



IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 11, Issue 1

April 2005

Pasque Flowers

I remember out on the hillside chilly
 Where the winds danced wild and free,
 Where tumble weeds rolled willy-nilly
 And the meadow larks sang in glee.
 The pasque flowers so fragrantly spread
 Where chill of frost had lately laid,
 Lifting their fussy nodding heads
 All up and down the slope they swayed.

Ah, back across the many years
 A memory of childhood's happy days,
 In a glowing picture appears
 A winging across the ways.
 Of on, or about near Eastertide
 There gathering the pasque flowers so free,
 In the enchantment of that magic hillside
 My sisters and I and brothers three.

I still can vision the pale lavender bloom
 Of the arm loads of flowers we gathered there,
 Still — smell the sweetness of their perfume,
 And feel the coolness of early spring air.
 Remember the sound of children's cheerful voices
 Happily chattering as they glean,
 And oh, how my heart rejoices
 Recalling this lovely, pastel scene.

Esther Jones Willroth (1884-1988)
 Crawford County, Iowa



Anemone patens L. Pasque-flower illustration from
 The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora Vol. 2 -

Burning Buddha Alive

Sincerely man,
 you see no hope?
 Not in denial
 of our death.

Hope is for the helpless
 as heaven and hell
 sit on this hill
 both betting on tomorrow.

Coming back to life.
 Today
 I am the prairie
 setting myself on fire.

7/2/02

Mark Edwards

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Leaves from the President's Notebook

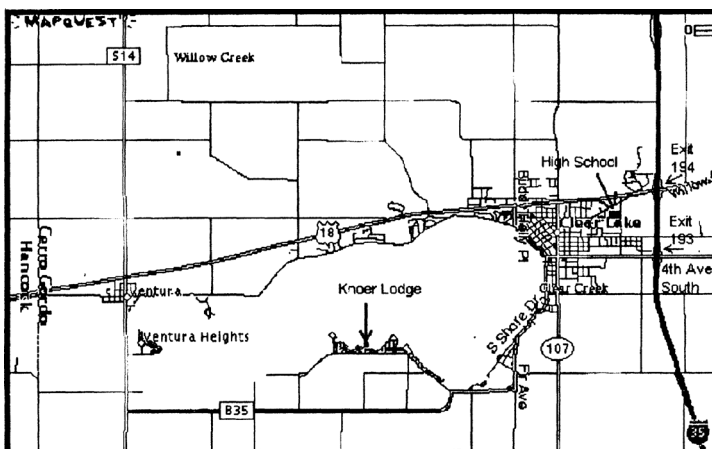
April 2005

Every year they emerge from beneath thick layers of tree leaves and grace the forest floor with their stunning, though often tiny, blooms. Although only a sprinkling of blooms at present, I hold on to the promise of walking through carpets of spring wildflowers in the next few weeks. Spring beauties, hepatica, snow trilliums, and bloodroot are but a few of the ephemerals that are beginning their brief presence above ground before the canopy closes. Grab your friends, neighbors, kids, and other relatives and visit a woodland near your home; I'm certain you'll be justly rewarded! And keep an eye out for garlic mustard!

Mark your calendars for several volunteer opportunities this spring to rescue prairie, pull garlic mustard, and participate in field trips. The annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 and will feature a field trip to the Union Hills Wildlife Management Area (see article). I encourage you to attend and engage in shaping the future of the INPS. Please contact me if you have items you'd like placed on the agenda. Also note that there are specific volunteer opportunities available for anyone interested in joining the INPS board as secretary or serving as a representative at large in their region. We greatly appreciate the enthusiasm and support of our members!

Happy Spring!

Larissa Mottl



Annual Meeting directions: Knoer Lodge is located at 4672 Epworth Dr in Clear Lake. From Interstate 35 take exit 193 (4th Ave South) west to South Shore Drive. Turn left (south) on South Shore Drive, follow South Shore Drive to Thoburn Ave, turn right (north then west) at Bell Harbor entrance on Thoburn Ave. turn right on Epworth Drive. Knoer Lodge is on the left. From the west, it is about half a mile east of Camp Tanglefoot and just past Dodge's Point.

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2005 INPS Annual Meeting & Field Trip
Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.
Knoer Lodge
4672 Epworth Drive
Clear Lake, IA 50428

Join us for the 2005 annual meeting in the prairie pothole country of north central Iowa. Following our business meeting at 10 a.m., we are pleased to have Doug Janke, IDNR wildlife biologist, introduce us to our afternoon field trip destination: Union Hills Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Doug has managed numerous restoration activities in this nearly 2000-acre phenomenal wildlife complex of marsh and upland habitats located only 7 miles south of Clear Lake. Bill Johnson, IDNR, will be our tour guide for the afternoon, navigating our group to some of the best spots to observe plant diversity and various restoration projects.

A noon lunch will be provided before we leave at 1:00 p.m. for the field trip. Plan to spend at least 2-3 hours exploring Union Hills; bring bottled water and wear hiking shoes that can get wet. Maps of other interesting wetland areas in Cerro Gordo will be provided for those that would like to see more of the area before heading home.

The annual meeting is a great opportunity to catch up on the latest news about Iowa's native plants and projects going on around the state and to renew acquaintances with other native plant enthusiasts. Please come and share program, field trip, and activity ideas. Got a plant you just can't put a name on? Bring a specimen or photograph for help with identification.

You will receive a postcard reminder about the meeting in May, along with directions to the meeting location for the morning program. Questions? Call Larissa Mottl at 641-269-4717.

More about Union Hills WMA. Union Hills has been given national recognition as a Bird Conservation Area, supporting habitat for grassland nesting birds like the northern harrier, bobolink, and grasshopper sparrow and wetland species like the American bittern, Wilson's phalarope, and Forster's tern. The glacial moraine topography features a diversity of upland habitats including remnant prairie, around 200 acres of diverse prairie seedings, and over 50 reconstructed wetlands ranging from 0.25 to 90 acres. *Union Hills is located about 2.5 miles west of the intersection of Hwy 107 and County Rd B55, or about 6.5 miles north and west of Thornton.*

WANTED: INPS Secretary

Would you like to take on a more active role in the INPS? Consider volunteering for the secretary position. The secretary takes minutes at annual and committee meetings, keeps a secretary notebook, gathers annual reports for the notebook, handles correspondences, and acts as the historian for the group. Know of someone else who might be interested? Nominate them! For more information, please contact Connie Mutel, secretary pro tem.

WANTED: Representatives at Large

You can help spread the word about INPS in your home territory by serving as a contact for submitting news releases to local papers, generating ideas for programs and field trips, leading/hosting field trips, distributing brochures, submitting articles to the INPS newsletter from your "neck of the woods", and keeping your eyes open for events appropriate for an INPS display. Please contact Larissa Mottl if you're interested.

The Iowa Native Plant Society's 2005 Field Trips

By Mark J. Leoschke

A big thanks to all our field trip leaders! 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.

The Iowa Department of Transportation's state highway maps are available at DOT rest stops and welcome centers. They have some of the larger state preserves represented by small blue dots with the name of the preserve in blue letters. For instance, Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County (part of the May field trip) is located southwest of Chester.

The Iowa Sportman's Atlas has large county maps with wildlife management areas, state and county parks, state preserves, national wildlife refuges, etc. owned by public and some private conservation organizations. Its current edition (2002) has 911 street names for counties in Iowa which have this system (most counties), which greatly helps one locate a favorite natural area or find a new one. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, check with your local bookstore or call 1-800-568-8334. The cost is \$19.95 plus sales tax.

May 21st- Fillmore County (southeast Minnesota) and Howard County (northeast Iowa)

This will be a joint field trip along the border with the Minnesota Native Plant Society. The field trip will be led by Paul Bockenstedt (a former resident of Dubuque), plant ecologist for the suburban Twin Cities environmental consulting firm Bonestroo Natural Resources and Mark Leoschke, botanist for the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines. We will meet at Beaver Creek WMA at 10:30 a.m. and drive 6 miles to Hayden Prairie State Preserve for a 12:30 p.m. lunch. The Hayden Prairie portion of the field trip will take place right after lunch.

Beaver Creek Wildlife Management Area is located 4 miles east of the town of Le Roy and one mile north of the Iowa/Minnesota border. It supports a wide variety of natural communities and rare elements, including mesic to wet-mesic oak savanna, mesic prairie and wet meadow. It is listed as a site of outstanding biodiversity significance by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. We'll look for spring blooming prairie/savanna flowers such as Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*).

Hayden Prairie State Preserve is on the Iowan Surface, 4 miles due south of the Iowa/Minnesota border and about 3 miles south of Chester. It is a state wildlife management area as well as a state preserve. Hayden Prairie has 240 acres of mesic to wet tallgrass prairie and sedge meadow, the largest native prairie in the eastern half of the state. Over 100 species of vascular plants occur here. One of the annual highlights at Hayden Prairie is the spring display of thousands and thousands of white, lavender and pink shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*), the largest population in Iowa. The prairie is large enough to attract nesting northern harriers, as well as bobolinks, northern yellowthroats, sedge wrens, Henslow's sparrows and the sporadic short-eared owl.

Hayden Prairie is named after Dr. Ada Hayden, a former professor of botany at Iowa State University in Ames. In the mid-1940's she received a modest grant from the Iowa Academy of Science to conduct an inventory of native prairie worthy of potential preservation in the state. Hayden Prairie was "Howard County No. 1" in Dr. Hayden's report. The Iowa Conservation Commission (now known as the Iowa Department of Natural Resources) purchased the prairie in 1945. Dr. Hayden died in 1950. Hayden Prairie became a National Natural Landmark in 1966 and a state preserve in 1968. It is named after Dr. Hayden in tribute to her efforts to protect prairie in Iowa.

Directions: Beaver Creek Wildlife Management Area

*From Iowa: Just after entering Minnesota on U.S. Highway 63, turn left (west) on Minnesota State Highway 56 and drive 2 miles. Turn right (north) and drive approximately 2 miles to the WMA parking area.

*From the north/east: Take U.S. Highway 63 south to Minnesota State Highway 56. Turn right (west) on MN 56 and go 2 miles. Turn right (north) and drive approximately 2 miles to the WMA parking area.

*From the west: From Le Roy (Fillmore County) drive 4 miles east on Minnesota State Highway 56 and then turn left (north) on a gravel road and drive for approximately 2 miles to the WMA parking area.

Directions: Hayden Prairie State Preserve

*From Minnesota: In Rochester (Olmsted County) drive south on U.S. Highway 63. Cross the Upper Iowa River and enter Chester, Iowa. After about 5 miles turn right (west) on to 50th Street. After 4 miles 50th Street intersects with Jade Avenue and becomes a gravel road. Hayden Prairie is kitty corner (southwest) from this intersection. Go through the intersection (west) and drive about 0.4 mile on 50th Street to the parking area on the north side of the prairie. It is a small lot, so you will have to park along the road.

*From Iowa: From New Hampton (Chickasaw County) drive north on U.S. Highway 63 to State Highway 9. Continue north 5 miles on U.S. Highway 63 to 50th Street. Turn left (west) on 50th Street. After 4 miles 50th Street intersects with Jade Avenue and becomes a gravel road. Hayden Prairie is kitty corner (southwest) from this intersection. Go through the intersection on 50th Street and drive about 0.4 mile to the parking area on the north side of the prairie. It is a small lot, so you will probably have to park along the road.

*2005 Field Trips continued***June 11th: Cerro Gordo County (north-central Iowa)**

The annual meeting will be held on this day. For more details see the article on page 3 about the annual meeting in this newsletter.

July 9th: Howard County (northeast Iowa)

The Borlaug Foundation owns the farm where Dr. Norman Borlaug, the father of the “green revolution” of agriculture in the 1960’s, was born and raised. A portion of the farm is leased and managed by Mike Natvig and Amy Miller, organic farmers. The farm has oak savanna converted to more dense forest; a diverse, wet permanent pasture with a small fen; a remnant oak savanna with elements of restored savanna; prairie and wetland communities. We will learn about the Conservation Security Program and how it is being used on this farm to save remnant plant communities and encourage ecological restoration. Trained botanists are needed to assist farmers in applying for this funding. Dr. Laura Jackson, professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, will be our field trip leader.

Directions: *From the intersection of U.S. Highway 18 and U.S. Highway 63 in New Hampton (Chickasaw County) go north about 8 miles to County Road B22 (120th Street). Turn right (east) on B22 and drive 6 miles (going through Jerico) to Stanley Avenue. Turn left (north) on Stanley Avenue and drive 3 miles (after 2 miles Stanley Avenue becomes Timber Avenue in Howard County). The farmstead is on the southeast corner of Timber Avenue and 200th Street. Park in the circle drive.

August 6: Guthrie County (west-central Iowa)

The Garst family of Coon Rapids, once made famous by hosting Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev at their family farm in 1959, have donated that farm and surrounding lands to create a land conservation area called Whiterock Conservancy.

Whiterock’s mission is to protect and restore the area’s diverse habitats, as well as its special geologic features and dark night skies. It will also engage in research and modeling of ecologically and economically sustainable methods of land management, such as ecotourism, alternative pasturing methods, paid hunting and conservation-friendly farming practices. Finally, it will provide for low-impact public recreation and environmental education.

To aid Whiterock in its mission, Tom Rosburg recently completed a project to delineate, map and describe the extant plant communities on the 5,000 acre area. This field trip will provide an opportunity to explore some of the more unique plant communities in the Raccoon River, such as wet seeps, oak sand savanna, and mesic oak forest. A neighbor to the Garst land, Jim Nedtwig, has offered to lead participants on a tour of his successful oak savanna restoration. Tom Rosburg, a professor in the Department of Biology at Drake University in Des Moines, will be our field trip leader.

Directions: *From the east, eventually get on Highway 141 and travel through Perry, Bagley, and Bayard. At 4.5 miles west of Bayard, turn left (south) onto Fig Avenue (a gravel road). After about 3 miles the road will begin to descend into the Raccoon River valley. Just before the bridge over the Raccoon River, turn left into a campground along the river. We will meet and eat lunch at the campground. From the west, drive east of Coon Rapids on Highway 141 for 2.2 miles to Fig Avenue.

September 10th: Palo Alto County (northwest Iowa)

This 140 acre complex of crop ground, CRP, prairie and marsh was owned by Orville and Mary Telford, local residents who loved wildlife and wildflowers. In her will Mary Telford gave this site to the state of Iowa, with custody and management in the hands of the Palo Alto County Conservation Board. There are two tracts of prairie and marsh on the site, encompassing about 67 acres, the largest areas of prairie in the county. The prairies are home to several rare species, including the fragrant false indigo (*Amorpha nana*) and the smooth green snake (*Opheodrys vernalis*). Our field trip leader will be Mark Leoschke, botanist for the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines.

Directions: *From the intersection of U.S. Highway 18 and Iowa State Highway 4 in Emmetsburg in Palo Alto County, drive 5 miles south to County Road B53 (also known as 420th Street). Turn right (west) and drive 6 miles to 400th Avenue (2 miles east of Ayrshire). Turn right (north) onto 400th Avenue and drive 2 miles north. Turn right (east) onto 400th Street and drive about 0.2 mile. Park along the road.

October 1: Allamakee County (northeast Iowa)

Dr. Don Farrar, a pteridologist in the Department of Ecology and Evolution and Organismal Biology at Iowa State University, will lead a two day fern field trip on the Paleozoic Plateau (also known as the Driftless Area). Details will be available in the next newsletter.

2005 Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award Nominations

Dear Friends at the Iowa Native Plant Society,

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation invites you and your members to nominate an outstanding Iowa conservationist for the 2005 Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award. We are seeking nominees who have demonstrated extraordinary personal service and commitment to improving the quality of Iowa's natural environment, while encouraging others to do the same. The process is easy, but hurry—the nomination deadline is May 27, 2005!

The prestigious Hagie Heritage Award, administered by INHF, is one of Iowa's largest awards recognizing environment-minded individuals. Past winners include people who encourage energy conservation, provide environmental education, initiate and support county conservation projects, restore wildlife habitat on their own or on public property, and/or enthusiastically speak for Iowa's natural treasures.

The award's recipient is presented with a \$1,000 prize and a hand-carved sculpture recognizing their achievements. All nominees will receive a certificate of nomination and INHF will produce a press release about each nomination. Through this press coverage of your nominee, the organizations and projects in which they are involved will gain positive media exposure—and that makes everyone a winner.

To nominate an individual, please submit two letters of recommendation from different sources. The letters should detail what the nominee has done for Iowa's natural heritage and how the nominee has encouraged others to protect natural resources. Most award winners have been volunteers; however, conservation professionals are eligible for the award as long as the nomination is based on activities beyond their regular job description and duties. Posthumous and self-nominations will not be accepted. A nomination by a family member is permitted if accompanied by two non-family nominations. Please include the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the nominee and nominators.

For nominating tips, guidelines, a model nomination letter outline, descriptions of previous winners and other information, visit the INHF website at <http://www.inhf.org/hagie.htm> or call (800) 475-1846 for a printed copy. Please send all correspondence and questions to Cathy Engstrom at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 444, Des Moines IA 50309-2321, or via email at cengstrom@inhf.org. All nominations must be received at this address by May 27, 2005.

Sincerely, Nic Young, INHF Buckmaster Communications Intern

Congratulations to the 2004-05 Recipients of the New INPS Grants

Our first round of Iowa Native Plant Society grants drew some great proposals, and we're pleased to announce the funded projects and recipients. An INPS land acquisition grant of \$1250 was awarded to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation for partial funding for the purchase and management of land adjacent to the Marietta Sand Prairie State Preserve in Marshall County. Their proposal, entitled "Marietta Expansion and Buffer: A Marshall County Sand Prairie and Fen Acquisition and Restoration Project," describes a 211-acre property containing 60 acres of sand prairie, fen wetlands, sand dunes, and hillside prairie. The native remnants contain several rare to infrequently encountered plant species: hairy puccoon, adders tongue, sand milkweed, and meadow sweet. Our grant will join funds from other organizations and individuals to purchase and restore the site (contact the INHF at 515-288-1846 if you wish to contribute personally to this project).

Amy Carolan, a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa, was awarded an INPS research grant for \$500. Amy is working with her advisor, Dr. Laura Jackson, and others in a study entitled "Enhancement of a Recovering Native Prairie." The project will study whether seeds obtained from the undisturbed portion of the prairie and overseeded into the disturbed portion (once plowed for farmland), followed by frequent mowing, will successfully enhance the diversity in the disturbed half of Daubendiek Prairie.

Rena Schmitt, a graduate student at Iowa State University, and her advisor Dr. Kirk Moloney, were also awarded a \$497 INPS research grant. Their project, "The effects of nitrogen on the competitive ability and establishment of garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) versus native herbaceous plants," will involve both greenhouse and field experiments to "address whether garlic mustard is competitively superior to native species with similar seed size and lifecycle and whether nitrogen increases the competitive ability and establishment of garlic mustard."

We congratulate our first INPS grant recipients and look forward to their project reports in future issues of the newsletter! For more information about the grants, including the kinds of projects that are eligible and information for submitting a proposal, go to www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/grantinfo.htm.

Editor's Note: The following opinion article resulted from a conversation that Cathy and I had about making the most of our conservation resources and the work of conservation-oriented organizations, in terms of both people and dollars. Cathy's views and suggestions were so thought-provoking that I asked her to write them up for the newsletter. If you would like to voice your opinions about this, perhaps we can get a discussion going on the Iowa-native-plants listserve <iowa-native-plants@list.uiowa.edu> and/or at the annual meeting.

More Effective Conservation Advocacy for Iowa

By Cathy Mabry McMullen (mabry@iastate.edu)

Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University

March 28, 2005

Since returning to Iowa from the east coast 10 years ago, I've become aware of a contradiction among Iowa conservationists. On one hand, there are many, many good people in our state who are passionate about natural areas, wildlife, land use, and preserving a landscape capable of producing an abundance of healthy food. On the other hand, as a group we are virtually absent from the political process, where much of the fate of conservation is determined, and largely without clout when we are there. Yet, the entities that push for practices counter to sustainability are deeply enmeshed in politics. For example, regulars of the legislative "lobby" help write bills they want, and thwart bills they oppose; they are a source of information and advice on complex topics, and legislators rely heavily on them. Much of this occurs below the radar, where access comes from a keen knowledge of the political process and players.

If we are to ever increase our influence and effectiveness at preserving what we love, we must be better organized, and we must get politically smart. Fortunately, not all politics is dirty, especially local politics. What should we do? Jane Jacobs' description of political effectiveness in her classic book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* has some important lessons for us. We need to recognize that most citizen input committees do not operate at the level where actual decisions are made, and are designed to de-energize the opposition and render it ineffective. "Anything" she writes, "that diverts such contenders into fragmenting their power and watering [down] their efforts by going through 'decision-making' motions with hierarchies and boards at ineffectual levels where no responsible government powers of decision reside, vitiates¹ political life, citizen effectiveness and self-government" (p. 164-165). In other words, committees and other forms of "citizen input" often validate decisions that have already been made elsewhere, and burn us out in the process.

"There are" Jacobs continues, "only two ultimate public powers in shaping and running American cities: votes and control of the money. To sound nicer, we may call these 'public opinion' and 'disbursement of funds,' but they are still votes and money." Neighborhoods, she writes, are too small to have clout, but if groups of neighborhoods organize into what she calls effective districts, they then "possesses one of these powers: the power of votes" (p. 171). Our many small conservation organizations are the equivalent of small and powerless neighborhoods. We are not likely to match others in money, but if we formed the conservation equivalent of an "effective district level organization", we would be large enough to be a force, through our ability to shape public opinion and to have a voting block that counts.

Another lesson about political effectiveness comes from a recent article by the ecologist Daniel Botkin (*BioScience* 55: 7-9). He used the example of Bud Heinselmann, and the role he played in creating the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Heinselmann, who was a biologist with the USDA forest service, went to Washington and gained access and support for the plan by first getting to know the secretaries to key members of congress. Once the secretaries saw that he was "legitimate, persistent, and decent" they began to grant him access to staffers and eventually to the congress members. In other words, he learned how to gain the political access he needed.

One of the most surprising political efforts for conservation in Iowa is the consistent defeat of a bill to allow dove hunting in the state, despite its reintroduction year after year. However one feels about dove hunting, the process is worth paying attention to because it works, despite lack of money. Why? Because in this case conservationists have a voting block that counts (lots and lots of people passionate about doves), input is directed exactly where decisions are made (legislators, legislative leaders, the governor), and is done in a way that is wise to the political process (many individually written letters to legislators from their own constituents).

I suggest that we take a fresh look at how we advocate for conservation in Iowa. Why not energize the many small conservation groups by pooling and sharing resources, particularly by reducing the competition among ourselves for funds, for good active board members, for staff, office space, office equipments and other overhead costs? Why not include in our annual meetings short workshops on the political process, and how to be an effective advocate? Why not create a new structure or process that allows us to act as the political force that we should be, but are not because our conservation community is fragmented among many small groups, each with little political clout?

vitate = to make ineffective or weak, to make faulty or defective, impair

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

INVASIVE SPECIES INSPECTIONS PLUMMET

In the three years since the Homeland Security Department assumed the job of protecting U.S. borders from foreign pests and diseases, agricultural inspections at ports of entry have fallen 8 percent — even as imports kept rising. At one port, searches of cargo containers have dropped from 1200 per week to 500 per week, and overall seizures of prohibited plants and animals fell from 1.8 million in 2002 to 1.6 million in 2004. Reduced inspection puts the U.S. at greater risk for the entry of invasive species — weedy plants as well as insects or pathogens that “hitchhike” on agriculture imports - and puts both agriculture and natural areas more at risk. “I’m mad about it,” says Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual, a grower trade association, said Friday. “I believe we’re very susceptible to an intentional or accidental infestation.” All inspections were formerly handled by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service within the USDA, but when the Department of Homeland Security was formed, lawmakers transferred about 1,500 Agriculture Department inspectors into the new agency.

(The full story is available at: <http://www.sacbee.com/content/business/agriculture/story/12561255p-13416312c.html>)

ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT SCIENCE BUREAU NEW LOCATION

The Entomology and Plant Science Bureau will be closed for business on April 27 and reopen on May 3 in a new location. Please take note of our new contact information:

Entomology and Plant Science Bureau
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship
2230 South Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny, IA 50021
(515) 725-4170 or (515) 725-4171 (fax)
John A. Harri, Plant Pathologist, State Weed Commissioner, Iowa
Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

EARTH DAY - PRAIRIE RESCUE

Plan to participate at a location near you. The list of sites and maps are available at

<http://www.inhf.org/prairierescue2005.html>

Master Conservationist training program will be starting May 17. Classes will rotate sites in our Mid-Iowa counties and meet once a month through September, with two field trips (one in June and one in Oct) included. Cost will be \$75.00 for 32 hours of training, which in return you will provide 32 hours of volunteer efforts towards conservation. This program is only offered in our area every other year, and there is a limit of 25 participants. Join us in learning to make intelligent choices in conserving our natural resources, including woodlands, wildlife, wetlands, prairies, sustainable and the environment. Registration deadline is **May 13**, please call your local Extension Office for further details.

PRAIRIE WORK DAY – HARRIER MARSH

May 14th has been designated a prairie workday at Harrier Marsh south of Ogden. The day will consist of planting 2000-3000 Iowa native wildflower plants (15 species) into a prairie reconstruction. The workday will begin at 10 A.M. and end at 3:00 PM with a noon break for hot dogs, chips and drinks.

People are welcome to volunteer for an hour or throughout the day. Volunteers are asked to bring watering cans if they have one available, but it is not required. All other planting materials will be provided. Please dress for the weather and wear mud boots since the area may be wet.

Harrier Marsh is a 423-acre area of restored marsh and grassland purchased in 1990. It is a cooperative effort between the Iowa DNR and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Directions: From the Junction of US Highway 30 and Highway 169 south of Ogden, head South on Highway 169 for ¼ mile to 230th Street which is the first gravel road intersection. Turn East for approximately 2/3 mile to the parking lot on the South side of the road. Park in the parking lot or along the gravel road. Wildlife staff will shuttle volunteers to the planting site.

Please come, enjoy the outdoors, learn about prairie, and volunteer at Harrier Marsh Prairie workday. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Johnson at 515-432-2823 or William.Johnson@dnr.state.ia.us

4TH ANNUAL WOMEN IN THE OUTDOORS

4th Annual Women In the Outdoors Event to take place at Don Williams June 3rd and 4th, 2005. Saturday classes include canoeing, archery, fishing, basket weaving, etc.; Friday night activities optional, camping available. MJ Hatfield will present native plants component as part of a hike/talk, look/see. For more information contact: Diane Sickau at dmsickau@iastate.edu, or call 515-432-6026.

AUGUST 16-29 PRAIRIE FLORA IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

A variety of professional plant identification workshops are being offered in 2005 by the Institute of Botanical Training, LLC. The institute was founded by a husband and wife team, Justin and Dana Thomas. They are offering workshops on Midwestern flora, wetland flora, prairie flora, grasses, sedges and rushes, tree identification, and winter tree identification. The workshops are taking place in MO, IL, WI, OH, IN, and IA. A prairie flora workshop is scheduled for August 16-19 at the Grinnell College Conard Environmental Research Area in east central Jasper County. The workshop is for anyone from prairie enthusiast, to the prairie professional. They also include historical, cultural and ecological notes of interest. Visit their website at www.botanytraining.com for a workshop schedule, registration information, and instructor biographies. They also have a “BOT-LINE”, a free plant identification service.

Take Pride In Your Environment!

By becoming a Trees Forever *Stewards of the Beautiful Land* participant

Discover how Iowa's native plants can make your surroundings more attractive and functional for yourself, others, and your community.

Trees Forever offers an educational class called *Stewards of the Beautiful Land*. Participants learn how to beautify and enhance parks, community entryways, roadsides, schools, backyards or farms by planting native grasses and wildflowers.

Trees Forever professionals and invited guest speakers will teach you about:

- Plant identification
- Basic design principles
- What, where, and how to plant
- Establishment practices
- Site management techniques
- Safety considerations
- Potential funding sources

Stewards of the Beautiful Land is a six-session course that meets throughout the summer from 6 to 9 p.m. on a set evening every other week. This year, the course is being offered in three areas of Iowa on the following dates:

- **Southwest Iowa** (Wednesday evenings): June 8 & 22, July 6 & 20 and August 3 & 17
- **Central Iowa** (Tuesday evenings): June 7 & 21, July 5 & 19 and August 2 & 16
- **East-Central Iowa** (Tuesday evenings): June 14 & 28, July 12 & 26 and August 9 & 23

A \$30 registration fee covers the cost of field guides and materials. Continuing education credits are available through Hawkeye Community College at no charge. Visit www.treesforever.org or call 1-800-369-1269 for more information or to register. Space is limited.

This course is possible through the generous support of our sponsors: the Living Roadway Trust Fund of the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Conservation Education Program of the Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund (REAP), administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Contact: Mark Pingnot 800-369-1269

Prairie/Savanna Restoration class at Saylorville Lake

A 2.5 week "intensive" of the popular Biology 172 class (Restoration of Native Plant Communities) will be held at Saylorville's Oak Woods Learning Center starting on May 9, 2005. This 3 credit course is offered through Des Moines Area Community College's Urban Campus. Students will continue projects started last fall and add new ones to the "spring mix".

Tentative Sessions related to an on-going restoration project:

1. Inventory ground cover/plants in the savanna to document change and seasonality
2. Do a second transect; harvest plant material; dry; weigh and compare to fall '04; take another series of photos from the 2 fixed monitoring points.
3. Inventory plants in one of the roadside prairies prior to a mid-May burn (the Visitor Center "linear prairie" where Biology 172 students harvested seeds in Fall '04.
4. Burn the above and with students observing or assisting. Pre and post burn, discussion about fire behavior and equipment.
5. View and discuss the video "Fire Wars" - prescribed fire and the legal/ecological implications.
6. Potential wetland restoration projects. Afternoon hands on learning followed by an evening of observing local frog and toad species in their habitat.
7. Introduction to the DOT's roadside program.
8. Herbicides, when to use them, and why.

Other locations

1. A work day at Little Bluestem prairie, a remote remnant in Boone County.
 2. Visit the ISU Ada Hayden Herbarium and an with interview Deb Lewis. Learn why reference collections are vital to restoration work.
 3. Work on the invasive garlic mustard at Greenwood park with Jo Hudson, Iowa Sierra Club.
- All or most of these items in 10 days - !!!! Begins on May 9th
Class days are May 9,10,11,12,16,17,18,19,23,24 — 6 hours a day - 9 am till 3 p.m.

For more information contact: Danielle Wirth, 515-965-6010, ext. 421 or email her at: ehorizon@netins.net
Students can register for the class on the DMACC web page: www.DMACC.edu

IOWA FLORA KEYS ON CD

Bruce Barnes of Flora ID Northwest, LLC has produced computer plant keys for several Midwestern states, including Iowa. His computer plant keys include "all the vascular plants known to grow in the state or province for which the keys are available. This includes native and naturalized introduced plants, trees, flowering plants, grasses, grass-like plants, and spore-bearing plants. The keys contain complete descriptive information for each plant species, allowing the use of almost any plant feature to identify it. To identify a plant, the user first selects from a menu of types of plant characteristics (such as leaves, stem, inflorescence, flower or fruit). The user then selects those characteristics which best describe the plant to be identified." Visit www.xidservices.com for more information.

IPN and Other group field trips

May 1 (Sunday): Morels at Cou Falls, Johnson Co., 10 AM. Join Prairie State Mushroom Club members as they hunt for morels. Go N from Liberty in Hwy 65, one mile past 380 overpass, go W on F20 (which becomes Amana Rd). Cross RR tracks, first rd N is Cou Fall Rd. Meet at small parking lot at corner. Contact: Dean Abel, 319-354-3510, 335-1396, dean-abel@uiowa.edu

May 7 (Saturday): Mushroom Hunt and Wildflower Walk at Palisades-Kepler St Park, Linn Co. 10 AM. Join Prairie State Mushroom Club members and Univ. Iowa Museum of Natural History Associate Dave Brenzel in a hunt for fungi and flowers. Meet at shelter up hill from first big parking lot, bring sack lunch. Contact: Dave Brenzel, david-brenzel@uiowa.edu, 319-335-0482

May 10 (Tuesday): Native Plant Garden Walk, Woodbury Co., 7:30 PM. Join Dianne Blankenship for a tour of the Garden of Discovery at the Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, the 2nd Tuesday of each month, May - September. Leisurely, handicapped accessible. Contact: Dianne, 712.255.3447 or bennaid@hotmail.com

May 13 (Friday) Lake Hawthorn Hike, Mahaska Co., 6:30 PM, IPN board member Pam White will lead tours of this diverse native prairie on the second Friday of each month, May - September. Meet at the boat ramp parking area on the east side of the lake, on Victoria Ave. This is one mile E of V13, 2.5 miles S of Barnes City, and 3/4 mile N of the intersection of Victoria Ave. and 130th St. Contact: Pam White, 641-673-3508, pam-white@usa.net.

May 14 (Saturday): Rochester Cemetery Garlic Mustard Pull, Cedar Co., 10 AM. Contact: Casey Kohrt, 319-530-0585, cjkohrt@hotmail.com

May 14 (Saturday): Cinder Path Work Day, Lucas Co., 10 AM. Bring gloves, brush cutting tools, lunch, and wear long pants. Meet at the Cinder Path (go S of Chariton on Hwy 14 about 3 miles to H50, go W until you cross the Cinder Path - which is before Derby). Contact: Pam White, 641-673-3508, pam-white@usa.net or Brant Schmell, 641-898-7534, bschmell@iowatelecom.net.

May 15 (Sunday): Mushroom Hunt at Brown's Woods, Polk Co., 10 AM. Join Prairie State Mushroom Club members as they search for interesting fungi in West Des Moines. From I-80 go S on Hwy 65 to Hwy 5, then W to Hwy 28 (exit 99), turn N on Hwy 28 (63rd St) to stoplight at McKinley, follow sign to Brown's Woods. Meet in parking lot, bring sack lunch for afternoon tour of Walnut Woods. Contact: Tom & Erma Keho, 515-285-3330

May 21 (Saturday): Native Plant Sale, Polk Co., 7 A.M. - Noon. Over 50 species of native plants available at the Des Moines Farmer's Market. Sponsored by Iowa Native Lands, Des Moines Parks and Recreation Dept., and Polk SWCD. In downtown Des Moines near the entertainment district at Court & 4th. Contact: Inger Lamb, 515-963-7681, ingerlamb3@mchsi.com

May 21 (Saturday): Marlys & Bill Brown Farm Mushroom Foray, Johnson Co., 10 AM. Join Prairie State Mushroom Club members as they hunt mushrooms. Directions are complicated, contact Roger Heidt, 319-393-5712, rwheidt@fmtcs.com

May 22 (Sunday): Prairie Crawl, Polk Co., 9:30 AM start. IPN region 5 board members Inger and Laurie will lead a prairie hopping car caravan. Start at Puccoon Prairie, then Triangle Seep Prairie, then Santiago (Franklin Twp.) Cemetery Prairie, ending at the Fenimore's. Join in at any point during the tour. Contact: Laurie, 515-967-4167, lfenimo@sears.com, or Inger, 515-963-7681, ingerlamb3@mchsi.com, on day of event: 515-250-1693, 515-250-3425.

May 26 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie Walk, Story Co., 7 P.M. Lloyd Crim will continue his tradition of hosting monthly tours of Doolittle Prairie Preserve. His evening gatherings on this diverse 40 acre remnant pothole prairie are casual and open to all. From I-35 exit 123 (Roland) go W on E-18 about 1/2 mile, then S 1.5 miles on (gravel) 560th Ave. Follow lane W to the preserve. Contact: Lloyd, 515-432-5026, lcrim@opencominc.com.

May 30 (Monday): Memorial Day Prairie Remnant and Mushroom Foray, Henry Co., 10 A.M., potluck lunch at noon. Join Prairie State Mushroom Club members as they hunt for fungi, blooming twayblade orchids, and assorted birds in the Great Blue Heron Rookery. Meet in shelter #4 at 10AM, see map in IDNR website: www.iowadnr.com/parks/images/maps_pictures/geodemap.PDF Contact: Dean Abel, 319-354-3510, 335-1396, dean-abel@uiowa.edu

June 3-5 (Friday - Sunday): Loess Hills Seminar, Monona Co. Annual outdoor event in the northern Loess Hills. Many casual lectures on a wide range of topics, events for children, camping on site. See www.aea12.k12.ia.us/services/loesshillsseminar/

June 10 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn Hike, see May 13 entry.

June 11 (Saturday): Frank Oberle Prairie Tour, Kirksville MO, 10 AM. See the Oberle's seed growing operation in N Missouri. They have over 100 species of plants. Bring lunch, think carpool! Hwy 63 S to Kirksville, W on Hwy 11 for 10 miles, then N on 149 for 2 miles. Left on Prairie Grove, Frank's house is the first on the Left. Contact: Pam White, 641-673-3508, pam-white@usa.net or Brant Schmell, 641-898-7534, bschmell@iowatelecom.net.

June 11 (Saturday): Prairie Crawl, Jasper Co., 9:30 AM. Join Region 5 board members Laurie and Inger as they lead a prairie hopping car caravan. Meet at Baxter Country Corner gas/car wash, convoy/ carpool to (private) Edge Prairie then on to Kish-Ke-Kosh prairie and another private remnant. Join in at any point on the tour. Contact: Laurie, 515-967-4167, lfenimo@sears.com, or Inger, 515-963-7681, ingerlamb3@mchsi.com, or on day of event 515-250-1693, 515-290-3425.

June 14 (Tuesday): Native Plant Garden Tour, Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. See May 10 entry.

June 23 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie Walk, Story Co., 7 P.M. See May 26 listing.

June 24-25 (Friday/Saturday): **IPN Annual Meeting**, Black Hawk Co. Hartman Nature Reserve, tours of Iowa Ecotype plots, sand prairies, Jack Pizzo (Pizzo & Assoc.) will speak. Contact Greg Houseal, 319-273-3005, gregory.houseal@uni.edu, or Inger Lamb, 515-963-7681, ingerlamb3@mchsi.com.

June 25 (Saturday): Sand Prairie Hike, Eddyville Dunes, Mahaska Co., 10 AM. With luck the prickly pear cactus and pale green orchids will be in bloom. The site also has ornate box turtles and six lined race runners. Leave Hwy 163 at exit 54, drive into town, turn E on Berdan St. and go up the hill. At the top of the hill turn N toward the cemetery. Meet at the parking lot just past the cemetery. Contact: Pam White, 641-673-3508, pam-white@usa.net or Brant Schmell, 641-898-7534, bschmell@iowatelecom.net.

July 8 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn Hike, see May 13 entry.

July 10 (Sunday): Decatur Co. Savanna Fungi Tour, 1 PM. Join Bill & Sibylla Brown, Prairie State Mushroom Club members, and Friends of Decatur Co. Conservation as they tour this remarkable savanna restoration. It should be prime time many species of fungi. Contact: Dean Abel, 319-354-3510, 335-1396, dean-abel@uiowa.edu

July 12 (Tuesday): Native Plant Garden Tour, Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. See May 10 entry.

July 16 (Saturday): Operation Wildflower, Hamilton Co., 8 A.M. - 5 P.M. Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa is sponsoring "Tallgrass Prairies, Past, Present and Future", a workshop with speakers and field trips. Contact: MJ Hatfield, 515.233.3811, mjhatfield@oneota.org

July 22-23 Iowa Prairie Conference, includes The Necessity and Possibility of an Agriculture where Native Prairie is the Measure, Wes Jackson, founder of the Land Institute, Fact, Fiction, and the Future of the Tallgrass Prairie. William Jordan III, Director of the New Academy for Nature and Culture. Field trips will include Rock Island Sand Prairie, Hitaga Sand Prairie, Indian Creek Nature Center and more. Contact www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org July 22-23 (Friday-Saturday): Iowa Prairie Conference, Johnson Co. Hosted by Indian Creek Nature Center.

July 28 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie Walk, Story Co., 7 P.M. See May 26 listing.

August 9 (Tuesday): Native Plant Garden Tour, Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. See May 10 entry.

August 12 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn Hike, see May 13 entry.

August 13 (Saturday): Savanna hike in Grinnell area, details to follow.

August 25 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie Walk, Story Co., 7 P.M. See May 26 listing.

September 9 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn Hike, see May 13 entry.

September 9 (Tuesday): Native Plant Garden Tour, Sioux City Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center. See May 10 entry.

September 17 (Saturday): Moravia Prairie Hike, Appanoose Co., 10 A.M. Join past IPN president Gene Kromray on a tour of various prairie remnants located a few miles east of Moravia. Contact: Pam White

September 17 (Saturday): National Public Lands Day, Cedar Co., 8 A.M. - Noon. Help collect seed in the Herbert Hoover Nat'l Historic Site 81 acre prairie. Contact: Dan Peterson, 319-643-2541 ext.221, dan_peterson@nps.gov

September 25 (Saturday): Neal Smith Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Jasper Co. Join Prairie State Mushroom Club and the IPN in a prairie and savanna mushroom hunt. Details to follow. Contact: Inger Lamb or Damian R. Pieper iowafungi@yahoo.com

October 9 (Sunday): Third Annual Martha Skillman Birthday Hike and Pie Tasting. Details to follow - plan to bring, and eat, pie (with milk, you ALWAYS have milk with pie ;-).

WANTED: Your Input on Two Issues

First, it has been suggested that we offer an electronic version of the newsletter for those who would rather receive it in that format. The editors know that some of you like a paper version to read and savor and file away for future reference. But others may be trying to reduce the clutter of our getting so much paper, or prefer an e-mail version for easily forwarding articles to others or adding event dates to your electronic calendar or... Have no fear, those of you who prefer the paper format; it will continue to be mailed to all members who do not request to change to the electronic version. But if you would prefer receiving the newsletter electronically, please e-mail Deb Lewis <dlewis@iastate.edu> or Sandy Gossman <SRGOSSMAN@aol.com>, with your preference for formatting as a Word file or pdf.

And, it has been about 10 years since Sara Sheeley, then a high school student, submitted the winning design for the Iowa Native Plant Society logo. Sara's design for our logo has served us well for all these years, but is it time for a new one? Please send your comments — pros and cons — to Larissa Mottl <mottll@grinnell.edu>, preferably before the INPS Annual Meeting on June 11th.

INPS MEMBERSHIP/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM AND SURVEY

Send with your 2005 dues of \$10.00 to Diana Horton, 720 Sandusky Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240

Name: _____

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INPS Website: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/inps/home.htm>

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NEWSLETTER

Iowa Native Plant Society

c/o Deb Lewis

Department of EEOB

Iowa State University

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