



# Erythronium

Newsletter of the Iowa Native Plant Society

vol. 15 no. 1 April 2009

## 2008 Grant Project Report - Tools for Site Management for the Woodbury County Conservation Board

by Chris Anderson, Resource Naturalist (submitted 10 December 2008)

With snow finally setting in, and the ground freezing I am able to take a little more time in the office and write a few words on how I have utilized the generous grant I received from the INPS earlier this year. By combining funds from the Woodbury County Conservation Foundation and the INPS grant I was able to purchase high quality tools to be used in brush clearing prairie rescues.

The tools purchased with the funds were:

- 10 loppers capable of cutting up to 2" diameter brush
- 2 heavy duty loppers capable of cutting 3.5" diameter brush
- 2 large bow saws with 36" blades
- 2 folding saws with 10" blades
- 2 Woodsman's Pal brush cutters
- 2 cruiser handled double edged brush hooks
- 1 long handled herbicide applicator with spare applicator pads
- 1 backpack frame
- 1 5 gallon water cooler

The tools arrived the morning of the first service learning project I had lined up for the summer and they were quickly put to good use. Over the next two days 50+ middle school students from in and around Sioux City worked on opening up chutes for prescribed fire on the ridge directly to the south of the Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center. Most of the shrubs that were cut were Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), with a handful of Smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) thrown in. Some larger trees, mostly Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*), were also girdled and left to be cut down in the future. Other service learning groups have since enlarged the area that was started that day, and still other groups from the local colleges have done work on the ridge that is north of the Nature Center near where it connects with Stone State Park.

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The tools have also been used for two Eagle Scout projects on the Riverside Bluffs North Unit. The second project picked up where the previous project ended there by greatly expanding the area being cleared. The first project conducted by Thomas Auen of Sioux City focused primarily on clearing patches of Grey dogwood and Smooth sumac. The second project currently nearing completion by Zack Heien started on the eastern boundary of Auen's project and has been focusing on Eastern red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*). Both Auen and Heien commented how much they have enjoyed doing the brush clearing and said that they would encourage other Eagle Scout candidates to help us out in the same way.

I am currently making up forms that will make it easier for me to track the tools when I check them out to groups that wish to clear brush and invasives. So far the tools have been borrowed (and returned) by the Iowa DNR, the local chapter of Audubon, and a cross country skiing group.

I am looking forward to the spring and summer of 2009 more when more time will be spent both units of Riverside Bluffs and around the Nature Center with service learning groups and new Naturalist/Habitat Management interns. The new high quality tools greatly increased the productivity of the volunteers. The pack frame has increase my mobility making it possible for me to transport chainsaws, fuel, water, and tools to remote locations that are only accessible on foot.

You are Invited to Attend  
the Dedication of  
Vincent Bluff  
in Council Bluffs as Iowa's  
Newest State Preserve  
10 am, Saturday, May 16th

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## Compounded interest

Recently while reducing a backlog of reading, I realized that my comprehension of an article on the Columbia River had been enhanced by my own visits to the sites mentioned. Such personal encounters began during family trips long before I acquired an informed understanding of the ecological context of our destinations. Nevertheless, with every trip the endowment grew.

The grandest of those trips came forty years ago while I was in the seventh grade. My father, a high school biology teacher, had been granted a sabbatical to observe other high school biology programs as well as visit national parks and monuments en route. We departed our upstate NY home on Groundhog's Day to begin a circuit through the outer states - first to Florida then to California, Washington and back. With a large tent-trailer behind our station wagon, we were ready for a six-and-a-half month camping trip.

Somewhere among our packed items were text books. My sister's second grade teacher didn't think she needed them. My parents insisted. For the duration of the trip, we would be home-schooled, or perhaps better stated, largely self-taught. Whereas my skills in Latin as well as English composition likely suffered, other subjects fared better. I learned how to compute square roots. I persevered reading Old Time Schools and School-Books for a Social Studies independent study. History and science instruction came primarily through museums, visitor centers, and ranger talks. Only twice on that trip did I spend a day in a traditional classroom.

Among the informal ecological instruction that I specifically recall during that half-year trip: food chains at Fernbank Science Center in Atlanta; cactus and desert plant diversity at Saguaro NM; rainfall in the Hoh River Valley in Olympic NP; prairie ants at Theodore Roosevelt NM. No doubt other lessons were absorbed at Big Bend, Grand Canyon, Crater Lake, Mount Rainier, and Glacier national parks.

Were there any definitive "transcendent experiences"? At least none that I can now recall. As a teacher's kid, I grew up "in the faith". Without a doubt, the family trips were fun and, had I not pursued my current academic interests, the unavoidable experiential diversity would still have been rewarding. Yet now as a biology professor, I perpetually benefit from this legacy. I am prepared to explore new places. I am ready to find something new in a place I've already been. I return revitalized. I am more confident as a lecturer or field trip leader. I'm already anticipating the next trip.

*Brian T. Hazlett*

Studies show that almost to a person conservationists or environmentalists- whatever we want to call them-had some transcendent experience in nature when they were children. For some, the epiphanies took place in a national park; for others, in the clump of trees at the end of the cul-de-sac. Richard Louv, *Leave No Child Inside*, March/April 2007 Orion magazine

### "Food Not Lawns" Seed and Plant Swap

An organization called "Food Not Lawns" is planning a seed and plant swap, including native seeds and plants. The date will be Sunday, May 3 at the Iowa City Public Library. A film and speaker will be at 2:00 with the seed swap to follow. For more information, or to discuss participation in providing seeds or plants, contact Dr. J. Eric Miller at 319-887-3631.

# Iowa Native Plant Society 2009 Field Trips

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 Sportsman'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 (2006) has 911 street names for most, if 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; call 1-800-568-8334 or [www.sportsmanatlas.com](http://www.sportsmanatlas.com). The cost is \$21.95.

## April 18th Fremont County (southwest Iowa)

Note that this field trip will begin at 1 pm (gathering at noon for those bringing a picnic lunch)!

Last year, the Nebraska Native Plant Society invited the INPS to join them in a field trip to Waubonsie State Park for winter tree identification. This year the focus is spring wildflowers, and again the trip is jointly-sponsored by both Native Plant Societies. The Loess Hills have many early spring wildflowers, and we are likely to see at least most of these: pasqueflowers (*Anemone/Pulsatilla patens*), prairie dandelions (*Nothocalais cuspidata*), prairie turnips (*Pedimelum esculentum*), locoweed (*Oxytropis lambertii*), prairie violets (*Viola pedatifida*), fringed puccoon (*Lithospermum incisum*), and downy paintbrush (*Castilleja sessiliflora*). The trail also



offers incredible views. Leaders: the Nebraska NPS is hosting, and Dianne Blankenship of INPS is coordinating this field trip with the NNPS. No park permit is required. For information about Waubonsie State Park, see: [http://www.iowadnr.com/parks/state\\_park\\_list/waubonsie.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/parks/state_park_list/waubonsie.html). (There is a detailed map.) Anyone who would like can bring a lunch and join us at 12.

**Directions:** From I-29, exit at Hwy 2 east of Nebraska City, turn left or east approximately 3 or 4 miles to junction 239 at Waubonsie State Park. Meet at the end of the Picnic Area road (see map) to park. A park sign will direct you to the picnic area, and also Nebraska Native Plant Society signs will be posted. There is direct access to a trail head that will lead us on a hike from 1-2 miles.

## June 13th Woodbury and Plymouth Counties (northwest Iowa)

We will tour Mt. Talbot State Preserve, a 90-acre preserve at the north end of Stone State Park. Mt. Talbot, dedicated as a state preserve in 1989, features outstanding Loess Hills vegetation and dramatic views. The Iowa DNR has managed the preserve to maintain a high diversity of flora and fauna (more than 40 butterfly species have been documented on the site). Although the preserve is rugged, we will be following the trail through the prairie along the ridgetop. After lunch, a trip will be offered to at least one additional Loess Hills site to continue the experience of the Loess Hills prairie flora.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot just west of the southeast entrance to Stone State Park in Sioux City. From Hamilton Blvd., turn onto Stone Park Blvd. heading northwest. Continue on Stone Park Blvd. and take the left part of the "Y" onto Memorial Drive. As you approach the park, do not enter it but instead turn left (south) onto Talbot Rd. and meet others in the parking lot immediately on the right. We will then carpool to the northern edge of the Talbot State Preserve. If you wish to go on an additional Loess Hills prairie visit, site to be determined, pack a lunch for a picnic in the park, to be followed by travel to the additional site. Leaders: Brian Hazlett and Bill and Dianne Blankenship.

## Tentatively July 17th (Friday) - INPS Annual Meeting, Decatur County (south central Iowa)

The Iowa Native Plant Society Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Iowa Prairie Conference, scheduled to be held at Graceland University in Lamoni (Decatur County). Tentatively, the annual meeting is scheduled for the evening of July 17th. Anyone can attend the INPS annual meeting and participate in the discussion, and all paid members can vote or run for office. Put the IPC and the INPS annual meeting on your calendar for July 17th - 18th, and see additional information about the IPC elsewhere in this news-

## Field Trips continued...

letter. More details about both the IPC and our annual meeting will be available in the next issue of *Erythronium*, as well as on the Iowa Native Plants listserve.

### July 25th Jasper County (south-central Iowa)

The Reichelt Unit of the Stephens State Forest has a large, good quality, hilly mesic prairie on its western end. Mark J. Leoschke, botanist for the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in Des Moines, will lead us on an exploration of the summer prairie flora.

**Directions:** From the intersection of U.S. Interstate 80 (east of Newton) and State Highway 224 go north on State Highway 224 (Kellogg exit). Drive about 1.5 miles to U.S. Highway 6 (about 0.5 mile north of this intersection is the town of Kellogg and a convenience store if you need food, ice or gasoline). Turn right (east) onto U.S. Highway 6 and travel about two miles (cross a river and railroad tracks) to a gravel lane on the south (right) side of the road. Drive up the lane and turn east (left) into a gravel parking lot. We will rendezvous in the parking lot and walk southwest to the prairie (west of the lane that leads to the parking lot). The prairie is also west of a former farmstead that is now full of trees (you can see this from U.S. Highway 6).

### September 12th Cedar County (east-central Iowa)

The Bakers diverse property in Cedar County includes an abandoned quarry complex, an 8-year-old reconstructed prairie, savanna restoration and reconstruction projects, both old growth and early-successional forest, and artificially-created large ponds and small wetlands. Rapid erosion by runoff and gully extension has been greatly diminished by simple projects including planting prairie using Carl Kurtz's seed and creating wetlands using local ecotype seeds. Former oak savanna is being restored by cutting 10-50 year old trees and annual burning. We have identified over 350 plant species on our place. Intensive work to try to control invasive species occupies much time and effort. We will tour these features in the morning, and then go a couple of miles down the road to visit Rochester Cemetery in the afternoon.

The ground is uneven in places, so bring walking shoes or boots. The trip will be led by Dick Baker. Please bring a lunch.

**Directions:** To get to the Baker place, get on I-80 and take the West Liberty exit. Go north to the first intersection (290th Street), and turn right. Go 3.8 miles east on 290th Street and look for a wooden arch on the left (north) side of the road. Turn in through the arch and go straight back. You will see a place to park on both sides of the driveway.

## In a Nutshell - Calendar of Events

April 18th, noon (picnic); 1 pm (field trip) - INPS and Nebraska NPS jointly-sponsored field trip to Waubonsie State Park (Fremont Co.); additional information in field trip listing.

April 25th, 10 am to 12:30 pm - Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Prairie Rescue at Breen Prairie (Jones Co.)

May 1st-2nd - 2nd Illinois Hill Prairie Conference, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL.

May 16th - Vincent Bluff State Preserve Dedication, Council Bluffs (Pottawattamie Co.)

May 23rd, 10 am - Iowa Prairie Network walk on Steele Prairie State Preserve (Cherokee Co.)

May 29th-31st - 33rd Loess Hills Prairie Seminar (Monona Co.); additional information in this newsletter

June 6th, 1 pm - Pottawattamie County Conservation, Hitchcock Nature Center BioBlitz

June 13th, 10 am - INPS field trip to Mt. Talbot State Preserve (Woodbury Co.); additional information in field trip listing.

June 18th, 7 pm - Iowa Prairie Network walk on Stinson Prairie State Preserve (Kossuth Co.)

June 20-21 - Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation BioBlitz 2009 at Heritage Valley (Allamakee County)

July 16th, 7 pm - Iowa Prairie Network walk on Stinson Prairie State Preserve (Kossuth Co.)

July 17th-19th - Iowa Prairie Conference, near Lamoni (Decatur Co.), with INPS annual meeting during or immediately following the Conference. More information will be forthcoming!

July 25th, 10 am - INPS field trip to the Reichelt Unit of the Stephens State Forest (Jasper Co.); additional information in field trip listing.

July 25th, 7 pm - Iowa Prairie Network Steele Prairie State Preserve Summer's Eve Stroll (Cherokee Co.)

August 20th, 7 pm - Iowa Prairie Network walk on Stinson Prairie State Preserve (Kossuth Co.)

September 12th - INPS field trip to the Dick Baker property (Cedar Co.); additional information in field trip listing.

September 26th, 10 am - Iowa Prairie Network Steele Prairie State Preserve History Hike (Cherokee Co.)

# Adopt a Plant

## (or what do squids and plants have in common?)

by *Elsah Cort, Alta Peak Chapter, Insignis newsletter editor, California Native Plant Society (CNPS)* <http://www.cnps.org>

During the recent (fantastic) Statewide Conservation Conference I was strongly impacted by the simple question asked by Jack Laws in his keynote presentation at the banquet: When did you first fall in love with nature? For a long time CNPS member, this could have seemed like a rhetorical question....but maybe not. As I was driving home from Sacramento south on HWY 99 (past Turlock where I was born and where, in the 1950's, I could swing in my Grandfather's old canvas hammock from his navy days, going high up in one direction to see a large expansive view of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and swinging in the other direction to clearly see the Coastal Mountain Range, all from the backyard) I thought a lot about this question.

More about this falling in love with nature a bit later...

I began to envision a little "project" to offer to the members of my local CNPS chapter, one where they would be encouraged to adopt a natural place, to visit it seasonally and observe its natural process, to learn about the plants growing there, to bring their kids, to take photographs and to send in reports that could be put in the Alta Peak Chapter newsletter. Even though many of our chapter members work professionally out in the field, most do it occasionally while trying to maintain busy and somewhat urbanized lives. I hoped that this idea would morph into encouraging members to have some "personal" time with the plants which have called California home longer than we have.

Then... last week I finally took the time to look up a website that I had been directed to many months ago (this was for other endeavors in my professional life) and I found myself "Squidoo'd." Some of you may know about this, as it has been around in the cybersphere for several years. Squidoo is a free-service, people-run search engine; individuals can create their own "lens" or website, without needing any particular website software loaded on their computers. The steps are easy to use, and the modular format for developing the lens is phenomenal. The "lens" is their compilation of information about any particular subject or notion (it really is much, much more.) You can read about the people behind squidoo itself at <http://www.squidoo.com/pages/about>; it was founded by Seth Godin. ([www.sethgodin.typepad.com](http://www.sethgodin.typepad.com))

So what do squids and plants have in common?

For me, this is answered with - their generosity! And, their breathing room!

They are both prolific with producing seeds and exquisite diversity and beauty as they blossom and spread their roots.

And what is this Adopt a Plant notion?

The vision is for people to record and share their "personal contact" with plants, hopefully, native plants in particular. Using Squidoo, as both launching pad and home base, a lens can be created about a particular plant. Or several lenses can be created about particular plant communities and their plants. Information can be shared that is unique to the individual's perspective, botanical, and not necessarily scientifically oriented, more about the person and the plant. I call it "giving a plant a voice."

The details about the Adopt a Plant Project are at <http://www.squidoo.com/adoptaplant>, and I have created 50 plus lenses, including one for each state. For instance, California has its own platform for Adopt a Plant at <http://www.squidoo.com/adoptaplantCalifornia>. There is a hub lens at <http://www.squidoo.com/adoptaplantUSA>. And also a lens for native plant or wildflower loving artists at <http://www.squidoo.com/adoptaplantBotanicalArt>.

There are only two things to do to get started and join the Adopt a Plant Project:

1. Go outside and strike up a conversation with a real living native plant. Spend some time in its neighborhood.
2. Turn on your computer and go to <http://www.squidoo.com> and click on the blue button that says "Get started!"

When your plant lens is made, send it to the Adopt a Plant main lens, and it will be added to your state's Adopt a Plant list.

Better still, take a young person with you to meet the plant and create a lens with a child!

Oh, and one last thing, here is a short account about when I fell in love with nature... <http://www.edgealmanac.wordpress.com>

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## 2nd Illinois Hill Prairie Conference - May 1st and 2nd

The second Illinois Hill Prairie Conference will be hosted by Augustana College, Rock Island, on May 1st and 2nd. This year's theme is "Slash, Burn and Graze, Is That Any Way to Treat a Hill Prairie?". Registration is open to the public, with a registration fee of \$55. The principal goal of the conference is to facilitate open discussion about a variety of different issues concerning hill prairie management. For more information and to register, visit the conference webpage: <http://www.augustana.edu/hillprairieconference/>

## The 33rd Annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

The LHPS, held on May 29th to 31st, is in the planning stages! There will be the usual mix of indoor evening programs and outdoor field sessions involving hiking, walking, driving, or sitting at camp. Whether your interest is in native flora or also native fauna, or photography, cultural history, archaeology, geology, fossils, environmental writing, prairie restoration and management, backyard habitat, bushcraft skills, fly fishing, archery, or connecting children with nature, you will find plenty of choices as there are usually ten field sessions offered at a time!

A pre-seminar work session is scheduled for the morning of May 29th, sponsored by the Iowa DNR. The DNR is also considering offering an actual prairie burn during the seminar, as a session!

In addition to the burn and the tried and true presenters and offerings, new sessions include a wetland adventure with Tom Rosburg, and there are also several new presenters and speakers.

The seminar begins on the evening of May 29, 2009, at West Monona High School, Onawa, IA, with field sessions on Saturday (all day) and Sunday (morning) at the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area (and Sylvan Runkel State Preserve) at 178th St. and Oak Ave., Castana, IA. There are special programs for children both evenings at the high school and many field sessions target or include children.

Campfire programs include Ron Cisar (musician) and storytelling. Astronomy will be offered after dark.

Educators may receive credit if they register through Northwest AEA. Please encourage teachers you know to attend whether they take it for credit or not.

NWAEA sponsors this seminar with help from the Monona County Conservation Board and Iowa DNR. Izaak Walton League, the Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund, TNC, Loess Hills Audubon Society, IPN, and INPS are among the other organizations and agencies that support the LHPS.

Three INPS board members are actively involved with the 2009 seminar: Deb Lewis and Brian Hazlett will each lead a field session, and I am the coordinator of the seminar. Dianne Blankenship - bennaid@hotmail.com

You may also contact: Gloria Kistner at NWAEA - gkistner@nwaea.com

The preliminary program and registration form will be on the NWAEA website in April: [http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/upcoming\\_events/loess\\_hills\\_prairie\\_seminar/](http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/upcoming_events/loess_hills_prairie_seminar/)

## Wildlifegardeners - A New "Green" Gardening Website

A new "green" gardening site is being announced, and is described below:

[www.wildlifegardeners.org](http://www.wildlifegardeners.org)

**Our Mission Statement:** Wildlife Gardeners promotes environmentally sound practices to preserve biodiversity. We do so by encouraging discussions of the preservation, restoration and establishment of native flora and fauna AND sustainable gardening practices. The Best science will prevail. We are an environmental tutelage and advocacy organization dedicated to fostering a love of ecosystems and education in the areas of environmental science and natural history.

Our site is attracting native flora and fauna enthusiasts. The forums are user friendly and easy to navigate. Uploading images is a snap and they are automatically resized to a thumbnail within a post and there is no need for an off-site photo storage host.

In addition to educational forums, we have created an area specifically for environmentally responsible individuals and organizations where they may be able to share any information theyd like about their organization to include a direct link to their site and contact information. This is a great area for local Audubon chapters, native plant societies, nature centers, native plant nurseries, wildlife rehabbers, organizations such as Wild Ones, and even green bloggers. Hope being others who are like minded will use this area as a resource. If you know of a green person or any green organization that might benefit from such exposure, please feel free to forward this to them. The strings attached to the above offer would be that those who are given a free slot be "green" and that they try their best to share their gifts and talents when possible by posting in the forums a little bit and particularly if they see someone who could use a helping hand. It's a great thing when knowledge and experience can be shared.

We offer an events calendar. It is editable by registered members. We welcome anyone who has knowledge of native plants sales, symposiums, or workshops to share details with our members.

Please do share this e-mail with any native plant enthusiasts, wildlife gardeners, birders, organic gardeners, or anyone interested in sustainable practices that you may know.

The Wildlife Gardeners site went live on December 15th. Hope you'll join us.

Cheers,

David, Fearless Weeder

# A Day of Insects (and Other Invertebrates)

## A Report from the Invertebrates Conference

by Linda Scarth

On a cold and blowy Saturday, February 21, approximately 70 people spent a collegial and interesting day at the Reiman Garden in Ames, where fourteen short presentations related to biodiversity in Iowa as represented by various insect groups and species prompting valuable discussions. There were projects, plans, reports and some basic bug biology. All of this in the context of the prairies, wetlands and woodlands where insects live and work.

The relationship of plant and insect incidence with weather in various environments and habitats seemed to me to be an underlying thread that moved through many of the presentations.

When Paul Mayes said that a study he had done found that Birdsfoot Violets (needed by Regal Fritillaries) occurred where there was just 64% vegetative cover while most of the surrounding land had 75% vegetative cover, I knew why I enjoy photographing Birdsfoot Violets so much. They are easier to compose because they are often in more open areas. I know we will work harder at photographing Grand-daddy Longlegs (Opiliones or Harvestmen) after Lloyd Crim discussed how little is known about them. Jim Durbin and Frank Olsen's adventures collecting moths in the woods, wetlands and prairies were fun and informative. When photographing mosquitoes on plants, we have been more concerned with interesting compositions than the arrangements of setae and scales that were shown by Brendan Dunphy. I may even add a 2x teleconverter to my macro lens, as Bob sometimes does. We will pay more attention to hollow stemmed grasses when looking for bees because of Jennifer Hopwood's presentation. These are just a few examples of how the day focused my attention.

MJ Hatfield, Nathan Brockman and all the rest who planned and presented the day are to be congratulated. Many of those who attended already are members of the Iowa Insects discussion list. Anyone interested in our prairies, wetlands, woodlands and gardens and the creatures that live there, is invited to join. To join the Iowa Insects Mailing List send an email to: [listserv@list.uiowa.edu](mailto:listserv@list.uiowa.edu). Leave the subject line blank. Type the message: subscribe Iowa-insects

There was talk of some sort of summer activity as well as encouraging participation in any Bio-blitz that may be happening in Iowa. I suspect that the first place this will be announced is on the Iowa Insects discussion group.

# You are invited to join the Iowa Insects Mailing List

All interested persons, you are invited to join the Iowa Insects Mailing List:

Send an email to: [listserv@list.uiowa.edu](mailto:listserv@list.uiowa.edu)

Leave the subject line blank

Type the message: subscribe Iowa-insects

The Iowa Insects Mailing List provides a forum for those interested in Iowa's insects and, more generally, invertebrates, their identification and ecology. Its purpose is to encourage novices who are trying to expand their knowledge about the incredible world of insects. Another objective is to support the Iowa Native Plant Society.

This list is owned by Diana Horton and MJ Hatfield, managed by MJ Hatfield, and sponsored by the University of Iowa Department of Biology. For assistance, contact the List Manager, MJ Hatfield, [mjhatfield@oneota.org](mailto:mjhatfield@oneota.org)

So what's the point of all this? Well, insects are fully one half of all the described species on earth. Those numbers probably hold for organisms in Iowa as well. We pretty much know our plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Together, helping each other, we can start to learn the insects (and perhaps snails, earthworms, freshwater sponges, etc.) that live in our prairies, our woodlands, our creeks and our yards.

## Follow-up for the 2007 INPS Grant Project "Enhancement of a Recovering Native Prairie"

by Craig Hemsath (2007 INPS Grant Recipient)

This project allowed for the collection of 29 species of native plants from the remnant portion of Daubendiek prairie. These species were broadcast in early 2007. The small research plot was mowed and maintained roughly every three weeks. Seedling counts were attempted throughout the growing season, without much success. The non-mowed plots proved to be very overgrown and extremely difficult to search for seedlings. The mowed plots did contain seedlings of *Ratibida pinnata*, *Monarda fistulosa*, and a *Liatris* (three species were seeded). All three were very uncommon in the research area before seeding. After one year, it is difficult to formulate any conclusions as the unmowed control was extremely difficult to make any comparisons too.

Additional seeds from the list of 29 species were collected during late summer through the fall of 2007 and were added in the fall of 2007. Due to weather and out-of-state work commitments no further seedling surveys were conducted during the summer of 2008. The surveys are scheduled to continue during the 2009 growing season, however. This may give us a clearer picture, as any of the surviving broadcast seeds will be reaching maturity.

# Are You Up-to-Date?

We all want to be up-to-date on the news, but how about on our dues? The address label on this issue of the newsletter has a notation of "most recent year paid" just after your name. If you haven't yet paid for this year, this would be a good time to do so. Not only will you be staying up with the news as you continue to receive the newsletter, but you'll also be helping support our wonderful INPS activities - educational opportunities, the Grants Program and more! Our regular membership dues are \$10, but some of you are willing to donate more to help with our efforts. Our Donor Categories are: Supporters (\$25-\$49) and Benefactors (\$50 or more). A listing of these contributors can be found below. As an added bonus for membership (at any level) this year, you'll receive two of our new wildflower notecards - check out the newest designs from the Scarths on our website at <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/shop.php#cards> .

While you're at the website, bookmark the INPS homepage (<http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/index.php>), which has some great information about the Society, including links to PDFs of all our newsletters. Our thanks to our Webmaster Elizabeth Blankenship for keeping it current.

Finally, keep really up-to-date by being part of the Iowa Native Plants Email Discussion Group! Our thanks to Diana Horton, who has been the moderator since the discussion group was started (at least as early as 2001). If you haven't yet joined the group, to subscribe, send an email to: [iowa-native-plantsrequest@iastate.uiowa.edu](mailto:iowa-native-plantsrequest@iastate.uiowa.edu), leave the Subject blank, and as the message, just type subscribe.

## 2008 Listing of Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the following INPS Supporters and Benefactors:

### **2008 Supporters (\$25 - \$49)**

Eric Baack  
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Martha and Joseph Rasmussen  
Steven Rassler  
Jeff Schowinsky  
Ruth and Michael Welsh

A special thanks to the family of Anna Gardner and the family of Janet Christiansen who requested that memorial donations be made to the INPS. The INPS Board also expresses its thanks to Carl Kurtz for designing our poster and to Linda and Robert Scarth for designing our note cards. Our great appreciation also goes to Connie Mutel for her willingness to support the Iowa Native Plant Society through some of the proceeds of the sale of her book Emerald Horizons. Finally, thank you to all of our members and donors - your support allows our grant program, educational opportunities, and all of the other activities of the Iowa Native Plant Society to continue.

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## Iowa Lakeside Laboratory to Celebrate 100th Anniversary!

Lakeside Lab will be observing its 100th anniversary in 2009. In honor of this special occasion, David Rogers' Big Bugs will be exhibited at the Lab for three months. This will be the first Iowa appearance of this popular exhibit, which combines art and science to entertain visitors and educate them about insects' important role in the natural environment. This event will be free and open to the public. For more information about the Bugs, go to [www.big-bugs.com](http://www.big-bugs.com)

### Centennial Events 2009

July 4 Big Bugs exhibit opens to the public  
July 11 Lakeside Birthday Party & Open House  
Aug. 1-2 Reunion for alumni, faculty, staff, and their families  
Oct. 4 Last day to see the Bugs!!

**Alumni - Please Contact Us!** Lakeside is planning a reunion for alumni, faculty, staff, and their families over the weekend of August 1 & 2, 2009. To keep you informed about this and other opportunities at Lakeside, we need your current mail and e-mail address. Please contact us at [peter-vanderlinden@uiowa.edu](mailto:peter-vanderlinden@uiowa.edu) !!

# 2009 Iowa Prairie Conference

Graceland University

Lamoni, Iowa

July 17-18, 2009

The 2009 Iowa Prairie Conference will highlight prairie and savanna restoration efforts in southern Iowa and northern Missouri. The goal of the conference is to show some of the quality efforts in prairie and savanna restoration in the region. The conference will include tours on Friday of the Kellerton Bird Conservation Area in Ringgold County, Iowa and the Dunn Ranch, a TNC preserve in northern Harrison County, Missouri. On Saturday, we will tour Slip Bluff County Park and Timber Hill Savanna in Decatur County, Iowa. The Timber Hill Savanna is owned by Bill and Sibylla Brown, who have been managing the property as savanna and prairie for over 15 years. All sites will offer great wildlife and plant diversity and stimulate good discussion on managing prairies and savannas.

The conference will include guest speakers and panel discussions on topics such as grazing for prairie management, fire, climate change, and "green" management of wildlife habitats. A banquet is planned for Friday night with music and great food. The conference is being held on the campus of Graceland University in picturesque Lamoni, Iowa. Several opportunities will be available for camping, fishing, hiking, and biking in the area for those that wish to stay through Sunday.

## Tentative Schedule of Events:

*Thursday, July 16th*

5-7 PM: Registration opens for those wishing to arrive early. Posters will be set up and ready for viewing.

*Friday, July 17th*

7-9 AM Registration and poster session (Refreshments and drinks will be available.)

9:00 AM Welcome and orientation

9:30-10:30 AM Grand River Grasslands

*Schedule of Events continued on page 10...*

## Membership Renewal

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

City, State , Zip: .....

Phone:.....

E-mail:.....

### 2009 Membership Categories and Dues

Member	Supporter	Benefactor
\$10.00	\$25.00	\$50 and up

### Please send your check payable to INPS to

Christine Taliga  
IA Valley RC&D  
300 W. Welsh St.  
P.O. Box 87  
Williamsburg, IA 52361

Additional information or special interest for member directory entry : .....

NEWSLETTER Preference-I prefer to receive the newsletter  Electronically  US Post

Check here 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. Please use this form for changes of address.

\* Annual contributions over \$10 are tax deductible. Iowa Native Plant Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

# 2009 Iowa Prairie Conference continued

10:45-4:00 PM Tour of Grand River Grasslands  
Bus and walking tours of Kellerton Bird Conservation  
Area and Dunn Ranch  
-Prairie chickens  
-Patch-burn grazing  
-Iowa Wildlife Action Plan  
  
6:00 PM Banquet and awards  
  
7:30 PM Panel discussion  
-Managing prairie with grazing  
-Oak savanna restoration and fire

*Saturday, July 18th*

7-8:30 AM Registration  
  
8:30 AM Welcome and orientation  
  
8:45-9:30 AM Savanna and Fires: The Historical Perspective  
  
9:45-4:00 PM Decatur County savanna tours  
-Slip Bluff County Park (work in progress)  
-Dealing with debris  
-Savanna vs. woodland management  
-Timberhill Savanna  
-Annual fire (frequent, low intensity)  
-Plant response to management and disturbance  
4:00-5:00 PM Wrap-up and discussion

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