

March 2015

NATIVE NEWS



March Conference to Highlight Restoration of Indiana's Original Plant Diversity

On Wednesday March 25, Spence Restoration Nursery, Eco Logic, and the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will sponsor a conference in Bloomington, Indiana titled: "Reconnecting with our Pre Settlement Landscape – Managing the Land for Biodiversity". Botanist and author Mike Homoya of DNR Division of Nature Preserves will lead off with a journey through the pre settlement plant communities of southern Indiana. Assistant Director of DNR Division of Nature Preserves, Tom Swinford will follow up with a tour of the pre settlement plant communities of northern Indiana.

Following the introductory talks, botanist Cheryl Coon of Hoosier National Forest will speak about the Forest's Special Areas and current management practices. Kevin Tungsveck of Spence Restoration Nursery will wind up the morning session with his experience establishing diverse wetland and prairie restorations in northwest Indiana.

Following lunch, two talks will highlight the restoration of the prairie-savanna-wetland complex at the Prairie Border preserve near Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. John Shuey, Director of Science Conservation with the Indiana Chapter of the Nature Conservancy will give an overview of the project area. Phil Oser, Ecological Restoration Project Manager with Eco Logic will describe the implementation of the restoration. The day will close with an optional tour of Eco Logic's headquarters just west of Bloomington. Please join us for a day of learning about the restoration of Indiana's native plant communities and networking with other restoration professionals. A registration brochure is attached to this email.

PLANT FEATURE: MARSH MARIGOLD (*CALTHA PALUSTRIS*)

A very attractive species of forested swamps and seepage areas, Marsh Marigold produces showy clusters of bright golden flowers in early spring. Typically flowering in early April, it frequently associates with skunk cabbage in shaded groundwater seepage areas in the glaciated portion of Indiana. It grows up to 12 inches in height, typically going dormant in mid summer after the seeds have ripened. In cultivation, Marsh Marigold requires consistently moist soil in the shade of deciduous trees. It does well in water gardens. Other species that thrive in these conditions include turtleheads (*Chelone* spp), Lizard's Tail (*Saururus cernuus*), Swamp Aster (*Aster puniceus*), Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) and Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*). In a restoration, it should be planted in groundwater fed wetlands with associates from our [Forested Wetland Mix](#).

