

March 2014

NATIVE NEWS



2014 Restoration Seminar in Bloomington will Highlight the Importance of Habitat Blocks and Corridors

On Tuesday March 25th, Spence Restoration Nursery, Eco Logic, and the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy will host a seminar in Bloomington Indiana titled [Delineating and Restoring Habitat Blocks and Corridors](#). The seminar will focus on the important task of determining what preserve size will harbor a viable population of target organisms. John Shuey, the Director of Science with the Indiana Chapter of TNC will introduce the topic with a talk on envisioning the possibilities of big picture conservation. John has been deeply involved in the planning of TNC's project areas in Indiana, such as Kankakee Sands, Big Walnut, and the Brown County Hills. Cliff Chapman, the Conservation Director for the Central Indiana Land Trust will speak about their identification of core conservation areas within the counties they service. Finally, Tom Swinford, central Indiana Regional Ecologist with DNR Division of Nature Preserves will close the planning portion with a review of the planning and implementation of the Whitewater Conservation area in Wayne County.

Deer overpopulation and invasive species are two of the biggest challenges facing our natural area managers. Overpopulated deer exert strong selective browse pressure, leading to the decline of many of their favorite food species which results in significant consequences for other organisms that depend on those plants. Allen Purcell, Southern Indiana Program Director for TNC will discuss these impacts and possible solutions. Invasive plant species can also quickly alter the composition of plant communities resulting in major impacts on dependent species. Invasive plants are particularly problematic along woodland edges and other transitional areas. Kevin Tungesvick with Spence Restoration Nursery and Spencer Goehl with Eco Logic will discuss strategies for preventing and treating these invasions. Finally, Ellen Jacquart, Director of Northern Indiana Stewardship for TNC will discuss invasive plant policies and programs.

Please join us for this daylong seminar for restoration and land planning professionals. A registration brochure is attached.

PLANT FEATURE: CAREX MUSKINGUMENSIS (PALM SEDGE)

This attractive sedge is native to forested wetlands, including old stream channels, sloughs, and flatwoods depressions. These habitats typically experience shallow inundation in the winter and spring, followed by much drier conditions during the late summer and early fall. As a result, palm sedge is very tolerant of varying moisture levels. The deep green shiny foliage is normally



densely clustered near the summit of the culms, giving the appearance of a tiny palm tree. Long pointed seed-heads appear in early to mid summer, persisting through early fall. The foliage is very attractive throughout the growing season, fading to yellow and brown in late October as seen in these fall photos.

In the landscape, *Carex muskingumensis* is one of our best native groundcovers for shade. It adapts well to mesic soil, but excessively dry sites should be avoided. It should only be used in sites that are over 60% shade as it loses the deep green color if it receives too much sun. If used to naturalize wet shady areas, appropriate associates include Bur Sedge (*Carex grayi*), Hop Sedge (*Carex lupulina*) Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and Wood Reed (*Cinna arundinacea*). More associates may be found in our [Forested Wetland Mix](#).

