



## IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 8, Issue 2

April/May 2002

**Indiangrass Hills**  
**By Mary Brown**

Prairie in east-central Iowa? Could there be some that hasn't been plowed or paved? This question was in our minds as we began our search for prairie land in the fall of 1996. Sandy Rhodes, Judy Felder and I looked at various properties for sale in four counties. Finally in the spring of 1997, we found 480 acres in Iowa County with the possibility of prairie-indicated by topography, aerial photos showing prior land use, and a few surviving plant stems. (Who would have thought that a clump of multiflora rose would provide a refuge for pale purple coneflower?) Most of the land had been cultivated at some time in the past. When we purchased it, about 70 acres were being cropped and the rest was heavily grazed by cattle. Very little herbaceous vegetation taller than an inch was present.

Our first management strategy was to wait and see what would grow. The previously cropped fields sprang up into giant ragweed and smartweed. The ridge tops grew thick with brome and many musk and bull thistles. Luckily, by this time Barbara Buss and Ellen Hartz had joined in our project. The five of us took our spades and dug out thousands of thistles by the roots. Patches of rhizomatous Canada thistle were not so easily eliminated. As each new patch was discovered, it was

mapped and flagged. Our continuing management of the patches consists of repeated mowing and spraying with herbicide. We have seen a dramatic reduction in the number of Canada thistles in each patch-some patches having none in the past growing season.

But brome and thistles weren't all that grew. On slopes scattered around the property appeared wonderful plants including Indian grass, big bluestem, little bluestem, rattlesnake master, pale purple coneflower, compass plant, hoary puccoon and butterfly milkweed. We were thrilled with each new species we discovered!

In the summer of 1998, Barbara and William Buss purchased 160 acres adjoining our western boundary to be part of Indiangrass Hills. With 640 acres to manage, we knew that fire would be our most important tool. We had a lot of fire breaks to cut. We started with loppers and pruning saws, a sickle bar mower and hand rakes. Gradually we acquired power tools to make this work faster and easier.

We divided the property into separate burn units with the goal of burning each unit every two or three years. We do not burn adjoining units in the same year in order to leave habitat for insect and animal populations. The removal of grazing and the addition of burning have revealed a total of about 40 acres of prairie remnants and about 40 acres of regenerating prairie. We are seeing increasing numbers and vigor of plants on the prairie slopes, especially after a burn. Our species list currently totals 348 native species, 219 of these being prairie Species, 51 of the species have a coefficient of conservatism of 7 or greater, and 5 are listed by Iowa as special concern or threatened.

Indiangrass Hills is a great place to bird watch as well as botanize. Some of the birds that nest there are owls,

*continued on page 8*

**Inside this issue:**

<i>Leaves from the President's Notebook</i>	2
<i>INPS Field Trips 2002</i>	3
<i>Wetlands Workshop</i>	5
<i>Hagie Heritage Award Nomination</i>	5
<i>Announcements</i>	6
<i>Restoration &amp; Management of</i>	
<i>Native Plant Communities Class at DMACC</i>	8
<i>On the Web</i>	9
<i>Membership Form</i>	9
<i>A Prairie to Preserve-Waterman Creek</i>	10

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Printed on recycled paper

Iowa Native Plant Society



## Leaves from the President's Notebook

I just got in from a trip to Brown's Woods (Polk county park on the southwest edge of Des Moines) with one of my students who is beginning a study on the effects of deer herbivory on mayapple. A few years ago (late fall of 1997), the Polk County Conservation Board began a study in three of its county parks to learn more about the effects of deer over population on the biodiversity of the parks. Exclosures were established in all three parks. I did vegetation samples (representing baseline conditions) in plots located inside and outside the exclosures in 1998. Both the species composition and the structure of the forest community were measured. Last summer, those plots were resampled. Comparisons between 1998 and 2001 in the grazed and ungrazed plots indicated some significant changes.

On one of the sites, the three years of deer removal stimulated a remarkable recovery of spring ephemerals like spring beauty and trout lily. Other species - kidney leaf buttercup, violets, black snakeroot, and white avens - also exhibited an increase in the absence of deer. For the most part, the other two sites did not demonstrate similar patterns. Most of the species remained unchanged, and in one case, trout lily increased more in the grazed plot. This is not especially surprising to an ecologist. General affects are hard to find, even for similar parks in the same county. There are too many other factors - uncontrolled and variable - that can confuse things. The biggest one in this study is probably the actual level of deer use, but other possibilities include management history and disturbance due to windstorms.

On the site where most of the changes occurred, deer use in the area is fairly heavy. Consequently one might expect to see more change when the deer are removed. The sedges on this site also responded favorably to the removal of deer. Three species of *Carex* exhibited greater frequency inside the exclosure than outside. Part of this recovery by the sedges was due to more vigorous growth and reproduction of individuals, thereby enhancing the ability to identify them to species. There were some sedges present in 1998, but they were so weak and stressed that reliable identification to species was not possible. Some of the recovery could also have been due to increased population size (i.e., more individuals). Either way, it was an amazing change as five species of sedge carpeted the forest floor in the exclosure plot.

Speaking of sedges...is it possible that the sedges have you down and singing the blues? Can't tell a *Carex brevior* from a *Carex muskingumensis*? Well cheer up, you're surely not alone. You'll be pleased to know that there is help on the way! The Iowa Native Plant Society is sponsoring a "Get to Know your Local Sedges Workshop." It will be held in central Iowa June 15th - see the section on field trips for more information. Hopefully the INPS will be able to offer at least one workshop a year. Workshops, as opposed to field trips, have a more specific educational goal (taxonomy, ecology, propagation, etc.) and therefore need to be limited in the number of participants. So don't delay in returning your registration - you might not get in.

Oh, oh. I think I hear a new warbler out in the yard. Gotta go check it out. My bird list for the year is 110 species. My plant list needs some work - another good excuse to get outside. Isn't spring a grand seasons?

**Tom Rosburg**

## **Iowa Native Plant Society Field Trips 2002**

By Mark Leoschke

All field trips are scheduled for Saturdays and begin at 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted. They take place rain or shine, so come prepared for the weather. The terrain varies from site to site, so wear appropriate footwear. Bring a lunch and something to drink.

### **May 11th: Jones County (northeast Iowa)**

The 140-acre Breen Prairie Farm in northern Jones County was donated to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation in 1989. About 50 acres of the 140 acre site is "natural" area, including some limestone prairie remnants. Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation staff and interns have been clearing brush from these prairies and burning them for several years. Our field trip leaders will be Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Marlene Ehresman - Program and Planning Associate and Joe McGovern - Land Stewardship Director.

In the afternoon we will head over to the nearby Indian Bluffs Wildlife Management Area (east of Monticello), owned and managed by the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. There are some wonderful oak/sugar maple/basswood forest here with a great display of spring wildflowers such as carpets of squirrel corn *Dicentra canadensis*. Our field trip leader at Indian Bluffs will be Mark J. Leoschke, the Wildlife Bureau's botanist.

**Directions To Breen Prairie:** From Monticello follow State Highway 38 north 3.5 miles (0.5 mile south of the Delaware County line). You will see a wooden "Breen Prairie" sign on the east side of the highway. There is some room for off road parking, otherwise park on the shoulder of the highway.

### **June 15th: Sedge Workshop - Boone and Story Counties (central Iowa)**

Bill Norris, Tom Rosburg and Scott Zager will lead a second Iowa *Carex* Workshop. We will meet at Bessey Hall on the campus of Iowa State University, with check-in time starting at 9:30 a.m. to allow a prompt start of the workshop at 10 a.m. After an introductory session, we will drive to Ledges State Park in Boone County to see wily *Carex* in the field. After lunch and exploring at the Ledges, the group will head to Doolittle Prairie State Preserve in Story County. It is expected that the workshop will end between 3 and 4 p.m. The workshop will be limited to 40 people. There will be a \$10 registration fee plus a \$10 fee if you want a copy of the Iowa *Carex* manual (Checks should be made out to the "Iowa Native Plant Society". The manual has not been revised - it is exactly like the manual available at last year's workshop). Checks must accompany requests to register. To inquire if there is room to register contact Mark J. Leoschke at mark.leoschke@dnr.state.ia.us. or 515-281-5951. Checks should be mailed to: Mark J. Leoschke, Wildlife Bureau, DNR, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

**Directions:** From the intersection of Interstate Highway 35 and U.S. Highway 30 go west (towards Ames). Get off at the Elwood Drive exit and turn right (north) towards the ISU campus. Go past the 6th Street and Haber Road intersections (you are still on Elwood Drive). At the intersection of Wallace Road and Elwood Drive turn left (south) onto Wallace Road. Drive one block and turn right (west) onto Osborn Drive. Drive a block (past Knoll Road) and you will see Bessey Hall on your left (a 4 story building with a greenhouse on the top). Park in the Bessey parking lot (do not park in restricted parking areas) or on Osborn Drive. We will meet in room number 156 on the first floor of Bessey Hall. ISU campus maps are available online at [www.fpm.iastate.edu/maps/](http://www.fpm.iastate.edu/maps/).

**July 13th: Iowa County (east-central Iowa)**

We will be visiting Indiagrass Hills, a large prairie restoration project owned by Mary Brown, Judy Felder, Sandy Rhodes, Bill and Barbara Buss. (See article page 1)

**Directions:** From Interstate Highway 80 take the Ladora-Millersburg Exit (#211). Turn right (south) on H Avenue (County Road V52) towards Millersburg. Five miles from Interstate Highway 80 turn left (east) at 265th Street - 265th Street T's into I Avenue. Turn left (north) and continue about 1.1 miles to the gray pole barn on left (west) side of road -- 2549 I Avenue. Park on the property, but leave the barn and driveway access clear. The area south of the barn should have plenty of space. If parking on the grass bring cardboard or other protective surface to protect catalytic converters from catching the grass on fire (place under car).

**August 17: Wayne County (south-central Iowa)**

Tom Rosburg, INPS president and a faculty member (botany and plant ecology) in the Biology Department at Drake University in Des Moines, will lead us on a tour of the prairie remnant in the south unit of Bobwhite State Park. Among some of the interesting plants here are tall nutrush, *Scleria triglomerata* and wild petunia *Ruellia humilis*.

**Directions:** From the intersection of State Highway 40 and County Road J46 in Allerton drive about 1.75 miles west on J46 to the park. Turn left (south) into the south unit of the park. Follow the road back (do not turn into the park office parking lot - you need to drive further south and west) to the shelter, which is east of the fake lake. There is only one road into and out of the south unit of the park and it ends in a loop, so the shelter should be easy to locate.

**September 7th: Pottawattamie County (western Iowa)**

Glenn Pollock, a former Iowan from Omaha, will introduce us to the Vincent Prairie. This is a 31 acre Loess Hills prairie on a west-facing slope on the south side of Council Bluffs. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Council Bluffs and the Loess Hills Preservation Society are working together to protect this site.

**Directions:** Go west on U.S. Interstate 80 to the east side of Council Bluffs. Get off at the Madison Avenue exit (exit 5. If you wind up on U.S. Interstate 29/80 you have gone too far west). We will meet in front of the Hy-Vee grocery store in Mall of The Bluffs, which is visible from U.S. Interstate 80. We will car pool from here to the prairie.

**September 20-22: ANNUAL MEETING Dickinson County (western Iowa)**

The Iowa Native Plant Society will meet with The Nature Conservancy of Iowa and the Iowa Prairie Network for a weekend of field trips and presentations at the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. Each group will hold separate annual meetings. Check The Nature Conservancy of Iowa's web page this summer for more details: <http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/iowa> or contact them via e-mail, fax or U.S. mail:

The Nature Conservancy, 108 Third Street, Suite 300, Des Moines, IA 50309  
Phone: (515) 244-5044, Fax: (515) 244-8890, E-mail: [iowa@tnc.org](mailto:iowa@tnc.org)

## **WETLANDS WORKSHOP PLANNED FOR MAY 18**

Come and Develop the Skills You Need to Protect One of Iowa's Most Important and Most Threatened Resources -- Wetlands!

Iowa was once a state rich with productive wetlands. In 1780 Iowa had 4 million acres of wetlands. In 1990 it was estimated that number had dwindled to just 400,000 acres. Iowa is one of the nation's leaders in wetlands destruction -- 89% of Iowa's wetlands state-wide have been destroyed and that number jumps to 99% if only the prairie potholes are considered.

Come join Iowans from throughout the state for a wetlands workshop and help save our last remaining wetlands! National wetlands experts will conduct a workshop on the basics of reading and commenting on proposed permits for wetlands destruction, the basics of wetlands law and regulation, the basics of Iowa state legislation regarding isolated wetlands and other waters, and how to use the media to get across your message and save your wetland.

Please reserve Saturday, May 18 for this essential and exciting training opportunity. The meeting will be held next to Carney Marsh area at the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities building, 1735 N.E. 70th Avenue between Ankeny and Des Moines. A small registration fee will be charged to cover a light breakfast and lunch. Contact Jane Clark at: jrclark@radiks.net or 515-223-5047 for more information and registration.



The Iowa wetlands workshop is being funded by the Clean Water Network and will be presented by Julie Sibbing of the National Wildlife Federation and Daniel Rosenberg of the Natural Resources Defense Council, co-chairs of the Clean Water Network Wetlands Workgroup.

## **NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR HAGIE HERITAGE AWARD**

**Friday May 31**

Know someone who has demonstrated outstanding personal service and commitment to improving the quality of Iowa's natural environment and who encourages others to do the same? Then nominate them for INHF's annual Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award. The recipient receives \$1,000 and a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. But everyone is a winner because all nominees get a certificate of nomination and local publicity.

Past winners include those who encourage energy conservation, provide environmental education, initiate and support local conservation projects, restore wildlife habitat, or enthusiastically speak for Iowa's natural treasures.

It's simple to nominate someone. Just submit two letters of recommendation from different sources. For nominating tips, guidelines and descriptions of previous winners, visit the INHF website or contact Cathy Engstrom: 515-288-1846 or cengstrom@inhf.org. Please send all nominations to Cathy at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 444, Des Moines, IA 50309-2321.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Thursday Evening Walks at Doolittle Prairie Preserve

Evening prairie walks at Doolittle Prairie will be on the following Thursdays starting at 7:00 p.m. - May 23, June 20, July 18, and August 22. No registration is needed.

The walks are sponsored by the CIPN and the Story County Conservation Board. For more information call Lloyd Crim at 515-432-5926 or SCCB at 515-232-2516. Long pants, sturdy shoes and bug spray are recommended.

Directions: from 1-35 go west at the Roland exit on E-18 for about ½ mile; turn south on 560th Ave. (a gravel road) for about 1½ miles; the preserve is on the west side of the road, follow the lane back to the parking lot

### Tuesday Evening Walks at Pohl Memorial Preserve at Ames High Prairie

Evening prairie walks at Pohl Preserve will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month, June-Sept at 6:30 p.m. - June 11, July 9, August 13 and Sept 10. No registration is needed. Poison ivy is found at this site - long pants, sturdy shoes and bug spray are recommended.

The walks are sponsored by the CIPN, The Iowa Nature Conservancy and the Story County Conservation Board. For more information contact Trish Patrick at 515-382-2802, TNC at 515-244-5044, or SCCB at 515-232-2516.

Directions: from 1-35 take the Ames 13th Street exit west to Grand Ave; turn right (north) and go to 20th St; turn left (west) and go to Ridgewood; the prairie is on the west side of the high school - follow the drive around the north end of the school to a small parking lot on the west side.

### May 11-12 Wings & Wetlands Weekend

The Iowa Nature Conservancy will sponsor field trips on Saturday, May 11, at 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Waterman Prairie Complex in O'Brien County, and on Sunday, May 12, at 1:00 to 5:00 pm. at the Freda Haffner Preserve, as part of the 8th annual "Wings & Wetlands Weekend." This National Wetlands Month event involves six counties in northwest Iowa and includes a wide variety of activities. For details, call Ann Robinson at the Conservancy state office, ph 515-244-5044, e-mail [iowa@tnc.org](mailto:iowa@tnc.org) or the Lost Island Prairie Wetland Nature Center, 712-837-4866.

### May 31-June 2

#### 26th Annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

This is an annual outdoor educational event for the whole family sponsored by the Western Hills Education Agency and held at the Loess Hills Wildlife Area in Monona County. Over 40 facilitators present 2-3 hour field sessions on a wide variety of natural history topics for both adults and children. No registration or fee is required. If you want to purchase meal tickets or enroll for staff development credit you must pre-register.

Brochures and registration forms will soon be available on the website [www.aea12.k12.ia.us/services/loesshillseminar/](http://www.aea12.k12.ia.us/services/loesshillseminar/) or call Gloria at 712-274-6000, ext.6083 or email [kistnerg@aea12.k12.ia.us](mailto:kistnerg@aea12.k12.ia.us).

### Friday, June 7th

#### Glen Crossman Memorial Service at Crossman Prairie

Glen Crossman loved wildflowers and prairies, and was very active in a group of local outdoor enthusiasts in the Riceville, Iowa area. He proved his love for the prairie by donating Crossman Prairie to the Iowa TNC Chapter in 1976. Glen passed away last September at the age of 76. In honor of his memory a memorial service will be held at Crossman Prairie on June 7, 2002, at 4:00 p.m. The Prairie is 7 1/4 miles west of Riceville, Iowa. For directions, visit the Iowa the Conservancy's website, <http://nature.org/iowa> and look under preserves, or call 515-244-5044

### Saturday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m.

#### Sedges and Friends with Tom Rosburg

The Bluejoint Meadow in Polk County is a small area of original Skunk River flood plain. It is a "reference site" for restoration projects. Sedges made up much more of the herbaceous vegetation of wet mesic sites than most people realize. The dozens of species present in this three or four acres gives us a glimpse into what must have been an extremely diverse and productive system.

Directions: From Highway 65/330 turn north on Co. road S-27, (also known as the Mitchellville to Farrar Road) S-27 is the first intersection toward Des Moines from Engeldinger Marsh. Go North one mile from the intersection of S-27 and 65/330, then turn west on NW 118th Ave. Travel west for 1 3/4 miles to the site. The access lane is on the north side of the road. Participants can meet on the road and then walk along the fence line to the meadow. For more information contact Loren at [llohn@co.polk.ia.us](mailto:llohn@co.polk.ia.us).

**June 23-27****18th North American Prairie Conference**

"Promoting Prairie" is the theme of 18th North American Prairie Conference being held June 23-27, 2002 in Kirksville, Missouri at Truman State university. Visit the prairie conference website at <http://www.napc2002.org> for more information or contact the conference coordinator at the Kirksville Area Chamber of Commerce, 304 S. Franklin, Kirksville, MO 63501, phone 660-665-3765, fax 660-665-3767.

**3 Prairie Field Trips****with Cindy Hildebrand and Roger Maddux**

Contact Cindy for directions to the sites, parking information, and to let her know you plan to come 515-232-3807 or e-mail [grantridge@aol.com](mailto:grantridge@aol.com). All trips are on a Saturday starting at 10:00 am.

**July 6th** will be at Grant Ridge, a site near Nevada that has remnant areas and local-ecotype reconstructions.

**August 3rd** we'll visit Eight-Acre Prairie, a remnant in Warren County.

**August 10th** will be at Stargrass, a good quality local-ecotype reconstruction near Ames.

**Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge Events**

For full information: Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 399, Prairie City, Iowa 50228-0399, phone 515-994-3400; email - [buffalo@tallgrass.org](mailto:buffalo@tallgrass.org); website <http://www.tallgrass.org>

**May 11** 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. New Volunteer Orientation

**May 30** 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Prairie Ambassadors training and Trail surveys/maintenance

**June 8** 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Buffalo Day

**July 13** Butterfly Training with Erma

**Garlic Mustard in****Ashworth/Greenwood Parks in Des Moines**

Those of you who helped pull garlic mustard in these two adjoining parks last year have seen the almost overwhelming extent of the infestation. The Des Moines Parks staff did some spraying last fall, and they are aware of the problem now. But these parks need our help.

We have scheduled a full workday for volunteers on June 8th, from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., choose the most convenient time to come and work for whatever length of time they can. (The majority of volunteers came in the morning last year, some of you might consider coming in the afternoon if it is convenient for you.) Parking is just south of Ashworth Pool. Turn south from Grand Avenue on 45th St. (the Art Center corner), and follow it to the head of the Bill Riley Bike Trail. Someone will meet you at the parking lot to direct you to the area where you will work. Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and sturdy shoes (with smoother soles if possible). We will have plenty of bags. For more information, contact Jo Hudson at 515-276-6359 or [johud@radiks.net](mailto:johud@radiks.net).

**Mushrooms and Wildflowers****Saturday May 4 Palisades-Kepler State Park**

A wildflower walk and mushroom hunt co-sponsored by the Prairie State Mushroom Club and the University of Iowa Museum of Natural History. From the intersection of Hwy 1 and Hwy 30 south of Mount Vernon, go west on Hwy 30 about two miles. Watch for the sign pointing to Palisades-Kepler State Park and turn south into the park. Drive about a mile (bear left at the fork in the road by the ranger's office) and meet in the parking lot at the first shelter at 10:00 a.m. Bring a sack lunch and stay to identify fungi and plants. For further information call Museum Associate Dave Brenzel at 319/335-0482 or email at [david-brenzel@uiowa.edu](mailto:david-brenzel@uiowa.edu). Other Iowa City area mushroom contacts are: PSMC President Damian Pieper email at [dpieper1@yahoo.com](mailto:dpieper1@yahoo.com), and Dean Abel 319/354-3510 or 319/335-1070 or [dean-abel@uiowa.edu](mailto:dean-abel@uiowa.edu).

**Woodland Walk****Saturday May 4 Palisades-Kepler State Park**

Come see the first woodland plants and flowers of spring. Illustrator Mark Muller will host a "walk in the woodlands" at Palisades-Kepler State Park. The walk is sponsored by the University of Iowa Press in conjunction with the publication of Woodland in Your Pocket, Mark's new pocket guide. Follow the same directions as for the mushroom walk and meet in the parking lot at 2:00 pm. For further information, contact Megan Scott, University of Iowa Press, at 319/335-2008 or email at [megan-scott@uiowa.edu](mailto:megan-scott@uiowa.edu).

**Spring Migrants****Saturday May 11 Dudgeon Lake**

Cedar Rapids Audubon will sponsor a field trip to Dudgeon Lake to look for spring migrants. Leave the Cedar Valley Nature Trail parking lot in Hiawatha at 7:00 a.m. or meet at Dudgeon Lake near the Izack Walton clubhouse around 7:45 a.m. Return by noon. Expect to walk once around the lake. Dudgeon Lake would be a good spot for mushrooms, says trip leader Roger Heidt. It's an ox-bow lake off the Cedar River north of Vinton. Contact Roger at 393-5712 or email at [rwheidt@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:rwheidt@rockwellcollins.com).

**Plants, Insects, and Birds****Saturday June 22 Cedar Hills Sand Prairie**

Cedar Rapids Audubon will sponsor a field trip to Cedar Hills Sand Prairie, Blackhawk County, to look for plants, insects, and birds. Leave the Cedar Valley Nature Trail parking lot in Hiawatha at 8:00 a.m. Return by 1:00 p.m. Note: there is no shade or any groomed paths in this area. Make sure to bring plenty to drink and a snack. Trip leader is Kay James (393-5712).

## "Restoration and Management of Native Plant Communities"

An introductory class in "Restoration and Management of Native Plant Communities" is tentatively scheduled for Fall term 2002 at the Urban Campus of Des Moines Community College.

Participants will learn a wide variety of landscape scale restoration techniques such as: site analysis based on indicator species; native and invasive plant identification; identification and harvest techniques for local ecotype seed for prairie restoration and reconstruction; restoration of abiotic landscape-scale processes such as hydrology and fire; and monitoring.

The class is scheduled to begin in early September, with the first class meeting at Urban Campus and classes thereafter meeting at the Audubon Center's office at Saylorville Lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is a pro-active supporter in this class and students will be involved in active restoration efforts within remnant plant communities. Priority will be given to prairie and savanna rescue and restoration and some work in reconstructions. Field trips are tentatively scheduled for Iowa State University's World Class Herbarium where students will learn about specimen preservation for future research and also as reference points. Urban restoration projects will be observed, as well as a trip to a local seed processing facility.

The theoretical base of this class is anchored in principles of conservation biology and restoration ecology. For more information send email inquiries to:

Danielle M. Wirth, Ph.D. Science Dept. - Urban Campus 'Des Moines Area Community  
College email - ehorizon@netins.net or call 515-965-6010 ext. 421

The class is scheduled for Thursday afternoons this fall and will be listed on DMACC's web page as Biol. 170. The 3 credits will be divided between 2 hours of lecture and 2 hours of lab. Several individuals have expressed interest in scheduling this class on weekends. If it seems that the interest is there DMACC will make every effort to respond to student demand.



### ***Indiangrass Hills (continued from page 1)***

red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, bluebirds, red-headed woodpeckers, bobolinks, woodcocks, Henslow's sparrows (threatened in Iowa), grasshopper sparrows, rose-breasted grosbeaks, yellow warblers and rufous-sided towhees. Bald eagles have flown over several times, and once we were surprised to see a flock of pelicans fly over! Indiangrass Hills is home to a widely-spaced population of the Iowa-threatened smooth green snake as well as other reptiles, amphibians and mammals

Our grasslands are attractive not only to birds, but also to our neighbors' cows. As soon as they find a weak point in a fence, over they come to enjoy all they can eat. Fence mending is an ongoing job that we share with our neighbors. Our neighbors have been very interested in our project, and several have helped us with burns and wood-cutting.

We work year-round on jobs appropriate to the season: maintaining fire breaks, burning, spraying thistles or mending fences. This winter we have started opening wide channels through wooded draws by cutting out trees and shrubs. This will allow fine fuels to grow and carry fire through the draws which will benefit any suppressed prairie species that might be present.

Each growing season the land shows us something new that makes our project exciting and rewarding. All of our lives have been enriched by working on the prairie. We enjoy sharing time on our land with others who are interested in being close to nature and in prairie restoration. We are looking forward to the field trip at Indiangrass Hills on July 13 and invite you all to come.

## ON THE WEB

### The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names

The Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names specializes in locating place names from the past <http://getty.edu/research/tools/vocabulary/tgn/> from our list of geocoding sources for the database system, Mandala: <http://pherocera.inhs.uiuc.edu/geocoding.htm>:

Getty Thesaurus of Geographic Names (TGN). Getty Information Institute, Los Angeles, California is a comprehensive, international gazetteer of over 900,000 place names. Like Encarta, you can search on a single feature without a country name. It returns the continent, nation, state, county, latitude and longitude in degrees and minutes with direction.

### Subscribe to the Iowa Native Plant Society Internet List

Do you have access to the internet/email? Do you subscribe to the INP server list? If not consider subscribing. You will receive reminder notices of upcoming events, follow and join in discussions about various subjects, recently members exchanged information as per the pros and cons of burning prairies and how it effect the insect population.

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**INPS:** <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/inpshome.htm>

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Send with your 2002 dues of \$10.00 to Diana Horton, 720 Sandusky Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240.

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Mark this box if you do not wish to have this information published in the INPS member directory. The INPS mailing list is never distributed to other organizations or companies. Dues are payable on a calendar year basis from January 1 to December 31. Use this form for change of address.

## A Prairie to Preserve

By Mark J. Leoschke

Dr. Ada Hayden, a professor in the Botany Department at Iowa State University, inventoried prairies throughout Iowa in the middle 1940's in an effort to identify sites worthy of preservation. One of the areas that she inventoried was the valley of Waterman Creek, a tributary of the Little Sioux River in O'Brien County in northwest Iowa. Dr. Hayden recommended that a portion of the prairie in the valley be preserved. The Nature Conservancy of Iowa is helping the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Bureau fulfill Dr. Hayden's vision. Over 130 acres of prairie will be purchased and added to the prairie already protected in the Waterman Creek Wildlife Management Area. The Nature Conservancy of Iowa obtained a REAP grant to help pay for the prairie, but needs to raise funds to pay for the private match required by the grant. If you would like to make a Contribution to help purchase this prairie, make out a check to "The Nature Conservancy of Iowa" and put "Waterman Creek" on the memo line. Mail the check to this address:  
The Nature Conservancy of Iowa, 108 Third Street,  
Suite 300, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Thanks in advance for your help.

### Newsletter

Iowa Native Plant Society  
c/o Deb Lewis  
Department of Botany  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011-1020



FIG. 119.—Common bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*). Common wild native plant of our woodlands. Drawing by Ada Hayden.

Illustration of bloodroot, *Sanguinaria canadensis* by Ada Hayden, published in *Honey Plants of Iowa*, Iowa Geological Survey Bulletin no. 7, 1930.