

Illinois' Finest Places

by Christopher David Benda



Prairie State
Conservation Coalition
March 2, 2017

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ILLINOIS
NATURAL
HISTORY
SURVEY



SIU

Southern
Illinois
University
CARBONDALE



The
Morton
Arboretum



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES
PROTECTION BOARD

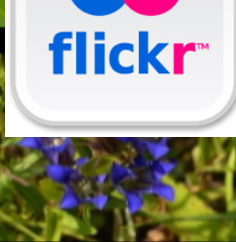
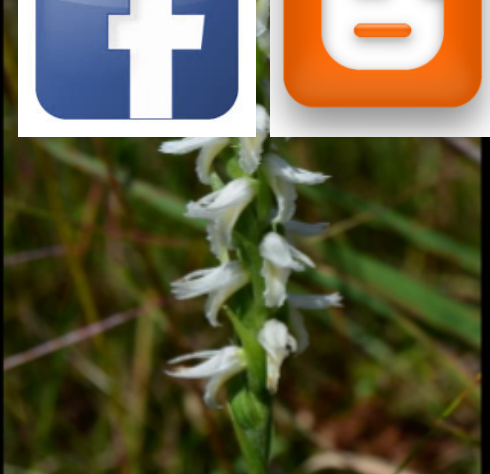
524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 — (217) 785-8687

Somme Woods – Cook County

Illinois Botanizer



www.illinoisbotanizer.com





Illinois Native Plant Society



www.ill-inps.org

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Membership Categories

- Student.....\$15.00
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- Patron.....\$100.00
- Business.....\$125.00
- Life.....\$500.00
- Iliamna* (life).....\$1,000.00
- Dodecatheon* (life).....\$2,000.00
- Erigenia* (life).....\$3,000.00

Kankakee Mallow (*Iliamna remota*), IL-E



What are natural areas and nature preserves?

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI)

Category I – High Quality Natural Communities

Category II – Threatened and Endangered Species

Category III – Natural Preserve

Category IV – Geologic Features

Category VI – Unusual Concentration of Flora or Fauna
(High Quality Streams)

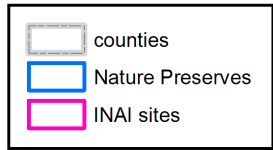
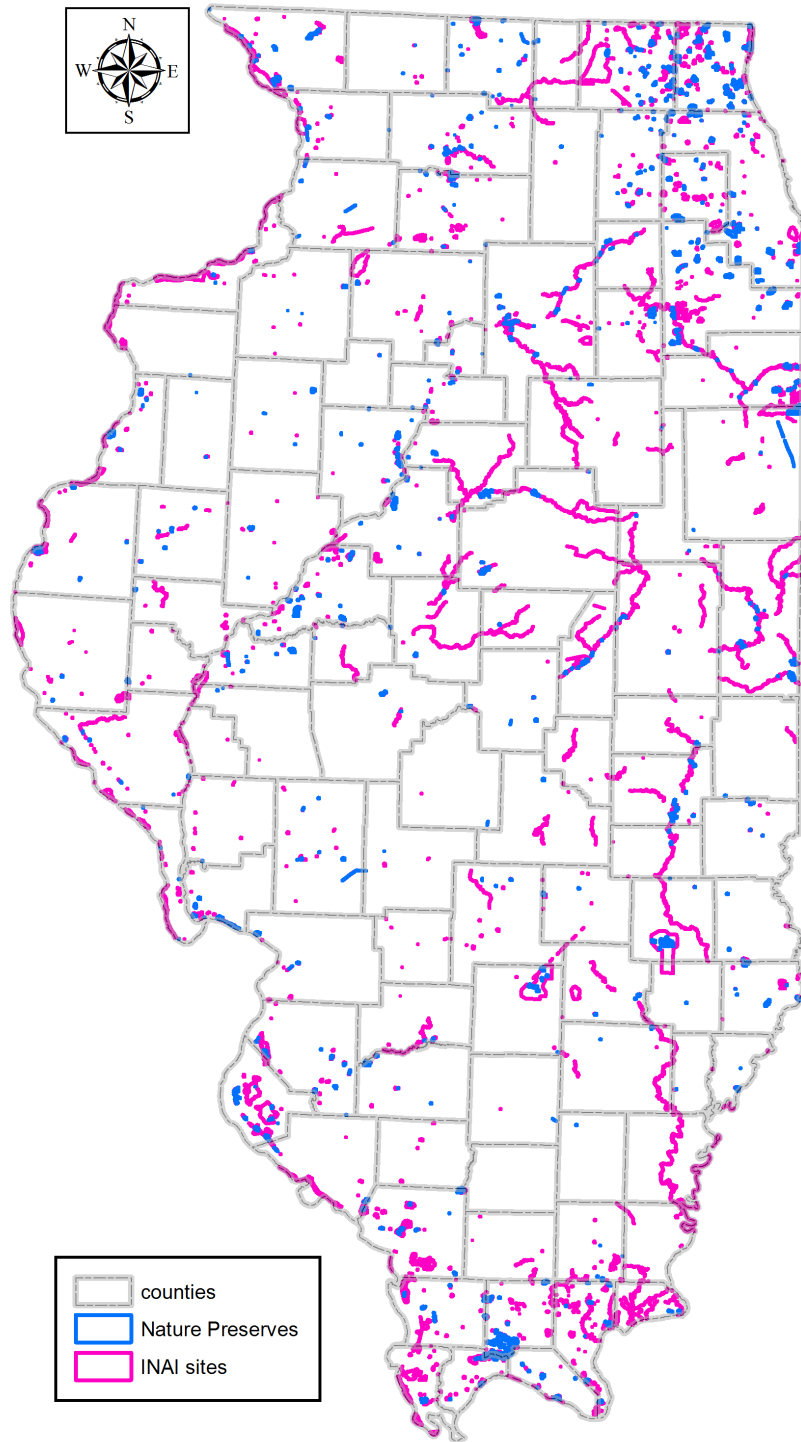
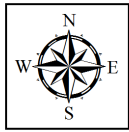
Table 1. Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Community Classification – List of natural community types.

FOREST	Dry-mesic sand prairie	Graminoid bog	Mesic sandstone cliff
Upland forest	Mesic sand prairie	Seep and Springs	Dry limestone cliff
Xeric upland forest	Wet-mesic sand prairie	Seep	Mesic limestone cliff
Dry upland forest	Wet sand prairie	Acid gravel seep	Dry dolomite cliff
Dry-mesic upland forest	Gravel prairie	Calcareous seep	Mesic dolomite cliff
Mesic upland forest	Dry gravel prairie	Sand seep	Sandstone overhang
Wet-mesic upland forest	Dry-mesic gravel prairie	Spring	Eroding bluff
Floodplain Forest	Mesic gravel prairie	Panne	Algific talus slope
Mesic floodplain forest	Dolomite prairie	Panne	
Wet-mesic floodplain forest	Dry dolomite prairie	OPEN WATER	SHORE
Wet floodplain forest	Dry-mesic dolomite prairie	Pond	Shore
Sand forest	Mesic dolomite prairie	Pond	Beach
Dry sand forest	Wet-mesic dolomite prairie	Lake	Foredune
Dry-mesic sand forest	Wet dolomite prairie	Lake	
Mesic sand forest	Hill prairie	Great Lake	CAVE
Flatwoods	Dolomite hill prairie		Cave
Southern flatwoods	Loess hill prairie	STREAM	Terrestrial cave
Sand flatwoods	Glacial drift hill prairie	Small stream	Aquatic cave
Northern flatwoods	Gravel hill prairie	High gradient small stream	
	Sand hill prairie	Medium gradient small stream	CULTURAL
SAVANNA	Shrub Prairie	Low gradient small stream	Cultural
Savanna (glacial till/loess)	Shrub prairie	Medium stream	Developed
Dry-mesic savanna		High gradient medium stream	Artificial impoundment
Mesic savanna	WETLAND	Medium gradient medium stream	Impoundment
Sand savanna	Marsh	Low gradient medium stream	Cropland
Dry sand savanna	Freshwater marsh	Large stream	Pastureland
Dry-mesic sand savanna	Brackish marsh	High gradient large stream	Old field
Barren	Swamp	Medium gradient large stream	Surface mined/vegetated
Dry barren	Swamp	Low gradient large stream	Surface mined/unvegetated
Dry-mesic barren	Shrub Swamp	Major river	Tree plantation/orchard
Mesic barren	Sedge meadow	Medium gradient river	
	Sedge meadow	Low gradient river	
PRAIRIE	Fen		
Prairie	Forested fen	BEDROCK	
Dry prairie	Shrub fen	Glade	
Dry-mesic prairie	Graminoid fen	Sandstone glade	
Mesic prairie	Calcareous floating mat	Limestone glade	
Wet-mesic prairie	Bog	Shale Glade	
Wet prairie	Forested bog	Cliff	
Sand prairie	Tall shrub bog	Dry sandstone cliff	
Dry sand prairie	Low shrub bog		



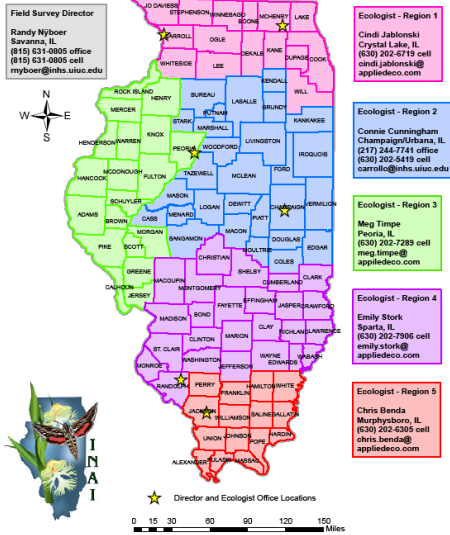
Illinois
Natural
Areas
Inventory

0.07% in a natural condition



Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update the numbers:

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update Regional Ecologists



19 counties

685 potential natural areas

33,727 photos taken

56,828 miles driven

632/984 days in the field



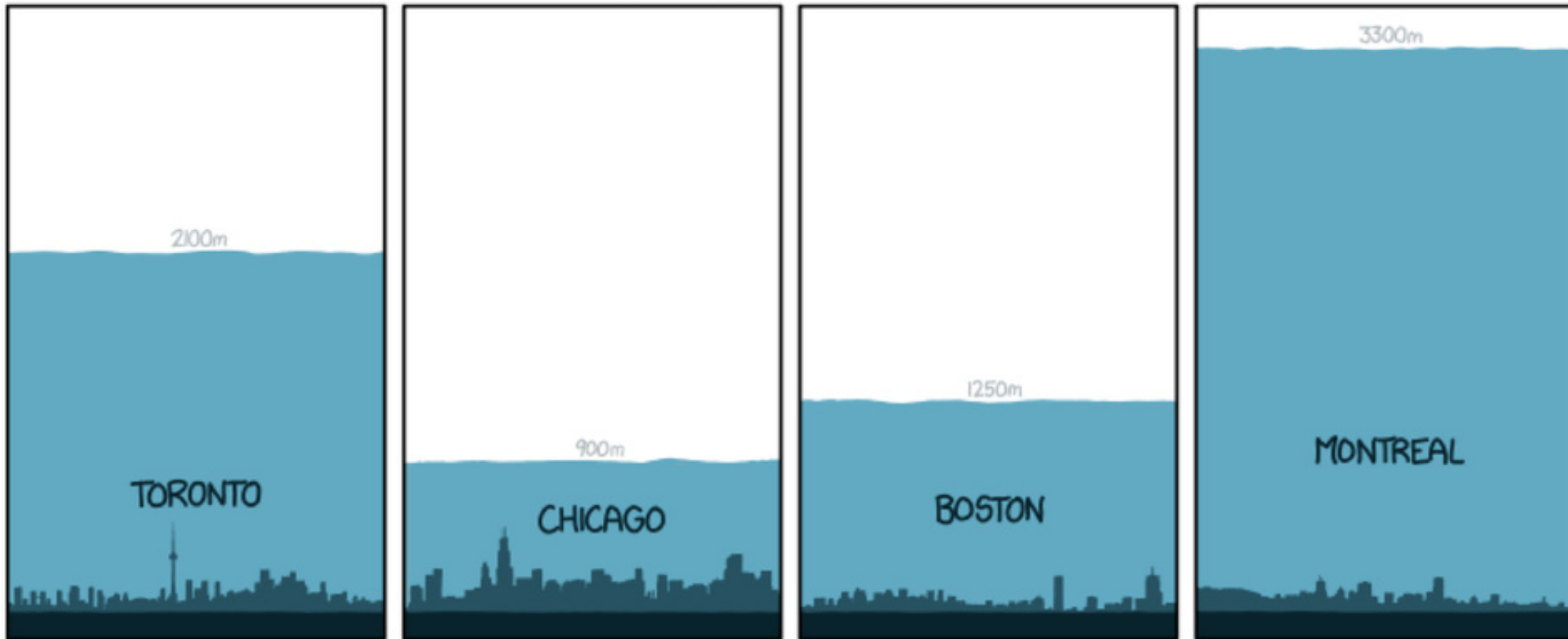
George B. Fell – Natural Land Institute

“We are living at the time of man’s final conquest over the wilderness. What we have saved, and what we may save in the next few years, will be all the true wild nature that will remain to pass on from generation to generation in the years ahead. There will never be another chance.”

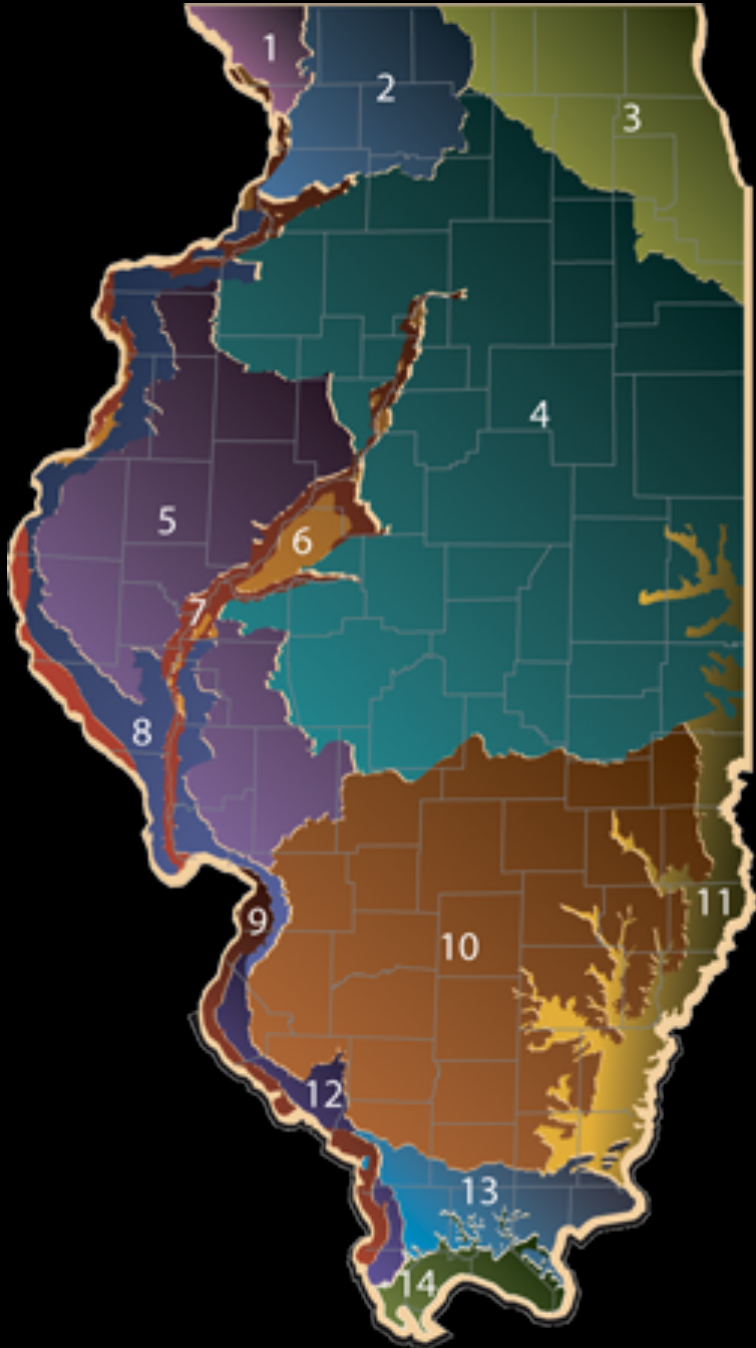


Illinois Glaciation

THICKNESS OF THE ICE SHEETS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS 21,000 YEARS AGO COMPARED WITH MODERN SKYLINES



Illinois Natural Divisions



- 1. Wisconsin Driftless**
- 2. Rock River Hill Country**
- 3. Northeastern Morainal**
- 4. Grand Prairie**
- 5. Western Forest-Prairie**
- 6. Illinois/Mississippi River Sand Areas**
- 7. Upper Mississippi/Illinois River Bottomlands**
- 8. Middle Mississippi Border**
- 9. Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands**
- 10. Southern Till Plain**
- 11. Wabash Border**
- 12. Ozarks**
- 13. Shawnee Hills**
- 14. Coastal Plain**

Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve – Jo Daviess County



Bird's-eye Primrose (*Primula mistassinica*), IL-E



Illinois Beach Nature Preserve – Lake County



Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*), IL-E



Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve – Cook County



Weston Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve – McLean County



Prairie Lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*)



Prairie Gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*)



Bird's-foot Violet (*Viola pedata*)



Shoe Factory Road Prairie Nature Preserve – Cook County



Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve – Will County



Fults Hill Prairie Nature Preserve



Piney Creek Ravine Nature Preserve



LaRue Pine Hills



LaRue Pine Hills – Snake Road



White Trillium – *Trillium flexipes*



Camp Ondessonk - Pakentuck



Bell Smith Springs



Little Grand Canyon



Glade Coneflower - *Echinacea simulata*



Horseshoe Lake Nature Preserve – Alexander County





Thank you!

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www.illinoisbotanizer.com

