DNR's Division of Natural Heritage has expanded its staff of District Heritage Biologists. The previous staff of 13

biologists has been increased to 23. A total of 26 districts are now recognized as shown on the map accompanying this newsletter. Districts 6, 15 and 22 will not be staffed for the foreseeable future, but will be managed by a biologist from an adjacent district. In addition to the new personnel, three current biologists have transferred from one district to another and a fourth has changed his office location. Consult the attached map for the current location of each biologist and the names of new personnel.

Nature Preserves Commission Staff Expands

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission has expanded its staff of Natural Area Preservation Specialists from 4 to 9. The new district boundaries, office locations and staff assigned to each district are shown on the attached map. A northeastern Illinois threats coordinator has also been added as indicated on the map.

Don McFall Joins INPC

Don McFall, who has headed the IDNR Natural Heritage Division's Natural Areas program for the past 10 years, has joined the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff as Deputy Director for Protection. Don's responsibilities will be oversight of the Commission's land protection programs and supervision of the Commission's field staff.

Todd Strole Promoted

District Heritage Biologist Todd Strole of the DNR's Division of Natural Heritage has been promoted to the position of Region IV Administrator for Natural Heritage. Region IV encompasses most of southwestern Illinois and is administered from DNR Regional Headquarters at Alton.

Collins Heads Database

Randall Collins has joined the DNR's Division of Natural Heritage as Database Program Manager. Randall's duties include maintenance of the Division's Biological Conservation Database.

Natural Heritage Resident Changes

New student residents with the DNR Natural Heritage Division include Chris Dinesen and Amy Ragusa at Medewin Tallgrass Prairie and Carla Murray at the Division Pekin office. Departing residents are Diane Tecic from Alton, Michelle Simeone from Mt. Carroll and Kim Roman from Springfield.

Jim Fralish Retires

Dr. James Fralish of the Department of Forestry at SIU

Carbondale has retired. Jim is a past member of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and he and his students have done much research on the original natural character of Illinois vegetation. While relieved of teaching duties, he intends to stay at SIU and pursue research interests and work on several books.

Peter Schramm Retires

Dr. Peter Schramm retired from Knox College in September 1995. One of Illinois' prairie experts, Pete pioneered in prairie planting and restoration and guided many students into the field of prairie ecology. He was one of the founders of the North American Prairie Conferences and hosted the first of the conferences at Knox in 1968. He remains in Galesburg where he is active in contracting prairie plantings.

Wilhelm Leaves Morton Arboretum

Dr. Gerould Wilhelm, plant taxonomist and authority on the flora of the Chicago region, has left the Morton Arboretum. Jerry's new position is Principal Environmental Scientist for Conservation Design Forum Inc. of 1250 East Diehl Rd., Naperville, IL 60563. Wilhelm remains the editor of the Journal *Erigenia* of the Illinois Native Plant Society and manuscripts can be sent to him at his new address.

Morton Arboretum Shifts Emphasis

The Morton Arboretum has decided on a major shift in its program emphasis away from native flora, endangered species and community restoration to horticulture and urban landscape plants. Many staff working in fields unrelated to the new mission have left the Arboretum. Bill Hess is now Taxonomist/Herbarium Curator and Floyd Swink is Taxonomist Emeritus. The Arboretum's excellent herbarium of plants of the Chicago Region continues to be available for use.

Tissue Culture at Chicago Botanic Garden

The Chicago Botanic Garden has added Dr. Jim Ault to its staff to initiate an endangered plant conservation effort. Dr. Ault specializes in orchid tissue culture and has plans to work on culture of several Chicago Region orchids. The Garden is also searching for a person to fill a new position in plant genetics with an emphasis on endangered plant conservation.

News from ISU

Dr. Roger Anderson of ISU, Dr. James Fralish of SIU and Dr. Jerry Baskin of the University of Kentucky are co-editing a book for Cambridge University Press on the Savannas, Barrens and Rock Outcrop Communities of North America. Dr. Anderson's graduate

student, Becky Meyers, is studying the seed bank of an Illinois River Sand Pond. Dr. Anderson's wife Rebecca is researching the genetics of Big Bluestem.

SIU News

Dr. David Gibson reports that his student John Campbell recently completed a thesis on the role of horse dung in the spread of exotic invasive weeds. The work was done at Trail of Tears State Forest and Jackson Hollow natural area. Results indicate that horse dung is not a major vector of weeds in the areas studied. Campbell will give a talk on his study at the North American Prairie Conference at St. Charles, IL this October.

Stotlers Receive Grant

Raymond and Barbara Crandall-Stotler of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale have received a \$582,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the systematics and disease control potential of bryophytes.

New Botanist at EIU

Dr. Gordon Tucker has been hired to replace the retired John Ebinger at Eastern Illinois University. Dr. Tucker is a graduate of Duke University with a special interest in grasses and sedges. He comes to Illinois from a post-doctoral appointment at the New York State Museum at Albany. He will be teaching a field oriented, classical plant taxonomy class among other teaching duties.

Larry Page to Step Down

Dr. Larry Page, Head of the Center for Biodiversity at the Illinois Natural History Survey, is leaving his administrative position September 1. He will remain with the Survey where he will pursue research interests. Botanist Dr. Geoffrey Levin, of the Survey staff, has been chosen to replace him.

NLI Director Leaves

Bill Jacobs has resigned as director of the Natural Land Institute in Rockford. Ed Stirling has accepted the position of director and plans no major changes in the programs of the Institute. Ed hopes to fill a vacant position of land preservation specialist in the near future.

Bill Wingate Dies

Bill Wingate, past president of the McHenry County Conservation District, school teacher and avid botanist, was killed in an auto accident in McHenry County last spring.

Savanna Depot Study

Botanists from the Illinois Natural History Survey are conducting a plant and vegetation survey of the Savanna Army Depot lands in JoDaviess County. Field work to date has turned up three plants that are new to Illinois. The natives are Arabis divaricarpa and Draba nemorosa while the adventive plant is Veronica dillenii.

Plant Lists at Survey

Dr. Ken Robertson reports that selected plant lists for natural areas are now available on the internet through the Natural History Survey Home Page. Lists for three central Illinois tallgrass prairies-Weston Cemetery, Loda Cemetery and Paxton Cemetery-and Site M in Cass County and Revis Hill Prairie in Mason County are available.

Mohlenbrock Floras

Bob Mohlenbrock advises that the Carex volume of the "Illustrated Flora of Illinois" and a revised edition of his "Guide to the Flora of Illinois" are near completion and should be published next summer.

Shrubs and Vines of Missouri

Former Illinois botanist Don Kurz is writing an illustrated guide to the shrubs and woody vines of Missouri to be published by their Department of Conservation. Don also recently authored a guide to scenic driving the Ozarks and Ouachitas published by Falcon Press. It includes drives to Illinois natural areas like Pine Hills and Fults Hill Prairie.

Wildflower Guide

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Home Page offers a guide to wildflower viewing in Illinois. Future plans call for development of a home page for the DNR Division of Natural Heritage as an outlet for information such as this Illinoisensis Newsletter.

Stewardship Magazine

The Illinois Steward, a magazine promoting responsible land stewardship by private landowners in Illinois, is published quarterly by the Illinois Stewardship Advisory Committee. It boasts quality full color photography and the writing of a host of knowledgeable volunteer authors. To subscribe for one year send a \$10.00 check payable to University of Illinois to The Illinois Steward, W503 Turner Hall, 1102 South Goodwin Avenue, Urbana, IL 61801.

Annual Natural Areas Conference

The 23rd annual Natural Areas Conference and the North American Prairie Conference are being held concurrently October 23-26, 1996 at Pheasant Run Conference Center in St. Charles, IL. The theme of the Natural Areas Conference is natural areas in urban settings. If you are not a member of the Natural Areas Association and want to receive information on the conference, write Natural Areas Association, P. O. Box 900, Chesterfield, MO 63006-0900.

Mycorrhizal Fungi Symposium

The Chicago Botanic Garden is presenting a research symposium entitled "The Role of Mycorrhizal Fungi in Restoration Ecology" at the garden on October 22. For information on the one day event call 847/835-8261.

New Orchid Journal

The quarterly North American Native Orchid Journal is being published by the North American Native Orchid Alliance. It was launched last March. Membership in the Alliance, which includes subscription to the journal, costs \$22.00 per year. Send dues to Nancy Webb, 84 Etna Street, Brighton, MA 02135.

New Natural Heritage Brochure

The DNR's Natural Heritage Division has produced a new full color brochure explaining its responsibilities and programs. Single copies are free on request from the Division at 524 South 2nd Street, Springfield, IL 62701-1787.

Species News

Day Waterman of South Elgin reports discovery of a colony of the endangered shining ladies' tresses orchid (Spiranthes lucida) in Kane County. The plants appeared when a landowner stopped mowing a fen remnant in her yard.

I found a population of the endangered hemlock parsley (Conioselinum chinense) this spring on moist dolomite ledges along the Apple River within a tract being acquired by the DNR. This is the first report of it from northwestern Illinois.

Jon Duerr of the Kane County Forest Preserve District discovered a good population of the prairie moonwort (Botrychium campestre) this spring. The identity of this western fern was verified by Dr. Warren Wagner of the University of Michigan.

The satin brome grass (Bromus nottowayanus) has been the target of searches in many Midwestern states in recent years. I found 2 populations of this interesting woodland grass in Siloam Springs State Park this summer. One population was in Adams County

and the other in Brown County.

No small whorled pogonia orchids (Isotria medeoloides) were found this spring at its only known Illinois location. This species has not been seen in Illinois since 1992 and may be extirpated.

Written August 12, 1996