

# NATURALIST NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNIT 27  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION MASTER NATURALISTS

---

SPRING 2020 - ISSUE 3

---

## COVID-19 UPDATE

The situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve daily. As such, we ask for patience and understanding as we try to interpret how directives and policies apply to our volunteers and the Master Naturalist program. On Friday, March 20th, Governor Pritzker issued a stay-at-home order as part of the state's efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. The order will be in effect through April 7 to keep people home as much as possible and minimize the person-to-person contact that has fueled the global pandemic. To comply with this directive and to do our part to help curb the spread of the virus across this state, we have decided to temporarily suspend all on-site volunteering through Extension, including Master Naturalist projects. This includes outside volunteer work at food gardens.

Because of the potential for reduced volunteer and education opportunities moving forward, there will be flexibility and understanding given for those struggling to reach the total required yearly hours due to limited opportunities.

## GEOLOGY FIELD TRIP

Joe Devera led our current Master Naturalist class on a geology field trip. Here are some of the fossils that were found.



Illinois  
Master  
Naturalist



**ILLINOIS EXTENSION**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER  
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

---

University of Illinois | U.S.  
Department of Agriculture | Local  
Extension Councils Cooperating

University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunity in programs and employment. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in any program, please contact your local Extension office. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time for meeting your access needs.

## SPRING 2020 CLASS



### TREE ID ADVANCED TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE!

Mastering Urban Tree Health and Identification is a train-the-trainer model of advanced training for Illinois Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists.

This training has several components: 7 online course modules that you work through at your own pace and an in-person workshop to be held at SIU-Carbondale on June 15, 2020. The modules cover identification for 29 common street trees in Illinois, as well as how to assess tree health and conduct a tree inventory.

The course fee is \$40, which must be paid at the time of registration. Upon completion, you will receive a certification and Tree ID recognition pin.

Register anytime between now and May 31, 2020 for this current class group.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- I-Pollinate Citizen Science Work - <https://ipollinate.illinois.edu/>
- CoCoRAHS - <https://www.cocorahs.org/>
- Journey North - <https://journeynorth.org/sightings/>
- Project Budburst - <https://budburst.org/>
- BeeSpotter - <https://beespotter.org/>
- Monarch Larva Monitoring Project - <https://monarchjointventure.org/mlmp>
- Nature's Notebook - [https://www.usanpn.org/natures\\_notebook](https://www.usanpn.org/natures_notebook)
- Bumblebee Watch - <https://www.bumblebeewatch.org/>
- The Great Sunflower Project - <https://www.greatsunflower.org/>
- MonarchNet - <https://www.monarchnet.org/illinois-butterfly-monitoring-network>

### CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Now through May 31, 2020 - Mastering Urban Tree Health and Identification Advanced Training. Register: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registrationNew/?RegistrationID=200065>.

April 2, 10:00-11:00am - Ecology and Identification of Common Spring Wildflowers Webinar, Chris Evans. Register: <https://go.illinois.edu/WildflowerWebinar>

May 5, 1:30-2:30pm - Four Seasons Gardening Webinar, Landscape Design with Natives 101, Austin Little. Register: <https://extension.illinois.edu/global/four-seasons-gardening-webinar-series>

May 26, 1:30-2:30pm - Four Seasons Gardening Webinar, Illinois Monarch Action Plan, Maria Turner. Register at link above.