



Iowa Native Plant Society

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Iowa's Very Own IX.

Prairie Obedient-plant, *Physostegia virginiana* var. *arenaria* Shimek

by Thomas G. Lammers

When I started botanizing in southeastern Iowa 25 years ago, one of the first local floras I picked up was *Vascular Plants of Scott and Muscatine Counties* by Ludwig F. Guldner of the Davenport Public Museum. I never learned too much about Dr. Guldner, but I quickly realized that his 1960 publication was one of the finest, most detailed floristic studies ever published in the state. He obviously had an intimate knowledge of the plants of east-central Iowa, based on long study and careful research. Clearly, he was not content to accept the pronouncements of "big-league" botanists at major botanical centers, but conducted original investigations of the characteristics and variability of local populations. To this day, Guldner's flora remains an exemplary study.

One plant listed in Guldner's book caught my eye, because I recognized its author as an Iowa botanist: *Physostegia virginiana* var. *arenaria* Shimek. As we've noted in this series, most scientific names that one

encounters in the Midwest were coined by European or East Coast botanists such as Linnaeus, or Michaux, or Asa Gray. Furthermore, I could not find this name in any other books I checked. It was not included in any state or regional floras at my disposal, including the eighth edition of *Gray's Manual of Botany*, which is (in)famous for the numerous varieties and forms it treats. I could not even find the name in the supposedly exhaustive Gray Herbarium Card Index to the names of North American plants. The only clue I had was Guldner's cryptic note, "(See 'The Prairies' p. 223)." Eventually, I figured out that this note referred to the major treatise on Iowa prairies published in 1911 in *the Bulletin of the Laboratories of Natural History, State University of Iowa* by Bohumil Shimek (1861-1937).

Shimek was a professor of botany at the University of Iowa from 1890 until his death and ranks among Iowa's greatest pioneer botanists. Shimek State Forest in Lee and Van Buren Counties honors his contributions to conservation in the state, as does an elementary school in Iowa City. With T. H. Macbride, he was a co-founder of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory at Lake Okoboji, which has educated generations of students in Iowa's natural history. Though he collected thousands of specimens in the state, he was primarily an ecologist and did not do very much descriptive taxonomy.

But there, on page 223 of his 1911 prairie monograph, was the name *P. virginiana* var. *arenaria* Shimek. Shimek considered this to be a dry prairie ecotype of the common Obedient Plant, *P. virginiana* (L.) Benth., which grows in wet prairie, floodplain forest, and marshy habitats. In a brief footnote, Shimek provided enough descriptive material to validly publish the name.

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Leaves from the President's Notebook

As the recently elected president for [NPS (see what happens when you miss the annual meeting), I guess this is sort of an inaugural address.

First, I think I can speak for the membership in offering a huge "thank-you" to Ed Freese, who has done a great job as president over the last couple of years. Both Ed and Christine Kirpes (first president for INPS) have done well in representing and leading the INPS during its seedling stage. We also should acknowledge and thank Mary Brown, who had served as Treasurer (probably the most busy of the officer positions) since the INPS was born. Of course there are (and have been) many people that have contributed to the success of INPS. From all of those involved in planning, organizing and leading field trips to those that produce the newsletter, submit articles, or travel with our display board to promote the INPS. It's truly a grassroots-powered organization - just the way it should be.

Education is certainly a priority for INPS and several facets of INPS have really contributed to its success. One is the field trips. Participants in last year's field trips ranged from 4-5 up to 22. Some of the low counts were on "bad weather" days or in the more sparsely populated western side of the state. The annual offerings have consistently represented a diversity in habitats and geographical locations throughout the state. A second "pat-on-the-back" goes to the newsletter. The blend of a variety of articles, their informative, concise, and easy-to-read style, and the announcements of events and activities sponsored by other groups all serve the membership very well. The \$10 membership fee is well-worth the value in the newsletter. And finally the third area of success has been the e-mail list serve (which anyone can subscribe to). It has provided a forum for discussions on topics relevant to all who have a love of plants. In many instances it has served as a spark for activism within the group, another important activity for INPS that is otherwise without much presence in the membership.

So where do we go from here? Hopefully to greater heights - but it takes a continued interest and action from the membership. I welcome any comments or ideas you may have. Send them to my home address or by email. A few of my own ideas for "improvement" are: 1) get information on field trips out to the local County Conservation Board and newspapers to encourage more local participation; it could help grow the membership, 2) consider including other features in the newsletter like non-technical keys to common genera or reviews of websites on plants, and 3) try to expand the ways the INPS can provide assistance to landowners who want to make a commitment to conserving natural areas and native plants on their land. Let me know what you think. I'm anxious to hear from you.

I suspect that many of you may not know much about me, so I'll close with a short biographical sketch. I grew up on a farm on the eastern edge of the Loess Hills in Monona County. After earning a B.S. in Fish and Wildlife Biology at Iowa State, I worked for a few years as a wildlife biologist for the Iowa Conservation Commission, the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming, and the Fish and Wildlife Service in Colorado. I then returned to beloved Iowa and practiced sustainable agriculture on a small self-sufficient farm (first in Benton County and then on the home farm in Monona County). In the mid 1980's, I left the farm for a second time and began eight years of work on graduate degrees. Both my Masters and PhD focused in the area of plant and prairie ecology. I'm currently a biology professor at Drake University. My interests include pretty much anything that gets me outside - in particular photography, backpacking and rock scrambling, camping, bird watching, fishing and of course - plant hunting.

Tom Rosburg

THE IOWA ORCHID BOOK
By Mark J. Leoschke and Bill Witt

Bill Witt, photographer, writer and state legislator, says there is light at the end of the tunnel. A book devoted to Iowa's orchids, a project that he has dreamed about and worked on for years, is in the works! Bill hopes to have his dream in print in two to three years. The book will deal in part with the county distribution of Iowa's orchids. Anyone who is interested in helping to document county records for this effort should contact Mark J. Leoschke at mark.leoschke@dnr.state.ia.us, (515) 281-5951 or Wildlife Bureau, DNR, Wallace Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. There are potentially a lot of records to be added since some species in this family are easily overlooked due to their small size, drab coloration or erratic blooming. For instance, fall coral-root (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*) occurs in disturbed and good deciduous forest across the state, but the records are scattered. This species blooms in late summer and early fall. It is short and has a brown stem with small flowers, which makes it a tad hard to spot in the forest against a background of brown leaf litter. Also fall coral-root is a wily plant, so it does not always show up in what to botanists seems like perfectly good habitat. Late summer and fall is a time when academic botanists have historically returned to the classroom and herbarium, which may be another factor in the modest number of Iowa counties from which this species has been documented to date.

And now a message from Bill Witt, our future author:

I would like to encourage people to note, where possible, significant habitat losses, elimination of or severe impacts on orchid populations, and other issues relating to population dynamics. For example, for several years

Yellow lady's-slipper,
Cypripedium calceolus L.

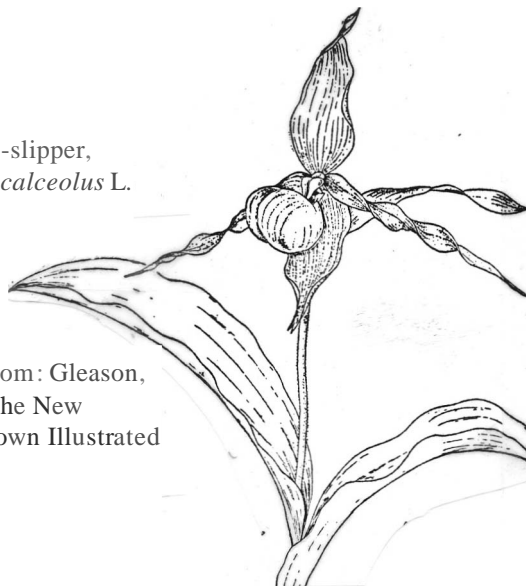


Illustration from: Gleason,
HA 1958. The New
Britton & Brown Illustrated
Flora 1: 457.

we monitored a large population (100-500 blooming stems annually) of fall coral-root (*Corallorhiza odontorhiza*) at Wildcat Den State Park. As the deer herd continued to grow and concentrate itself in the sheltered, deciduous woods where the orchids grew, impacts became increasingly severe. The last year of our survey, we found the understory completely grazed to bare ground and leaf mold, with an occasional raspberry bush standing forlornly here and there. (The destruction couldn't have been more complete if a flock of sheep had been penned there for a month.)

We saw similar, but not quite so thorough, depauperization of fall coral-root sites in Dubuque County and at Effigy Mounds in Allamakee County.

Conversely, we have charted the steady recovery of nodding ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*) at Cedar Hills Sand Prairie, with blooming stems in one study area increasing from 11 in 1985 to 100 per year from 1992-97, and 300 in the last three years.

Then there's the "lore." Do you have a favorite story about a discovery, a "perils of Pauline" rescue of a site, etc.?

The underlying message is "Conserve," that saving native orchids and their habitats is a key to salvaging the survival of many other native species, too.

18th Annual Prairie Preview
Tuesday, March 6, 2001
7-9:00 p.m.
Montgomery Hall, Johnson Co. Fairgrounds
Iowa City

Guest speaker: Paul Johnson on
"Painting Our Portraits of the Land"

Social hour following Johnson's talk. Many exhibitors from various organizations and agencies including INPS, bird clubs, garden clubs, environmental advocates and volunteer groups.

Contact Tammy Richardson with the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District office for more information. Ph. (319) 337-2322 ext 3.

IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS 2001

Compiled by Mark J. Leoschke

Thanks should go to all field trip leaders for offering to lead us to interesting natural areas. All field trips are held on Saturdays and start at 10 a.m., rain or shine. You should bring something to drink and food for lunch, as well as clothing/gear appropriate for the weather and terrain the day of the field trip.

April 21 Allamakee County, Northeast Iowa

Our first field trip of the new millennium will be a service project. The INPS will be sponsoring one of the sites for an Earth Day "Prairie Rescue", where environmental groups from around the state will engage in various management activities on prairies in need of help. Our site will be a hill prairie on the Paleozoic Plateau in the Iverson Bottoms Wildlife Management Area, owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (Hanover Township T99N R6W Section 5 S2 SE4). Bring work gloves, saws and pruning shears. Bob Kurtz, the local wildlife biologist, welcomes our help with this prairie.

Directions: A) North Route. From Dorchester in northwest Allamakee County go south on State Highway 76 about 2.5 miles. Turn right/west (the last right turn before you come to the Bear Creek bridge) onto Bear Creek Drive, also known as County Road A26 (Bear Creek Drive is about one-half mile north of the bridge over Bear Creek and about a mile north of the Iowa River bridge. Crossing either of these bridges means you have gone too far south).

***Follow Bear Creek Drive for about 4.5 miles through the rugged topography of the scenic Bear Creek valley to Balsam Road. Turn left (south) onto Balsam Road and go about a half mile to Iverson Bridge Road (may also be called Big Canoe Road). Turn left onto Iverson Bridge Road (east) and go about 1 mile. Park in the Upper Iowa River access area that is on the right (west) side of Iverson Bridge Road and across from McLaughlin Drive. We will meet in the parking area and walk to the hill prairie (about a quarter mile away).

B) South Route. From Waukon in west-central Allamakee County, go north on State Highway 76 about 10.5 miles (you will cross the Iowa River and Bear Creek bridges). Turn left (west) onto Bear Creek Drive (the first left after you cross the Bear Creek Bridge). Then follow directions from *** above.

There should be some early spring prairie flora in bloom on the hill prairie, including hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), prairie lousewort (*Pedicularis canadensis*) and bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*). Mark Leoschke will be leading this field trip/service project. If you have questions or would like a map of how to get to the hill prairie from State Highway 76, contact Mark at (515) 281-5951 or mark.leoschke@dnr.state.ia.us.

May 12 Jackson County, Northeast Iowa

The Iowa Native Plant Society will co-sponsor this field trip with the Jackson County Conservation Board and the Iowa Prairie Network. Ray Hamilton will help us explore the Southern Iowa Drift Plain. There will be prairies in the morning (easy hiking), lunch at Maquoketa Caves State Park, woodland and an algific slope in the afternoon (moderately strenuous hiking for a few miles), plus a few other sites if anyone desires to see more on their way home. Meet at Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie at 10 a.m.

Directions: From the east edge of Maquoketa at the junction of State Highways 62 and 64, go 1 mile north to 35th Avenue (also called Codfish Hollow Road). Turn right (east) on Codfish Hollow Road and go 4 miles to the prairie (cars and prairie will be evident on your left).

Plants in bloom should include bird's-foot violet (*Viola pedata*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia* - Mark's favorite plant!), downy painted cup (*Castilleja sessiliflora*) and more. Late in the morning a car caravan will head to an exceptionally nice privately owned native hill prairie 3 miles south of Maquoketa (Jorgensen's). We will then meet at Maquoketa Caves State Park picnic shelter at 1:00 p.m. for lunch (bring your own lunch, or pick up fast food in Maquoketa). Maquoketa Caves is northwest of Maquoketa, about 1 mile north on State Highway 61 and then 5 miles west on State Highway 428.

After lunch, we will car pool to Pine Valley Wildlife Area, owned by the Jackson County Conservation Board and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The County Board manages Pine Valley. This is a 600 acre woodland bordered by the Maquoketa River, split by Pine Creek, which has a large algific slope. The woodlands should provide a broad display of flowers and the algific slope will have a variety of plants including many species ferns. Pine Valley is northwest of Maquoketa Caves (go 5 miles west of the Caves on County Road E17, then south on 30th Avenue for 2 miles to the Pine Valley parking lot). If you have questions, contact Ray Hamilton at 319-652-6339.

June 9 Muscatine County, Southeast Iowa

Beautiful Wildcat Den State Park on the Southern Iowa Drift Plain, with its wonderful deciduous forest, white pines (*Pinus strobus*) and Pennsylvanian sandstone ravines, will be the first stop for a Sedge Workshop led by our sedgeophiles Bill Norris, Tom Rosburg and Scott Zager. We will look for examples of the Cyperaceae (sedge family) in the field. Our field trip leaders, who fear no sedge (well, at least not most sedges), will show us how to identify these pretty (if you look close) plants. Come armed with a hand lens, field guides and a willingness to learn about an often overlooked portion of the Iowa flora. Part of the workshop will involve using dissecting microscopes in the park shop in order to better see smaller features of sedges that are important in aiding identification. We will also be keeping our eyes open for other interesting members of this park's rich flora, so the field trip will not be entirely fixated on sedges.

In the afternoon we will head over to the Swamp White Oak Preserve, a swamp white oak woodland with shallow marshes, near the town of Nichols in Muscatine County. This site has about 20 species of the genus *Carex*. The Swamp White Oak Preserve is owned and managed by the Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Diana Horton has compiled a checklist of the flora of the preserve - we'll keep our eyes open to see if we can add anything new to the checklist while we're there.

Pre-register if you want to purchase an illustrated sedge manual, which covers 60-70 of Iowa's most common *Carex* (we need to know how many copies to print), with Mark Leoschke at (515) 281-5951 or mark.leoschke@dnr.state.ia.us. There will be a fee of around \$10.00 for the manual, payable at the workshop. You do not have to purchase a manual in order to attend the field trip.

For those field trip participants who wish to stay overnight, there will be an optional stop at Shield Prairie, northwest of the town of Muscatine, from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday, June 10th. Shield Prairie is a sand prairie with several shallow marshes. The prairie is owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and managed by the Muscatine County Conservation Board,

Directions to Wildcat Den State Park: From the intersection of State Highways 22 and 38 in the town of Muscatine turn left (east) onto 22. Drive about 10 miles east on State Highway 22 until you reach Wild Cat Den Avenue (east of the Fairport State Fish Hatchery). Turn left (north) onto Wild Cat Den Avenue and drive about 1 mile. Meet at the shelter south of the Old School (east side of Wild Cat Den Avenue) in Wildcat Den State Park.

July 14 Clay County, Northwest Iowa

The Des Moines Lobe is the setting for a field trip to the Kirchner Prairie Wildlife Management Area led by Mark J. Leoschke (Lake Township T97N R35W Section 19 W2 SW4 and Meadow Township T97N R36W Section 24 E2 SE4). This 166 acre site was purchased by the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources with help from the Iowa Chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. The east half is a former hay prairie with mesic to wet prairie, sedge meadow and pothole marshes. It has a good diversity of plant species including the showy milkweed (*Asclepias speciosa*). The west half is a former pasture with a large marsh. Late last May Wilson's phalaropes were seen at the edge of the large marsh and a jackrabbit ran through the pasture. This site was only acquired a few years ago, so it is not in the *Sportsman's Atlas* and consequently not yet well known to Iowa's prairie fans.

Dr. Ada Hayden spent a lot of time exploring Clay County's fens, marshes and prairies in the 1930's and '40's.

Dr. Hayden's work in this part of the state is described in: Hayden, Ada. 1943. A botanical survey in the Iowa lake region of Clay and Palo Alto Counties. Iowa State College Journal of Science 17:277-416 (you are most likely to find this journal in a university library).

Directions: 1) East Route. From the intersection of U.S. Highway 18 and 280th Avenue (also known as County Road M54) on the west side of the small town of Dickens (east of Spencer) turn right (north) on 280th Avenue. Go north 5 miles (280th Avenue becomes gravel after the first mile) to a curve in the road. Kirchner Prairie is due north of the curve. Park in the small parking area or along the road.

2) North Route. From the intersection of U.S. Highway 71 and 300th Street (also known as County Road B17) turn left (east) onto 300th Street. Go 5 miles to 270th Avenue (also known as County Road M54 this far north). Turn right (south) onto 270th Avenue and go one mile to 310th Street. Turn left (east) on 310th Street and go one mile to a curve in the road. Kirchner Prairie is due north of the curve. Park in the small parking area or along the road.

August 11 Madison County, Southwest Iowa

Join Tom Rosburg, our president, in a foray to Jensen Marsh in Madison County, purchased through a REAP grant. We will conduct an informal species inventory of the site for the Madison County Conservation Board. Participants will get some hands-on experience learning about basic components and methods of compiling an inventory. The area is 190 acres in size and contains 1.25 miles of abandoned railroad right-of-way. A mix of wet, mesic and dry prairie species is present.

As part of this field trip, Mark Widrlechner will give a short presentation on blackberries, dewberries and raspberries (all members of the genus *Rubus* in the Rosaceae or rose family) in Iowa, including how to identify and voucher them. Anyone interested in this part of the trip should bring along a hand lens, pruner and (especially!) some sturdy work gloves.

Feel free to come and participate for as long as you wish. Since a thorough species inventory is a goal of this foray, field trip leader Tom Rosburg will be staying until late afternoon. If you haven't seen enough plants by then, you'll be invited to join us for a trip to property owned and managed by Rosalea Johnson near East Peru. She has been working to restore remnant dry prairie and savanna, as well as establish a prairie reconstruction. Rosalea can provide perspective on the ups and downs of ecological restoration by private landowners.

Directions: From Des Moines go south on I-35 to the Highway 92 exit at Bevington (for Winterset/Indianola). Travel less than 1 mile west on State Highway 92 and turn south on the Bevington Park Road. Follow this gravel road for 2.25 miles until it intersects 228th Lane. Turn left (east) on 228th Lane and follow for about 0.25 miles where it intersects the abandoned railroad right-of-way. You're there!

September 22 Webster County, Northwest Iowa

The fall flora of Dolliver State Park should be near its peak when Deb Lewis leads this last field trip of the season. Dolliver, located on the Des Moines Lobe and the Des Moines River, is in some ways a twin of Ledges State Park. Both have a rich forest flora and beautiful Pennsylvanian sandstone bluffs and canyons. However, the vegetation of Dolliver is more xerophytic than in Ledges or nearby Woodman Hollow State Preserve. In addition to the rich, mesic forests, Dolliver has a number of native prairie/savanna areas which are lacking at Ledges. A study of the flora of this park was done in the mid-1980's by Deb and others at Iowa State. This study is published as: Johnson-Groh, C., et al. 1987. Vegetation Communities and Flora of Dolliver State Park, Webster County, Iowa. Proc. Iowa Academy of Science 94(3): 84-88.

Directions: From the north/U.S. Highway 20 - take the Coalville/county highway P59 exit southeast of Ft. Dodge. Travel south on P59 to the T-intersection with county road 033. Turn left (east) on 033; in about 3 miles you will be at the north entrance to the park. From the south/U.S. Highway 169 - turn right (east) on state hwy. 50 (this intersection is ca. 5.5 miles south of U.S. Hwy. 20 at the south edge of Ft. Dodge). Travel east on 50 for 5 miles to county road 033, turn left (north) on 033 for about 1.5 miles. Meet at the parking area for Boneyard Hollow near the middle of the park.

IX. Prairie Obedient-plant continued from page 1

He did not site a type specimen, but only indicated that he had collected his new variety on "the sand mound in Muscatine and Louisa counties south of Muscatine." And indeed that was the site from which Guldner had reported it, the area long known as Big Sand Mound. I wondered if this variety was to be found no where else in the world but at Big Sand Mound. How exciting if it were! An endemic Iowa variety! But I couldn't be sure, because I could find no other mention of Shimek's variety in the literature.

In 1982, Philip Cantino of Ohio University published a complete monograph of the genus *Physostegia*, based on his doctoral dissertation at Harvard. When I saw it, I figured this was my chance to determine the fate of Shimek's variety. Was it recognized and accepted or was it relegated to synonymy? Imagine my surprise when the answer was neither! I could find no mention of the name anywhere in the otherwise exquisite monograph. Nonplussed, I wrote to Dr. Cantino, asking about the orphan epithet. He replied that he had never heard of the name, and requested I send him a copy of the original description. Once I had done so, he replied that the name clearly pertained to plants he had treated as *P. virginiana* subsp. *praemorsa* (Shinners) Cantino. This was indeed a dry prairie ecotype of the species, but was by no means restricted to Big Sand Mound. In fact, it was quite widely distributed in the Midwest, from Ohio to southeastern Iowa, south into northern Alabama, Arkansas, and Texas. Its range partly overlaps that of the wetland ecotype, *P. virginiana* subsp. *virginiana*, which extends farther north and west. In some areas of overlap, the two subspecies intergrade, while in others they stay distinct.

The mystery solved, I suggested that for the sake of completeness, we publish a short note on this overlooked name. We did so, in the April 1983 issue of *Rhodora*. At the same time, we selected a lectotype for the name. We had two specimens to choose from, which Shimek had studied prior to publication of the name. However, neither was deposited at Iowa City with Shimek's herbarium, nor in an Iowa herbarium at all. Instead, the sheet designated (collected at Big Sand Mound on 25 September 1909) was in the herbarium of the Canadian Department of Agriculture in Ottawa! How it came to be there, we had no idea.

But our brief note wasn't the end of the story. You may know that in choosing the correct name to use among

competing synonyms, the principle of priority comes into play: the earliest name is the one to use. But, this is only true within a given rank. If you are dealing with a species, it is the earliest name at species rank which must be used. There may be earlier names at varietal or subspecific rank, but that doesn't matter. Priority only operates within a given rank.

As it turned out, the name *arenaria* was the first to be applied to this prairie ecotype at varietal rank. (The next oldest varietal name only dated to 1966.) In other words, *P. virginiana* subsp. *praemorsa* is indeed the correct name for the dry prairie plants if you consider them a subspecies, but if instead you consider them a variety, the correct name is *P. virginiana* var. *arenaria*.

Botanists differ in their approach to the use of ranks below species. Some favor subspecies, some favor variety, and some use both. In recent years, several books written by variety partisans, including floras for Ohio and the Chicago region, have adopted the name *P. virginiana* var. *arenaria* for the dry prairie ecotype of Obedient Plant. Due to the vagaries of formal nomenclature, a name that went unnoticed for over 70 years is now the correct name to use! And best of all, it's one of Iowa's Very Own!



Illustration from: Holmgren, N.H. 1998. *The Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual*

1. *Physostegia virginiana*

Announcements

Iowa Society of American Foresters Woodlands & Prairies Seminar

The Iowa Society of American Foresters is sponsoring a Woodlands & Prairies Seminar on Saturday, March 17, 2001. The meeting will be held at McFarland Park in Ames, and runs from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The agenda includes a nice line-up of speakers on both prairie and woodland topics (including invasive woodland species, woodland understory plants, and prairie restoration). Registration is \$25 for non-SAF members and \$15 for students, including lunch and breaks. Pre-registration by March 10 is requested. Contact Gretchen Holstein, 20996 Hwy. 13, St. Olaf, IA 52076 for pre-registration. For details about the agenda/speakers or directions to McFarland Park, contact Paul Tauke at Paul.Tauke@dnr.state.ia.us or Gretchen Holstein at the address above.

Minnesota Native Plant Society Symposium

The Minnesota Native Plant Society is sponsoring a March 24, 2001, Symposium on commercial harvest of native plants to be held at the School for Environmental Studies, Apple Valley, MN. The conference begins at 8:00 am and goes through 3:45 pm. Cost for the day is \$25 for non-MNPS members, payable at the door, and includes a box lunch. Keynote speaker is Nan Vance of the Pacific Northwest Forest Experiment Station. A series of morning speakers will focus on commercial decorative products from forest ecosystems, including birch, balsam fir, and *Lycopodium*. Afternoon speakers will focus on species in the herbal market, including *Echinacea* and ginseng, and will explore agroforestry and statutory regulation as approaches toward mitigating over harvest. For more information, visit the MNPS's web-site at <http://www.stolaf.edu/depts/biology/mnps/>.

Prairie Rescue Partners and Sites Sought

A coalition of conservation groups is planning a state-wide Prairie Rescue event April 21 in celebration of Earth Day 2001. [See the Field Trips list for a description of the INPS project in Allamakee Co., as we are one of the partners.] The group is seeking more partners, sites, and volunteers for the event. During the

Prairie Rescue event, volunteers clear invading brush and trees from our prairie remnants, or conduct other protection activities. The coalition hopes to do a big spring media campaign about the Prairie Rescue event, so all sites should be registered as soon as possible. Current coalition partners include AmeriCorps, Iowa Audubon Society, Iowa DNR, The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and INPS. To propose other Prairie Rescue sites, sponsor an event, or ask questions, contact Paul Zeph, Iowa Audubon Society, at (515) 727-4271 or pzeph@audubon.org. If you cannot make it to Allamakee Co. for the INPS Prairie Rescue event, check for others in your area, including the workday at the Eddyville Dunes, described below.

Workday at the Eddyville Dunes, Mahaska County

April 21, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Come for part or all, bring sack lunch, hand tools (hand saws, loppers, etc.) for brush management. Meet at Teno property entrance: from Hwy. 63 in Eddyville, take G77 east to top of hill, turn left (north) on 330th St.; the sand lane entrance to the Teno property is at the north boundary of the Eddyville Cemetery, use shoulder to park on either side of 330th St.

For information contact MCCB, 641-673-9327, mccb@kdsi.net or Glenda Buenger, 641-632-8308, rockman49@hotmail.com>

We'll take a break to visit the Wapello County preservation site (182nd St. area) for any interested.

Can You Help with an "Environmental History of Johnson County"?

Connie Mutel is starting on a new book, an environmental history of Johnson County, Iowa. Her working outline includes discussions of prehistoric and historic natural features, as well as impacts of agriculture and urban/suburban developments on natural ecosystems and environmental features. Recognizing that much of the information about the county's current native species rests in the minds of residents, she welcomes any input from individuals with knowledge about the county's history or unusual natural features. Please contact Connie at connie-mutel@uiowa.edu or phone her at (319) 335-5315.

Prairie State Mushroom Club Spring Foray

The PSMC Spring Foray will be Sunday, April 29, at the Chichaqua Wildlife Area in northeast Polk County. Meet at 10:00 AM at the parking lot north of the Ranger's house. The foray leader is Pat Cory (515-387-8714). Dr. Lois Tiffany and club members will identify mushrooms and hunt for morels. We will also have a brief business meeting at that time to choose foray sites for later in the year. Bring a sack lunch.

PSMC will be represented at the Prairie Preview on Tuesday, March 6, at Montgomery Hall on the 4-H grounds in Iowa City. (See further information about the Prairie Preview on page 3.) Don't forget to check out the PSMC display while at the Prairie Preview.



Spring Wildflower Walk & Morel Preview

The University of Iowa Museum of Natural History is sponsoring a Spring Wildflower Walk and Morel Preview on Saturday, April 14, at 10:00 at Palisades-Kepler State Park. Dean Abel and Damian Pieper will be foray leaders. Information: Dave Brenzel, Museum Associate, 319-335-0482.

2001 Non-Game Support Certificates Available

The new 2001 Non-game Support Certificate is now available from the Department of Natural Resources. A pretty little Green Heron all dressed up in his finest breeding plumage is the subject of this year's certificate. The Green Heron is a common but seldom seen bird found along wooded edges of Iowa rivers, lakes and ponds. It can be found in every county of the state. The photograph used on this year's certificate was taken by Jim Zohrer, the Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator for the Iowa DNR.

These limited edition certificates are individually numbered and are available for \$5 from the DNR. Phone orders can be placed by calling (515) 281-5918. To order by mail, send a check for \$5 made out to the Dept. of Natural Resources, sent to the DNR, ATTN: Support Certificate, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

A limited number of the 2000 certificates are also still available. The 2000 certificate features a black-capped chickadee sitting on a snow-covered wooden fence. Funds from the sale of these certificates are used to help support the Wildlife Diversity Program in Iowa.

INPS Membership/Change of Address Form and Survey

Send with your 2001 dues of \$10.00 to Diana Horton, 720 Sandusky Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Additional information or special interests for member directory entry _____

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

In Memoriam:**Dr. Duane Isely, 1918-2000**

Dr. Isely passed away on December 6, 2000, at the age of 82. He came to Iowa State College in 1944 as an "Extension Associate" to help operate the seed laboratory. He eventually became a "Distinguished Professor" at ISU in the Botany Department. He published more than 50 papers and textbooks in the field of seed technology and nearly 20 books, papers, and laboratory manuals on weeds. Then his interests turned to the bean family (Fabaceae). In 1998, his publication "Native and Naturalized Leguminosae (Fabaceae) of the United States (exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii)," described and provided keys for identification of more than 1200 species. In 1991, a series of biographical sketches of botanists was published as "101 Botanists". Dr. Isely was also involved with conservation of natural areas. He was active (including serving as chair) in the Ames Environmental Council, which helped protect the Ames High School Prairie (now the Richard W. Pohl Memorial State Preserve) and other areas in and near Ames. Memorial contributions in memory of Dr. Isely may be made to the Ada Hayden Herbarium, Botany Department, ISU or to the Ramsey Home, Des Moines. A tribute article honoring his many activities and accomplishments will be published in the next few months in the Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science.

Dr. William L. Toistead, 1909-2000

Dr. Tolstead died November 3, 2000, in Elkins, WV, at the age of 91. Dr. Tolstead was born in Howard County, IA, the son of a railroad agent. His primary grammar school education was from reading newspapers at the Welch, MN, train depot where the family lived. It was too far and too cold to walk to school. He started high school in the fall of 1924 in Red Wing, MN. During this time he developed a love for biology, and especially for the wild plants of the area. The plants he could not identify he pressed, dried, and sent to the herbarium at the University of Minnesota. They were promptly returned with the correct identification, and by the end of high school, he had a very good collection of wild plants. In the fall of 1929, Tolstead began attending Luther College in Iowa. Upon his graduation in 1933, he went on to receive his Master's degree from Iowa State College. In 1938, his "Flora of Winneshiek and Allamakee Counties and Clayton County in the Vicinity of McGregor" was published in the Iowa State College Journal of Science (12: 321-384). Finally, in 1942, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska. He taught college biology at various colleges for several years, finally settling at Davis & Elkins College in Elkins, WV, where he spent the remainder of his career. After his retirement, his plant studies culminated in the collection and breeding of Rhododendrons. He was considered an expert on the cultivation and breeding of these plants.

Newsletter

Iowa Native Plant Society
c/o Deb Lewis
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Ames, IA 50011-1020