



IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 12, Issue 2

April 2006

A Spring Wildflower Reverie

How does the meadow flower its bloom unfold?
 Because the lovely little flower is free
 Down to its root, and in that freedom, bold.
 William Wordsworth, *A Poet! — He Hath Put His heart to School*, 1842

*These are the gardens of the Desert, these
 The unshorn fields, boundless and beautiful,
 For which the speech of England has no name —
 The Prairies.*
 William Cullen Bryant, *The Prairies*, 1832



To make a prairie it takes a clover and one bee,
 One clover, and a bee,
 And revery.
 The revery alone will do,
 If bees are few.
 Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), No. 1755 [n.d.]

*What's in a name? That which we call a rose
 By any other name would smell as sweet.*
 William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet* (Act II)

I believe a leaf of grass is no less than
 the journey-work of the stars...
 Walt Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*, 1855

*To see the world in a grain of sand
 And a heaven in a wild flower;
 Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
 And eternity in an hour.*
 William Blake, *Auguries of Innocence*, ca. 1800



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Leaves from the President's Notebook

Joint Annual Meeting of Illinois and Iowa Native Plant Societies May 19-21, 2006

Host Sites: Augustana College Sciences Building, 3300 7th Avenue, and
 Quad City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

Speaker list includes Mr. Bill Watson - Independent Biological Consultant "Iowa Landforms and Vegetation with Special Emphasis on the Paleozoic Plateau of Northeast Iowa" and Illinois Native Plant Communities - Dr. Sean Jenkins of Western Illinois University "Native plant communities of western Illinois" and Keynote Presentation by Dr. John Ebinger - Professor of Botany, Emeritus at Eastern Illinois University with a presentation on Illinois Forests, Past, Present, and Future.

Great field trips in Iowa and Illinois.

The INPS Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20 at the Quad City Botanical Center 4:45 - 5:30 PM – Connie Mutel (VP of INPS) will be conducting the meeting.

Additional information: Box lunches for the field trips are included in the registration fee. A student registration fee of \$35.00 is also being offered. For more details and registration forms refer to the February 2006 INPS Newsletter or check the INPS website at:
<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/inpshome.htm>

Call for Nominations

Larissa Mottl will be finishing her 2-year term as president of the INPS this summer and we are seeking nominations to fill this position. The general responsibilities of the president are to keep track of and help coordinate INPS activities, schedule board meetings as necessary, facilitate email discussion among board members between meetings, contribute newsletter articles and updates, and plan, organize and run the annual membership meeting with the vice president. Feel free to contact Larissa for more information.

Self-nominations are welcome. Please submit nominations via email, phone, or in person to any of our board members. We will vote on the 2006-2007 slate of officers at the annual meeting May 19-21 in the Quad Cities.

Larissa

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The Iowa Native Plant Society's 2006 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. Larger state preserves are represented by small blue dots with the name of the preserve in blue letters. For instance, Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County is located southwest of Chester.

The Iowa Sportman's Atlas has 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 most, but not all, counties. Street names make it much easier to locate a favorite natural area or find a new one. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the atlas, check with your local bookstore, sporting goods store or call 1-800-568-8334. The cost is \$19.95 plus sales tax.

May 19th-21st: East-central Iowa/west-central Illinois

The annual meeting will be held on this weekend, a joint meeting with the Illinois Native Plant Society. For more details refer to the February 2006 INPS Newsletter or check the INPS website:

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

May 27th: Montgomery County (southwest Iowa)

Mesic prairie remnants occur in an abandoned road right-of-way and the adjacent active railroad right-of-way to the north. The railroad line was established in 1875. The diverse flora here may be what an Iowa roadside might have looked like in 1900, except for some invasive species that probably would not have been present at that time. Our field trip leader will be Glenn Pollock, a native of Crawford County, Iowa who is currently living in "exile" in Omaha, Nebraska (but obviously misses Iowa!). In addition to the right-of-way prairie, we will also visit the nearby Erickson Prairie, a several acre mesic to wet-mesic prairie leased by the Montgomery County Conservation Board and open to the public.

Directions: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 34 and County Road M63 (Just north of Stanton, the home town of the actress who played Mrs. Olson on a coffee commercial years ago - the town's water tower is shaped like a coffee pot) drive approximately 1 mile east to P Avenue. Turn right (south) on P Avenue and travel about 0.8 mile (you will go under a railroad bridge) to 230th Street. Park along P Avenue. Meet at the red gate in front of 230th Street (west side of P Avenue).

May 27th: Worth County (north-central Iowa)

Mike Mueller, a local farmer, owns 2 diverse mesic to wet-mesic prairie remnants that he will share with us during this field trip. The prairies have a spectacular display of Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*), hundreds and hundreds of yellow to yellow-orange plants (This species comes in a red form too. The yellow to red portions of the plants are actually bracts, while the flower is green). There are also carpets of prairie lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*) and yellow stargrass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*). The Natural Resource Conservation Service is working with Mike to use seed from the prairies to plant some adjacent crop ground. Mark J. Leoschke, botanist for the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, will be our field trip leader.

Directions From the intersection of State Highway 9 and U.S. Highway 65 in Manly (southeast Worth County) drive 1 mile north to 370th Street. Turn left (west) onto 370th Street and drive about 1.2 miles (drive past the Olive Avenue intersection; if you reach the Nettle Avenue intersection you have gone too far west) and park along the road. We will walk north from the road to the prairies along a farm lane.

June 3rd Crawford County (west-central Iowa)

Glenn Pollock will lead a tour of Crawford County prairie cemeteries after the Loess Hills seminar. **NOTE THAT THE TOUR WILL BEGIN AT 2 P.M.**

Directions: Meet in front of the Crawford County court house at 1202 Broadway Avenue in Denison. From south of Denison drive north on U.S. Highway 59 to the southwest edge of town. Take a right (east) onto 4th Avenue South. Travel about a half mile to South 12th Street and take a left (north). After 4 blocks you will come to Broadway Avenue and the court house.

June 24th: Jackson County (east-central Iowa)

Baldwin Marsh is a 30-acre area, owned and managed by the Jackson County Conservation Board (acquired with help from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation). It contains about 10 acres of natural areas including wet prairie and sedge meadow. Some of the plants we are likely to see include Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), Virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) and arrowhead (*Sagittaria brevirostra*). Many species in the sedge family occur in the sedge meadow and should be in good condition for identification. Our field trip leader will be Dr. Tom Rosburg, a professor of biology at Drake University in Des Moines.

Recently the Jackson County Conservation Board entered into a management agreement with the Iowa DNR on a 37 acre tract of land purchased immediately west of Baldwin Marsh. This area will undergo reconstruction of wetland and upland prairie communities during 2006.

Directions: Baldwin Marsh is located 1 mile west of Baldwin (which is west of the county seat, Maquoketa) and just south of State Highway 64. Park in the parking area.

July 29th: Webster County (north-central Iowa)

The Prairie Seed Harvest Team is part of the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa DNR. It harvests and plants seed from production plots and native prairie to provide for diverse prairie plantings on state wildlife management areas. The team had been based near Boone, but now has a new office and facilities at the Brushy Creek State Recreation Area southeast of Fort Dodge. Bill Johnson is the natural resource biologist in charge of the Seed Harvest Team and will be one of our field trip leaders. The second field trip leader will be Mary Jane Hatfield, a former Americore member of the Prairie Seed Harvest Team, gardener (using many native plants), prairie enthusiast and notorious friend of moths.

Six remnant prairies, all with intriguing names, are located at Brushy Creek State Recreation Area. These remnants are of varying quality and size. The tour will begin with the new Prairie Seed Harvest Team facility and seed production plots, which include over 50 species of native prairie plants.

We will then tour Root Cellar Prairie, a good quality 5 acre prairie overlooking the 690 acre Brushy Creek Lake. There are over 60 species of plants recorded at this site and we are sure to see several in bloom such as rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), thimbleweed (*Anemone cylindrica*), lead plant (*Amorpha canescens*), rough blazing star (*Liatis aspera*) and Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*). Other species located on this site include prairie lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), red root (*Ceanothus herbaceus*), toad flax (*Comandra umbellata*) and pale purple coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*).

Of special interest is an adjacent area where in 1999 a group of Iowa DNR personnel, led by John Pearson, transplanted chunks of prairie sod utilizing a dozer. This was a prairie rescue of the lower portion of Root Cellar Prairie which was to be flooded by the lake. Today you can see representatives of every single transplanted species growing in this area.

10:00-11:00 a.m. Tour of the new facility and prairie production plots

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tour Root Cellar Prairie and northwest remnant

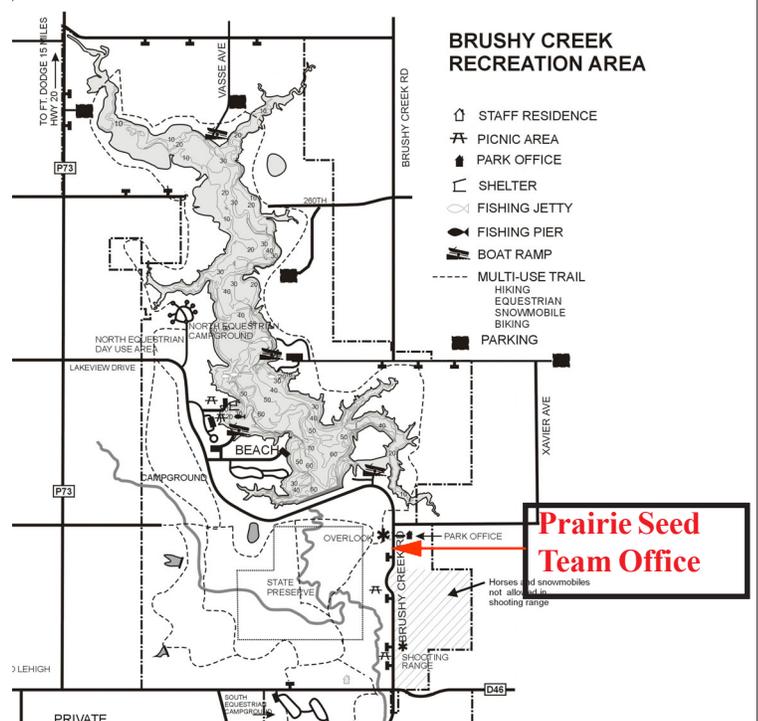
12:30-1:30 p.m. Break for lunch either at a prairie remnant or the office (weather dependent)

Afternoon Optional tour of the Mt. Tired and Gun Range prairies

Directions: From Highway 20, turn south on County Road P73 and drive 3.5 miles.

Turn east on 270th Street and go past the lake/park office (about 3 miles).

About one quarter mile south of the recreation area office is the new Seed Harvest Team office on the east side of the road.



August 20th: Cerro Gordo County (north-central Iowa)

Gwen and Scott Bultje will show us their fens (with assistance from Mark J. Leoschke) in a former pasture on a bluff and terrace south of the Winnebago River. The fen is home to such botanical stars as fen thistle (*Cirsium muticum*), tall cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Kalm's or brook lobelia (*Lobelia kalmii*) and Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*).

On June 17, 2005 Mark visited the fens with the Bultjes to show them some of the neat plants found there. While enjoying a fine display of tall cottongrass in fruit, Mark was shocked as something wonderfully unexpected and electrifying fluttered into view— a Baltimore checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton*), a state endangered species!!!!!! This beautiful orange, black and white-checked butterfly was known to occur in the county, but not this site! The afternoon became even more exciting as Mark, Gwen and Scott found additional Baltimore checkerspot butterflies in the fens and adjacent sedge meadow. The butterflies will not be flying during the field trip (the adults emerge in mid-June, mate and die by mid-July), but the small, black and orange-banded larvae will likely be present, feeding on the larval food plant, white turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*).

The botanist Dr. Louis H. Pammel, a professor in the Botany Department at Iowa State University in the early 1900's, wrote an article about Iowa wetlands for the Iowa Geological Survey Annual Report for 1908 (Volume XIX, published in 1909; available at some college and university libraries or possibly via interlibrary loan) titled "Flora of Northern Iowa Peat Bogs". In 1908 the word "bog" was used rather freely to describe a number of different types of wetlands. Pammel mentions what would now be considered a fen near the town of Wheelerwood. This town once occurred along a railroad in the general area of the Bultje fens. It is possible that Pammel visited the Bultje fen, or if not, a nearby fen that may still be one of the extant fens in Winnebago River valley.

Directions: From the intersection of U.S. Interstate Highway 35 and State Highway 122 (former U.S. Highway 18) turn right (east). Travel approximately 2 miles and turn left (north) onto Jonquil Avenue. After about 5 miles you will be at the intersection of Wheelerwood Drive. Turn left (west) onto Wheelerwood Drive. Travel about 0.5 mile to the intersection with Ironwood Avenue. Turn right (north) on to Ironwood Avenue and travel about 0.4 mile to a driveway on the right (just before a curve to the left (west) in the road). Travel down the driveway a fair ways to a circular turn around and park (if the turn around is full, park on Ironwood Avenue).

September 16th: Jasper County (south-central Iowa)

Larissa Mottl, biological field station manager for Grinnell College, will lead a tour of the college's 365-acre Conard Environmental Research Area (CERA). The tour will focus on remnant prairie, diverse prairie reconstructions and bur oak savanna restorations. The area also contains second growth woods, high quality oak-hickory forest, bottomland forest along the North Skunk River and a 14-acre pond. Participants will learn about fire and mowing experiments underway, biological monitoring efforts plus other research and restoration projects, including a study evaluating the effectiveness of direct seeding for woodland wildflowers. Participants can also tour and eat lunch in the new 7,500 square foot Environmental Education Center and greenhouse. The Center is on track to receive certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

Following the tour and lunch at CERA, we will visit a 40-acre prairie, savanna and woodland restoration owned by Karl DeLong, emeritus professor of biology at Grinnell College. The DeLong property is located a few miles southwest of the U.S. Interstate Highway 80's Grinnell exit (#182), less than 10 minutes from CERA.

Directions:

From U.S. Interstate Highway 80 about 10 miles east of Newton, take exit #173 north towards Kellogg. Turn right (east) at the first gravel road (South 12th Avenue East) and follow for about 1.5 miles to the main entrance of CERA. Drive into CERA and park in the gravel lot before the road forks. Driving directions to the DeLong property will be given out at CERA.

The ***Garlic Mustard: A Serious Threat to Iowa's Woodlands*** brochure is provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. If you need more copies of the brochure, contact Aron Flickinger at the State Forest Nursery by email: aron.flickinger@dnr.state.ia.us or call 1-800-865-2477.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2006 North American Prairie Conference July 23-26, 2006, Hosted by Univ. Nebraska, Kearny NE

Contact info: Dr. Paul Twigg or Dr. Joe Springerl, Biology Department, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska 66649-1140 twiggp@unk.edu (308) 865-8315 or springerj@unk.edu (308) 865-8920
Additional information: <http://napc2006.org/>

Prairie Butterfly Identification and Monitoring Workshops for Volunteers

Grinnell College Conard Environmental Research Area

Saturday, June 10

Sunday, June 11

Saturday, June 24

A search for the state-threatened Poweshiek skipper butterfly in prairie remnants in Poweshiek and surrounding counties is getting underway this summer. Please join Harlan Ratcliff, nature photographer and butterfly enthusiast, for one or more workshops to learn how to identify prairie butterflies and help us survey remnants for the elusive skipper. Participants can enjoy meandering through prairie while contributing to our understanding of Iowa's butterflies. The Center for Prairie Studies at Grinnell College is sponsoring the free workshops and hopes to develop a long-term butterfly monitoring system with the help of enthusiastic volunteers. No experience necessary; volunteers will be set up with guidebooks and macroscopes (for field ID without capturing the butterflies). Details for the workshops will be forthcoming and available on the CPS website: <http://www.grinnell.edu/academic/cps/>. Or contact the Center for Prairie Studies at 269-4720 for more information.

2006 Dues Reminder

Have you paid your dues for 2006? The INPS dues structure:

Basic membership (includes family) — \$10

Supporter — \$25

Benefactor — \$50 or more

Dues should be sent to:

Christine Taliga, 300 W Welsh St, PO Box 87,

Williamsburg, IA 52361

(Renewal form on page 10)

Newsletter Deadline

Tentative deadline for submitting information for the next issue of the INPS Newsletter will be September 10, 2006.

Send information to either Deb Lewis at dlewis@iastate.edu or Sandra Gossman at sgossman@aol.com.

Biology 172 - Restoration of Native Plant Communities**

Urban Campus @ Oak Woods Learning Center, Saylorville Lake
Danielle Wirth, Ph.D. - Urban Campus - Rm. 229;
515-965-6010, ext. 421 (ehorizon@netins.net)

Brief Summary of Tentative Schedule: May 8 to May 23, 2006

May 8 Introduction to Prairie and Savanna restoration. Text and assignment review. Field clothing, safety, etc.

May 9 Meet at Oak Woods Learning Center. Site inventory and plant identification. The nature of Iowa's Oak Savanna - a "Most Endangered Habitat". How habitat restoration is also wildlife management. Rain Gardens as Urban Prairie Reconstruction; Water Quality improvement project, wildlife habitat; increased property value; decrease construction costs; and improving the visual quality of local landscapes.

May 10 Travel to initial savanna restoration site and conduct a second transect. Harvest plant material for drying and weighing later in the season. Harvest plants for herbarium study and learn about plant presses. Initial prescribed fire training. Hands on.

May 11 Plant identification. Savanna restoration. Field journals checkup. More hands on restoration.

May 15 Ethics of application Chemicals in Ecological Restoration: When, Why, How and When NOT to use them. Joyce Hornstein, ISU Agronomy Department.

May 16 Tour/Restoration: Little Bluestem Prairie, So. Boone County. Why monitoring matters. Review impact of restoration efforts. Work with the IA DNR Wildlife and Prairie specialists on ongoing restoration project. Meet Prairie Seed team members of the Iowa DNR; harvest some plant materials for the herbarium collection, inventory, vegetation, locate photo monitoring, etc.

May 17 BUTTERFLY GARDEN DAY - MEETING AT URBAN CAMPUS. Meet at Urban Campus - Bett's Building for a day of urban Prairie Planting/Reconstruction.

May 18 Meet at ISU. Visit the Ada Hayden Herbarium and meet curator Deb Lewis. Herbariums as plant libraries and their importance in restoration. Meet representatives from the NREM program at Iowa State.

May 22 Wetland Restoration - Afternoon restoration work at harvesting sedges for on-going projects. What are sedges? What are some other wetland plants of this ecosystem? Why do they matter? Frogs and Toads up close and personal. Meet the amazing creatures who live in the habitat that you spent the day improving. Night time frog program with Saylorville Rangers. Boots, flashlights and pails are good tools for tonight.

May 23 Wrap up final projects on site. Evaluation of the sessions; Follow up on questions concerning final projects; installation of the DMACC sign at the savanna restoration site.

***Recently, the class was received this notification from Jeff Vonk, Director of the IDNR. "Des Area Community College Restoration of Native Plant Communities -Biology 172 has been selected to receive a Governor's Volunteer Award for outstanding contribution of volunteer service to our organization for the innovation and introduction of the multi-partnered college course."*

*We can never have enough of nature.
We must be refreshed by the sight of inexhaustible vigor.*
Henry David Thoreau

Botanical Illustration Workshop

Saturday in September
Grinnell College

The Center for Prairie Studies at Grinnell College is sponsoring a botanical illustration workshop by Wendy Hollender of WH Art and Design, New York. Wendy is a graduate of the **Rhode Island School of Design**. She also possesses a certificate of botanical illustration from **the New York Botanical Garden**, where she teaches botanical drawing. Visit this website for examples of her work: <http://www.whartdesign.com/>

“Plant morphology fascinates me. Examining flowers under the microscope opens up a whole world of possibilities for inspiration. The plant life cycle is awesome. Nature is a perfectionist when it comes to the arrangement of color and form.” This fascination inspired Wendy to create a series of oil paintings called “**Botanical Sketchbook**.” The original paintings are 24-30 inches wide by 36-40 inches high. They are all painted on handmade linen canvases. She also works in colored pencil on paper and is developing a collection of **Nantucket Island Plants** based on species indigenous to the area.

Details for this workshop are forthcoming. A limited number of openings may be available to the public. Please contact the Center for Prairie Studies office at 641-269-4720 or vanwyk@grinnell.edu for more information this summer.

Your plant identification skills are needed!!

Brad Halterman, natural resource manager for the Guthrie County Conservation Board, is seeking volunteers with botanical expertise from the Iowa Native Plant Society to help with a plant inventory.

The Guthrie County Conservation Board is in the process of trying to acquire a piece of ground for public access and use. The property is 195 acres total. 172 acres of timber and 23 acres of crop fields. The area is bordered to the south by 187 acres of DNR ground and to the west by 110 acres of DNR/GCCB ground. All acres are publicly accessible. The Natural Heritage Foundation is holding the ground for the CCB until the CCB can raise the funds to purchase it from them.

Your help in putting together a plant list would help tremendously in their grant writing and knowledge of the property. The location of the property is in Section 23 of South Cass Township in southeast Guthrie County. The property is bordered on the east by Winding Trail Road. 248th Trail dead ends in the north central portion of the property. The town of Panora is 5 miles NW of the property.

Please email Brad at gccb@netins.net if you can help and for any additional information. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated! What a wonderful opportunity to explore 172 acres of timber.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Nominations Sought for The Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award

Dedicated conservation volunteers and professionals are the keys to protecting Iowa's natural beauty. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation invites you to nominate such a conservationist for the 2006 Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award by May 31, 2006.

This prestigious award, given through the INHF, is one of Iowa's largest conservation awards. We are seeking nominees who have demonstrated an extraordinary personal service and commitment to improving the quality of Iowa's natural environment and who encourage others to do the same. Past winners range from conservationists to doctors, farmers and retired Iowans. They include people who encourage energy conservation, provide environmental education, initiate and support county conservation projects, restore wildlife habitats and enthusiastically speak for Iowa's natural treasures.

The recipient is presented with \$1,000 and a hand-carved sculpture recognizing their achievements. All nominees will receive a certificate of nomination. INHF also does local press releases on each nominee. Through coverage of your nominee and the work he or she has done with you, you will gain positive media exposure. So no matter the winner, everyone comes out ahead.

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. Conservation professionals are eligible for the award, but the nomination must be 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 more tips on how to nominate your favorite conservationists, please see our Nominations Guidelines Web page: <http://www.inhf.org/hagie.htm>

Please send all correspondence and/or any questions to Cathy Engstrom at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, 505 Fifth Avenue, Suite 444, Des Moines, IA 50309-2321; 515/288-1846.

Federated Garden Clubs 2006 OPERATION WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP

Saturday May 13, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., The Cove Restaurant (I-80 & Hwy 38), Tipton, IA. Pre-registration Due May 1, 2006 \$15.00, Youth Ages 8-14 \$10.00. (Fee includes morning coffee and Lunch) Speakers: Jenny Lawler - Cedar County Conservation Naturalist “Invasive Plants-Oh those pesky weeds!”, Chris Henze “Roadside Vegetation”, Judy Nauseef - “Wildflowers in nature and in our back yard”, Sharon Lynch-Voparil - “An overview of the Geller Preserve” followed by a Nature Walk at the Geller Preserve and a “Native Plant Sale from the ION Exchange” For more information: Sharon Lynch-Voparil Ph: 319-624-3186 email roadantiq2@aol.com

30th Annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

The 30th Annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be held in and near Onawa on Friday, June 2, to Sunday, June 4, 2006. This outstanding event is a mixture of indoor and outdoor sessions with some wonderful opportunities to spend time in the Loess Hills. Organizers encourage persons of all ages to attend.

To be put on the mailing list for a program brochure, please contact Gloria Kistner, Secretary, at Western Hills AEA, 1520 Morningside Avenue, Sioux City, IA 51106; or kistnerg@aea12.k12.ia.us. Dianne Blankenship is the new LHPS Coordinator (bennaid@hotmail.com or 712-255-3447).

Internships available at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center in St. Louis, Missouri

Announcing paid internships at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The Litzsinger Road Ecology Center (LREC) is an established educational site with land and facilities dedicated to promoting science teaching and learning, environmental literacy, and stewardship of the Earth. While located in the heart of the St. Louis metropolitan area, just 10 miles west of downtown St. Louis, this unique 34-acre study center encompasses a rich variety of habitats including bottomland forest, restored prairie, and an urban creek.

Invasive Species Intern (Job # F068) Assists with restoration and horticulture work at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, a 34-acre environmental education center. Controls invasive plant species through the use of manual, mechanical, and/or chemical methods; assist in the development and maintenance of an on-site invasive species mapping and monitoring project; maintain records of invasive plants species management activities and herbicide use; assist with regular ground maintenance, participate in prairie, woodland, and stream restoration efforts, and assist with native plant landscaping and propagation activities as needed. Intern is required to develop an independent, site-based research project. Must be available to work 05/01/06 - 09/29/06.

Restoration Intern (Job # F067) Assists with restoration and horticulture work at the Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, a 34-acre environmental education center. Participates in prairie and woodland restoration efforts; control invasive plant species through the use of manual, mechanical, and/or chemical methods; operate power equipment and hand tools; maintains trails; collect and clean seeds, plant, and propagate cuttings; assist with plant population surveys and stream monitoring. Interacts with volunteers and high school groups. Intern is required to develop an independent, site-based research project. Must be available to work 06/05/06 - 08/11/06

For more information please contact Malinda W. Slagle at malinda.slagle@mobot.org. Litzsinger Road Ecology Center, Missouri Botanical Garden, 9711 Litzsinger Rd, St Louis MO 63124, 314-961-4410 For job qualification information and applications go to: <http://www.mobot.org/jobs/mbgjobs.asp>.

IPN AND OTHER GROUP FIELD TRIPS

April 27 (Thursday), Black Hawk Co. 9AM - 2PM Seedling Identification workshop - Learn to identify seedling characteristics of common prairie legumes and grasses using living specimens and hand lens. Compare and contrast desirable native seedlings with weeds. \$45 registration includes lunch, seedling ID booklet and 4 pak of seedlings to take home. More info: Tallgrass Prairie Center, UNI, 2412 W 27th St., Cedar Falls. 319.273.3005

April 29 (Saturday), Mahaska Co., 10 AM, Cedar Bluffs State Preserve Wildflower Hike and Savanna Rescue - Bring lunch, wear gloves long pants, sturdy clothing. We hope to see many uncommon wildflowers such as squirrel corn and Bishop's Cap. Located about 10 miles SW of Oskaloosa. Contact Pam White for more info pam-white@usa.net, 641-673-3508.

May 6 (Saturday), Jasper Co., 10 AM, Oak Savanna tour on Drobney/Bryant property - Tour an oak savanna in the early stages of restoration, owned and managed by Pauline Drobney and Scott Bryant. From Prairie City take county rd Sg6 S 5 miles to F70, go W on F70 3 miles to 125th St. Go N on gravel rd approx 3/4 mile to farmstead on E side of rd. Contact: Pam White pam-white@usa.net, 641-673-3508 or Brant Schmell, bschmell@iowatelecom.net.

May 13 (Saturday), Mahaska Co., 6:30 PM, Lake Hawthorn Monthly Hike - This year our evening hikes will be the 2nd Friday of each month, May—Sept. (except July, we'll meet on Thursday July 13) Meet at the boat ramp parking area on the E side of Lake Hawthorn, on Victoria Ave 3/4 mile N of intersection of Victoria Ave. & 130th St. This is also one mile E of V13, and about 2.5 miles S of Barnes City. Contact: Pam White pam-white@usa.net, 641-673-3508 or Brant Schmell, bschmell@iowatelecom.net

May 13 (Saturday), Cherokee Co. 10 AM. Mushroom Meander, Morels for Moms - Martin Area Park, Group Shelter, 4576 Martin Access Road, Cherokee, It's Mother's Day Weekend, so bring your mom out for a morel mushroom hunt! Ever wanted to know where to look for the delicious morel mushroom? Unsure of the differences between a morel and any other toadstool? The secrets will be revealed during this walk through the park. IF we find our prize, we will cook them up at the end of our walk. Call 712-225-6709 for more info.

May 25 (Thursday), Story Co. 7 PM, Doolittle Evening Prairie Hike -Join Trish Patrick and Lloyd Crim for an informal walk through Doolittle Prairie on the 4th Thursday evening of May - August. To get to this diverse remnant pothole prairie take exit 123 (Roland) off I-35 and travel W on E18 about 1/2 mile. Turn S on 560th Ave. (gravel) and travel approx 1.5 miles, follow lane W to the preserve. Contact: Lloyd Crim 515.432.5026, lcrim@opencominc.com

May 27 (Saturday), Polk Co., 7 AM - noon, Native Plant Sale
Approximately 60 species of pots and plugs available, Des Moines Farmer's Market in downtown Des Moines. Contact: Inger Lamb, ingerlamb3@MCHSI.COM 515.963.7681, 515.250.1693 cell/messages.

June 2-4 (Friday—Sunday), Monona Co. Loess Hills Seminar, Sylvan Runkel Preserve. For more information contact Dianne Blankenship, bennaid@hotmail.com or see <http://www.aea12.k12.ia.us/services/loesshillsseminar/>

June 9 (Saturday), Mahaska Co., 6:30 PM, Lake Hawthorn Monthly Hike - See May 13 entry

June 1 (Thursday), Wapello Co., 6PM, Eddyville Dunes Tour and Prairie Planting - Help the Wapello County Conservation Board plant prairie plants from their greenhouse, and tour this unique area. Contact: Pam White (pam-white@usa.net, 641-673-3508 or WCCB at 642.682.3091

June 10 (Saturday), Lucas Co., 10 AM, Rassler/Ryun Prairie and Savanna Tour (and Free Lunch!) Explore the prairie and savanna remnants on the homesite of Steve Rassler and Deb Ryun. Lunch will be provided! Contact Steve or Deb for directions: 641-774-5326.

June 17 (Saturday), Madison Co., 9:30 AM, Prairies of Madison County (and free lunch!) Plan to see scurfy pea in bloom as you tour the prairies and savannas of Madison Co. , and assist the tour leaders as they work to compile a plant species list for these sites. Meet in Peru (Truro/G-68 exit off I-35, go W to 4 way stop in Peru, the L on block and R to church parking lot. Contact Laurie (Fenimore1956@msn.com, 515-967-4167) or Roslea Johnson for more information and/or if you'd like to join the group for lunch, 515.276.7351

June 18 (Sunday): Story Co., 10 AM Harker Savanna Walk - A private 50-acre oak savanna E of Cambridge in the 2nd year of restoration, with new plants showing up. Caution: steep slopes and briars. Contact Cindy Hildebrand (grantridge@aol.com or 515-232-3807) for info on location, parking, and rain date.

June 22 (Thursday), Story Co. 7 PM, Doolittle Evening Prairie Hike - Details listed under May 25 hike.

June 24 (Saturday), Franklin Co. 1 PM, Kothenbeutal Heritage Prairie Tour - This unusual remnant prairie was recently purchased by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation with support from the IPN winter meeting silent auction proceeds. Details to follow. Contact: Brian Fankhauser, bfankhauser@INHF.ORG, 515-290.2808.

June 25 (Sunday), Story Co., 10 AM, Grant Ridge Walk - A private 72-acre prairie remnant/reconstruction area south of Nevada. Please contact Cindy Hildebrand (grantridge@aol.com or 515-232-3807) for info on location, parking, and rain date.

July 1 (Saturday), Story Co, 10 AM, Stargrass Walk - A private 25-acre prairie reconstruction southeast of Ames. Please contact Cindy Hildebrand (grantridge@aol.com or 515-232-3807) for info on location, parking, and rain date.

July 13 (THURSDAY) Mahaska Co., 6:30 PM, Lake Hawthorn Monthly Hike - See May 13 entry, this month we'll hike on Thursday because the IPN Annual Prairie Party is July 13-14!

July 14-15 (Friday-Saturday), Johnson Co. Annual IPN Prairie Party - Details to follow, contact Mark Müller, maxheat@juno.com, 319-645-2250

July 27 (Thursday), Story Co. 7 PM, Doolittle Evening Prairie Hike - Details listed under May 25 hike.

August 5 (Saturday), Appanoose Co., 6 PM, Evening Prairie Walk and Ice Cream Treat - Walk through the hills and dales of NE Appanoose Co. then cool down with a (homemade) ice cream social. Meet at Fred Duvall residence: Hwy 5 to Moravia junction, then E through Moravia on 405th St , go about 1.5 miles after pavement turns to gravel. Look for schoolhouse on S side of rd. Contact: Brant Schmell, bschmell@iowatelecom.net, 641-898-7534

August 11 (Saturday), Mahaska Co., 6:30 PM, Lake Hawthorn Monthly Hike - See May 13 entry

August 24 (Thursday), Story Co. 7 PM, Doolittle Evening Prairie Hike - Details listed under May 25 hike.

September 8 (Saturday), Mahaska Co., 6:30 PM, Lake Hawthorn Monthly Hike - See May 13 entry

September 16 (Saturday), Mahaska Co., Noon, Prairie & Savanna Hike, Potluck Lunch - Tour Ed & Leila Scharff's place, with savanna, woodland, and prairie remnant restoration areas. Hwy 63 S of Ottumwa to Floris/J15 turnoff, go E through Floris. About one mile past cemetery turn R onto Silver Trail, go about 2 miles, find name on mailbox. Contact: Pam White pam-white@usa.net, 641-673-3508 or Brant Schmell, bschmell@iowatelecom.net, 641-898-7534

September 30, (Saturday) Marshall Co. Dedication ceremony for Marietta Sand Prairie addition. Details to follow.

October 14 (Saturday), 1 PM, 4th Annual Martha Skillman Birthday Hike and Pie Tasting - details to be announced.

Endangered Species Day

“Endangered Species Day” on May 11th will educate the American public about the importance of protecting endangered species.

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