

The first educational project for our group is a collection of coloring sheets aimed at middle schoolers based on Illinois invasive species. We will first have these on our website available for downloading but in the future it is hoped we can distribute them to relevant educational centers. It will operate a resource for educators, or even parents who are interested in botany and conservation.

In order to get this started I am asking for volunteers to add drawings to this collection of coloring sheets. I have attached a sample coloring sheet so you can see the direction this is headed.

Guidelines:

- Drawings should fit on a standard 8 1/2x 11 piece of paper, leaving room for me to add the name, label the parts of the plant, and add a short blurb about why it is invasive and where to find it (and, of course, your name for credit).
- Outlines are in black ink. Don't be too delicate with the lines or they won't scan well.
- White paper
- Keep the plant fairly simplistic.
- Represent all easily identifiable parts and stages of the plant- if it looks very different in fall and spring make sure both are there. Since they aren't all currently available this means you may be working from photographs online.
- Composition is up to you. If I can't fit text correctly, however, I may have to shrink or shift some parts of it.

I've made a list of a few of the more "interesting" plants- ones with colored flowers, or with berries. All plants were found on the link Illinois Invasive Plant List on our website.

Purple loosestrife
Tatarian honeysuckle
Japanese barberry
common teasel
chicory
St. Johnswort
winged burning bush
tawny daylily
trumpet honeysuckle
western salsify

European buckthorn
multiflora rose
bittersweet nightshade
purple crown vetch
gold flame honeysuckle
autumn olive
puncture vine
common mullein

If you want to make a coloring sheet e-mail me which of the following you would like to tackle. Once finished you can either scan it and send it to me, or bring it to the April meeting and I will scan it for you. This is not something that should take up a lot of your time. Think of this as a warm up exercise in contour drawing.

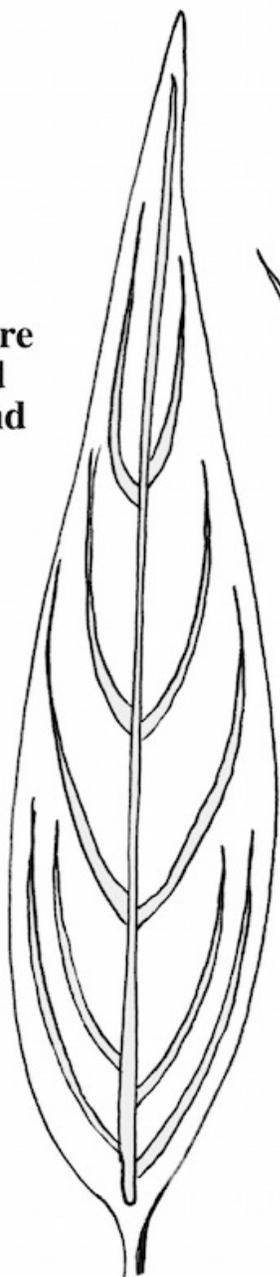
We'll talk more about this at the March meeting but if you have any other suggestions or questions in the meantime please let me know. My email is lyndsay.murphree@gmail.com I would like at least five of these in order to call it a collection and put it online, preferably ones that kids might already have seen around before (teasel, chicory, etc)

Happy drawing,
Lyndsay

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Leaves are
pointed
at the end



Flowers grow
along a tall stem



Reddish purple
flowers

6 petals

Purple loosestrife is found in wet areas such as marshes and along lakes. Loosestrife spreads quickly and crowds out native plants, disrupts water flow and disturbs native wildlife.

