



# IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Volume 12, Issue 1

February 2006

## ACCOLADES FOR A SUPER-VOLUNTEER

By Jo Hudson

(Reprinted with permission from the Central Iowa Sierrn, Winter 2005)

Why “Super-volunteer”? With the government agencies responsible for the management and protection of public natural areas in our state strapped for staff, time and funds, the work of every field volunteer is important and appreciated. This is the story of one volunteer whose knowledge of and passion for native plants, plus the time and desire to devote many hours of work, is adding to the record of plant species found in many of these natural areas.

When Jimmie Thompson retired nine years ago from his job at the Ames post office, he decided that he “had to have something to keep me busy.” He had always been an avid outdoors person, and his interest in native plants had led to establishing prairie plantings for himself and others. Although he did not have formal botany education, in the process of establishing his prairie plantings he became knowledgeable about native plants in central Iowa, and when he heard about an ongoing effort of several Iowa State botanists to complete an inventory of the flora of Ames and the nearby surrounding area, he decided to volunteer. In the remaining two years of the project he located more than 200 plants to add to the list, bringing the total to 916 species within two miles of the city limits of Ames—and earned from the professional botanists appreciation of his thorough work and his careful observation that noticed even the small differences that distinguished some related species. A specimen of each species was placed in the Ada Hayden Herbarium at Iowa State University.

When the Ames project was finished, Jimmie decided to tackle a larger project by himself. He spent the next four years doing a plant inventory of Hamilton County—all the public lands plus all of the private lands for which he could obtain permission. He collected specimens of 985 species, both native and non-native, or in the case of rare species, took photos. This total included 14 species on the state’s threatened, endangered, or special concern list. After verification by curator Deb Lewis or others, this collection was also placed in the ISU herbarium and the list of species will be added to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Natural Areas Inventory data base. He also has submitted a paper on the Hamilton County inventory to the Iowa Academy of Science, and it will be published soon.

When he finished his work in Hamilton County, Jimmie needed another project, and he decided it would be Ledges State Park and Boone County. He requested permission from John Pearson, botanist/plant ecologist at the DNR, to inventory the Ledges and all other state land in the county, and from the Boone County Conservation Department to collect on all county land. The last previous inventory of the Ledges, completed in 1985, listed 437 species, both native and non-native. It included species from an inventory done in 1915, plus a search of the ISU herbarium, in addition to the new field work. Jimmie’s very extensive field work this year has added over 170 species to that earlier list, including some that are on the state’s threatened, endangered, or special concern list. He found two species that are new state record species—they had not been recorded before in Iowa. He spotted and reported an infestation of garlic mustard early enough for volunteers and park staff to have a good chance of controlling it, and a large population of *Lespedeza cuneata*, another unwelcome species which he sadly fears is beyond eradication and at best will be extremely difficult to control.

All these newly identified Ledges species are being documented by verified specimens and added to the ISU herbarium. This list will also be added to the DNR’s Natural Areas Inventory data base.

Herbarium collections and documented lists of plants are important not only to botanists but to teachers, students, conservationists, researchers—to everyone who works with or has an interest in Iowa plants. The Natural Areas Inventory data base is an important tool in the DNR’s effort to protect endangered and threatened species. Deb Lewis, curator of the ISU herbarium, said of Jimmie’s work, “Despite all the years botanists in Iowa have worked to develop plant inventories, there are huge gaps in our knowledge. People like Jimmie are helping fill those gaps.” John Pearson agreed, saying that botanists support and encourage dedicated amateur botanists. He commented that many of the

### In this issue

Leaves from the President’s Notebook	2
INPS & ILNPS Joint Annual Meeting	3
Announcements	8
INPS 2006 Grant Recipients	8
2006 Iowa SCORP	11
Fabulous Flora Plant Identification & Appreciation	11
Rain Gardens & Prairie Plants: Grooming New Allies	12
Enhancement of Recovering Native Prairie	13
Effects of Nitrogen on the Competitive Ability and	
Establishment of Garlic Mustard	14
INPS Annual Meeting Minutes 2005	15
Membership/Renewal Form	16

*continued on page 12*

**President:**  
**Larissa Mottl**  
 929 Elm St.,  
 Grinnell, IA 50112  
 wk: 641-269-4717  
 home:641-236-0372  
 mottll@grinnell.edu

**Vice President:**  
**Connie Mutel**  
 2345 Sugar Bottom Rd  
 Solon, IA 52333  
 connie-mutel@uiowa.edu

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
**Christine Taliga**  
 Iowa Valley RC&D  
 300 W Welsh St.  
 PO Box 87  
 Williamsburg, IA 52361  
 chris.taliga@ia.usda.gov

**Representative-at-large:**  
**Western Iowa**  
**Dianne Blankenship**  
 737 Buckwalter Drive  
 Sioux City, IA 51108-9506  
 712-255-3447  
 bennaid@hotmail.com

**Issues/Action Committee:**  
**Jane Clark**  
 9871 Lincoln Ave  
 Clive, IA 50325  
 515-232-5047  
 jrclark@radiks.net

**Field Trip Coordinator:**  
**Mark Leoschke**  
 2212 East Rose Ave #13  
 Des Moines, IA 50320  
 mark.leoschke@dnr.state.ia.us

**Newsletter/Historian:**  
**Deborah Q. Lewis**  
 Dept. EEOB, ISU  
 Ames, IA 50011-1020  
 515-294-9499  
 dlewis@iastate.edu

**Newsletter Layout:**  
**Sandra Gossman**  
 2506 Northwestern Ave  
 Ames, IA 50010  
 srgossman@aol.com



Printed on recycled paper



## Leaves from the President's Notebook

**1/30/06**

“No organization is stronger than the quality of its leadership, or ever extends its constituency far beyond the degree to which its leadership is representative.”

-Edgar Powell

*Learn more about leadership opportunities available on the INPS board.* Our membership has a wealth of talent and energy and we welcome any service you can provide to help us offer diverse field trips and programs, grants, newsletters, and a general forum for discussing native plant and conservation issues. Start with a small commitment by hosting a field trip this year, contributing an article for the INPS newsletter or your local paper about native plants, or hosting our display at a meeting or conference.

*Help us spread the word about the Iowa Native Plant Society.* Would you like copies of our membership brochure to distribute at meetings and conferences you attend? Is there an upcoming event that would be a great venue for an INPS display? Please feel free to contact our board members who will be happy to send you brochures and/or make arrangements for you to receive a display.

*Mark your calendars for an exciting joint annual meeting with the Illinois Native Plant Society, May 19-21, 2006 in the Quad Cities.* Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn more about Illinois native plant communities and hear from our own Bill Watson of Cedar Falls about northeast Iowa flora. Saturday will offer fantastic field trips to sites in both Iowa and Illinois, opportunities to meet with other INPS members for a visioning session for the society, consume a delectable banquet and take in an outstanding keynote address by retired botany professor Dr. John Ebinger of Eastern Illinois University.

*Larissa Mottl*



## Joint Annual Meeting of Illinois and Iowa Native Plant Societies



**May 19-21, 2006**

**Host Sites:** Augustana College Sciences Building, 3300 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201  
Quad City Botanical Center, 2525 4th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

### **Bi-State Annual Meeting Agenda**

#### **Friday – May 19**

**4:00 - 6:30 PM - Registration and Check-in at Augustana College Sciences Building**

**5:30 - 6:30 PM - Mixer at Augustana College Sciences Building**

**6:30 - 7:15 PM - Iowa Native Plant Communities**

**Guest Speaker - Mr. Bill Watson – Independent Biological Consultant**

**“Iowa Landforms and Vegetation with Special Emphasis on the Paleozoic Plateau of Northeast Iowa”**

Mr. Watson has a master’s degree in biology from the University of Northern Iowa and will share over 20 years’ experience as an independent field biologist in a talk and slide presentation. His expertise includes threatened and endangered species, floristics, botanical surveys, habitat management and landscape conservation projects. He has worked with numerous private and governmental organizations including the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service.

**7:15 - 8:00 PM - Illinois Native Plant Communities**

**Guest Speaker - Dr. Sean Jenkins of Western Illinois University**

Dr. Jenkins will be speaking on native plant communities of western Illinois, emphasizing the differences in plant populations of pre-settlement and post-settlement communities. Dr. Jenkins is an Assistant Professor of Biology and the Director of the Kibbe Life Science Station at Western Illinois University in Macomb. Dr. Jenkins earned his PhD from the University of Missouri and his main research interests include fire ecology and the ecology of woodlands, grasslands and savannahs.

#### **Saturday – May 20**

**8:00 - 8:30 AM – Check-in for Field Trips at Quad City Botanical Center** - Registration and Check-in for late arrivals

**8:30 - 9:00 AM – Travel Time to Morning Half-Day Field Trip Locations** - carpool and vans depending on number in attendance and trip location

**9:00 - 11:30 AM – Saturday Morning Half-Day Field Trip Option 1**

**1. Iowa Trip – Wildcat Den State Park in eastern Muscatine County**

Come see some of the most unique sandstone features in eastern Iowa. This trip will have a host of leaders, including Jim Frink, ILNPS member, Dr. Todd Linscott of Blackhawk College in Moline, IL, Alec Schorg, secretary of the Quad City Chapter for the ILNPS and Jim Ohl, Wildcat Den Park Ranger for the Iowa DNR. They will be leading groups thru trails that show the many unique geological and floral features of this area. Some highlights for the trip will include the woodland species, a large variety of ferns and the representative hardwood canopy species. Those interested in attending the afternoon IA tour to Rochester Cemetery Prairie can tag along with Alec to have lunch at The Cove Restaurant, as an alternative to returning to the Quad Cities between field trips.

**9:00 - 11:30 AM – Saturday Morning Half-Day Field Trip Option 2**

**2. Illinois Trip – Collinson Ecological Preserve outside the town of Milan**

Come see a site very close to the Quad Cities that is managed by Augustana College. Tour leaders Dr. Bohdan Dziadyk, President of the Illinois Native Plant Society and Director of Field Stations, with Dr. Jason Koontz, Assistant Professor of Biology for Augustana College, will be hosting the tours. The Collinson Ecological Preserve (67 acres) consists predominantly of upland hardwood forest. It contains two high quality native loess hill prairie openings on a slope within the bluff overlooking Mill Creek. This local facility is an excellent representation of what restoration and proper management can do to help preserve unique populations of species while creating a working educational facility.

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM – Saturday All-Day Field Trip Option 1**

- 1. Iowa Trip - Manikowski Prairie and Maquoketa Caves** in northern Clinton County, and southern Jackson County  
Manikowski Prairie State Preserve (40 acres), owned by the Clinton County Conservation Board, was dedicated as a biological and geological state preserve in 1985. The prairie is located on the bluff overlooking an ancestral valley of the Mississippi River known as the “Goose Lake Channel” just north of Goose Lake, IA. The prairie is dominated by little bluestem and side-oats grama growing on the thin soils covering Silurian dolomite limestone. Over 140 species of plants have been identified on the area’s thin soils and rock outcroppings. There is a very large and showy population of shooting stars, as well as one of Iowa’s and Illinois’ rarest plants.

Maquoketa Caves is probably Iowa’s most unique state park. Its caves, limestone formations and rugged bluffs provide visitors a chance to “step back” into geological time thousands of years. The 323-acre park, near Maquoketa, contains more caves than any other state park in Iowa. A beautiful trail system links the caves, formations, and overlooks while providing an exciting hiking experience through upland hardwood forest. Trail highlights include the “Natural Bridge”, 17-ton “Balanced Rock”, “Dancehall Cave” (with walkways and lighting) and a wide variety of ferns and spring wildflowers.

Led by Bob Bryant, Director of the Wapsi River E. E. Center, Quad City Native Plant Society Chapter President and fern enthusiast.

**9:00 AM- 4:00 PM – Saturday All-Day Field Trip Option 2**

- 2. Illinois Trip – Mississippi Palisades Park & Lost Mound Prairie** northwest Carroll Co. and southwest Jo Daviess Co.  
Come see the most spectacular spring woodland wildflower display in Northern Illinois at the Sentinel Nature Preserve at MPSP. This rich mesic forest is blanketed with bluebells, large white trillium, numerous ferns and several rare wildflower species. Jeweled shooting stars line the bluff tops.

Next we travel to Lost Mound (old Savanna Army Depot) to see the largest sand prairie left in Illinois with many rare plants including redroot, fragile prickly pear cactus and beach heather. Field trip leader will be QC INPS Vice-president, Randy Nyboer of the Illinois Natural History Survey and Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

**11:30 AM - Noon – Travel back to the Quad Cities or Lunch Site for Morning Half-Day Field Trips**

- All field trips will coordinate lunch plans within the group that day

**Noon - 12:45 PM – Lunch Break**

**12:45 -1:00 PM – Check-in at Botanical Center for Afternoon Half-Day Field Trips as needed**

**1:00 - 1:30 PM – Travel Time to Afternoon Field Trip Locations**

-carpool and vans depending on number in attendance and trip locations

**1:30 - 4:00 PM – Saturday Afternoon Half-Day Field Trip Option 1**

- 1. Iowa Trip – Rochester Cemetery in southern Cedar County**  
Rochester Cemetery is a 13-acre cemetery with a good amount of native prairie still intact. It is one of the oldest cemeteries in Iowa, and is especially noted for shooting stars in the spring. We may also find Robin’s plantain, figwort, two-flowered Cynthia, yellow lady’s-slippers and many other spring prairie and savanna plants. This trip will be led by Carol Rogers, member of the Quad City Chapter of the Ill. Native Plant Society and Iowa Prairie Network.

**1:30 – 4:00 PM – Saturday Afternoon Half-Day Field Trip Option 2**

- 2. Illinois Trip – Munson Cemetery in western Henry County**  
Come see a truly unique 5-acre black soil prairie remnant identified by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Managed by the Henry County Natural Areas Guardians, this beautiful prairie is loaded with pale coneflowers, shooting stars, compass plant and a few very rare species. This trip will be led by Matt Schramm, member of the Quad City Ill. Native Plant Society and Senior Scientist for Natural Resource Consulting Inc. of Cottage Grove, WI.

**4:00 - 4:30 PM – Travel back to Quad Cities following Afternoon Field Trip Locations**

**4:45 - 5:30 PM – Illinois Native Plant Society Annual State Board Meeting**

- Quad City Botanical Center, Rock Island, IL

**6:00 - 8:00 PM – Banquet and Silent Auction hosted at the QC Botanical Center**

The Banquet meal will be served Buffet-Style including

Choice of 2 entrees - Chicken Florentine or Roast Pork Loin - Rosemary potatoes - Caribbean Mixed Vegetables  
Dinner Roll and Drink (Water, Coffee or Tea)

Choice of 5 salads - Fresh Fruit Medley - Mixed Greens - Pasta Salad Vinaigrette - Fresh Broccoli Salad - House  
Garlic Salad

\*All provided by Bridges Catering of the Quad City Botanical Garden

\*Please e-mail any vegetarian requests [qc\\_inps@yahoo.com](mailto:qc_inps@yahoo.com)

**8:00 - 9:00 PM – Keynote Presentation by Dr. John Ebinger**

**- Professor of Botany, Emeritus at Eastern Illinois University**

Dr. Ebinger will be giving a vivacious presentation on Illinois Forests, Past, Present, and Future. How the forests of the Prairie State have changed since pre-settlement times and continue to change today. Dr. Ebinger has published hundreds of articles on the ecology and flora of Illinois. He has served on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board for eighteen years and continues to be one of the most prolific researchers in the state.

**Sunday – May 21****8:00 - 8:30 AM – Check-in at the Quad City Botanical Center for Morning Field Trips****8:30 - 9:00 AM – Travel Time to Morning Half-Day Field Trip Locations**

– carpool and vans depending on number in attendance and trip locations

**9:00 - 11:30 AM – Sunday Morning Half-Day Field Trip Option 1****1. Iowa Trip – Wapsi Education Center & Sherman Park in northwest Scott Co. and southwest Clinton Co.**

The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center (225 acres) and Sherman Park (231 acres) are located across the Wapsipinicon River from each other just north of Dixon, IA. The Wapsi River Center is the premier residential environmental education facility in eastern Iowa. Sherman Park is open to camping, picnicking, hunting, nature study, etc. The Wapsi River Center and Sherman Park form a 456-acre complex rich in plant and animal diversity. The Center is predominantly upland timber, with some bottomland timber, open grassland, shrubs and rock outcroppings. Some of the open grassland has been planted to prairie.

Over 290 species have been identified at the Center and over 360 species at Sherman. Sherman Park is predominantly upland timber with sand prairie remnants, prairie plantings, sand oak savanna, upland pothole marshes and a rock bluff. Five species of plants are on the Iowa Threatened and Endangered List; two of these are ferns. Royal fern, *Osmundas regalis*, is threatened and the daisy-leaved moonwort, *Botrychium matricariifolium*, is endangered. Led by Bob Bryant, Director of the Wapsi River E. Center, Quad City Native Plant Society Chapter President and fern enthusiast.

**9:00 - 11:30 AM – Sunday Morning Half-Day Field Trip Option 2****2. Illinois Trip – Black Hawk State Historic Site (Nature Preserve) in the city of Rock Island**

Stand at the Tower where Black Hawk looked out over the mighty waters of the Rock River. Walk back through ancient times preceding human history past glacial loess from the Ice Age, sandstone cliffs and shale from the tropical Coal Age and marine fossils encased in Devonian limestone formed some 350 million years ago. Then, a short walk through the tall grass prairie, established by school children in the 1980s, for a demonstration of fire equipment. Finally, a walk through the temperate native deciduous forest preserve, considered one of the three best of its kind on state lands in Illinois. Learn what is being done to help control the invasive plants found there. Our local fungi expert will be on hand to help you learn edible and poisonous fungi of the forest. If you ask, he can also share digital photography techniques learned from years of photographing nature. Meet at the Indian Statue in front of the Watch Tower Lodge Indian Museum on the south side of Black Hawk Road and let the journey begin. Leaders will be Julie Werthmann, Jim Frink and Bob Motz, members of the Illinois Native Plant Society.

## Hotels, Camping & Lodging

A complete listing of Hotels, Camping and Entertainment are available for those attending the Annual Joint Meeting from the QC Tourism Board at [www.visitquadcities.com](http://www.visitquadcities.com).

The closest hotel to both Augustana College and the Botanical Center is the Four Points by Sheraton (309-794-1212) in Rock Island. This hotel is also within walking distance of the Rock Island District, an Arts and Entertainment Area of the Quad Cities featuring restaurants and night life spots.

Hotels immediately across the river in downtown Davenport - Radisson Quad City Plaza (563-322-2200) - Howard Johnson Plaza (563-326-1786) - Radisson of John Deere Plaza in Moline, IL, on River Drive (309-764-1000)

Along the I-74 corridor in the center of the Quad Cities, there are many hotels available, which are easily accessed from the interstate upon arrival including Holiday Inn (563-355-4761), Marriott Courtyards (563-355-3999), Heartland Inn (563-355-6336), Super 8 (563-355-7341), Econo Lodge (563-355-6471) and The Lodge (563-359-7141).

Camping is also available at sites near the Quad Cities: West Lake Park, operated by the Scott County Conservation Board (563-328-3281) is just north of the intersection of I-280 and Hwy. 61, approximately 12 miles away from the QC Botanical Center and Augustana Campus along I-280 west of Davenport. Cost for campsites at West Lake Park range from \$11-\$17 per night.

Rock Island / Quad City KOA @ Camelot is located on the outskirts of Rock Island near I-280 approximately 10 miles from the Quad City Botanical Center and Augustana Campus. 2311 78th Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201 (309-787-0665)

The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center Dormitory will also be available for overnight lodging (bunkbeds, showers and rest rooms). You will need to provide your own bedding and meals. The Wapsi Center is located 1.5 miles northwest of Dixon, IA., and is approximately 40 minutes from the Quad City Botanical Center. Cost: \$8/night. Phone: (563) 328-3286 to reserve a bunk.

### Directions to the Quad City Botanical Center & Augustana College Campus

Complete driving directions to the Quad City Botanical Center and Augustana College are easily available at [www.mapquest.com](http://www.mapquest.com).

The Quad Cities is centrally located at the intersection of I-74 and I-80. Those coming from southern Illinois should proceed up I-55 / I-74 to the Quad Cities thru Peoria. Those coming from Iowa should come to the Quad Cities via I-80, Hwy 67 or Hwy 61 depending on your location. Eastern and Northern Illinois can utilize either I-80 or I-88 to reach the Quad Cities.

#### Botanical Center From I-74:

The Botanical Center is most easily accessed from I-74 by exiting on either the River Drive Exit if bound from Iowa or the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Exit if bound from Illinois in Moline. Then follow either major street west (down river) into Rock Island where their convergence is near the Augustana Campus Sports Fields. They merge to form 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Follow 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. further west until you reach an intersection splitting 5<sup>th</sup> avenue into two one-way roads and directing westbound traffic onto 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This intersection is directly in front of the Quad City Botanical/Center. If you cross streets below 24<sup>th</sup> in Rock Island, you went too far and need to turn around.

#### Augustana College From I-74:

The Augustana Campus is most easily accessed from I-74 by exiting on either the River Drive Exit if bound from Iowa, or the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Exit if bound from Illinois, in Moline. Then follow either major street west (down river) into Rock Island where their convergence is near the Augustana Campus Sports Fields. Turn south (uphill) on either 38<sup>th</sup> Street or 30<sup>th</sup> Street (depending on your original position) to reach 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and head into the campus on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to find parking lot H near the Sciences Building. If you reach the Quad City Botanical Center, you have gone too far. Entrances to the Science Building are on the east and west sides near the north end (away from the parking lot). Please consult the map included with the Registration Form.

#### Botanical Center From I-280:

For those coming from I-280 on the west side of the Quad Cities, exit at Ill. Rte 92 and head east into Rock Island. Rte. 92 becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and will take you under the Centennial Bridge, thru Downtown Rock Island, past the casino boat area and past the Arsenal Bridge Entrance. You will then reach an intersection with 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a one-way heading east. Make a left onto 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Eastbound and proceed to an intersection at 25<sup>th</sup> Street where the eastbound one-way 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue merges with the westbound 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and turn left onto 25<sup>th</sup> Street to head into the Botanical Center Parking Lot. You should see signs for the Botanical Center at that intersection. If you pass the Augustana Campus Sports Complex, you have gone too far on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and need to turn around.

#### Augustana College From I-280:

For those coming from I-280 on the west side of the Quad Cities, exit at Ill. Rte 92 and head east into Rock Island. Rte. 92 becomes 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and will take you under the Centennial Bridge, thru Downtown Rock Island, past the casino boat area and past the Arsenal Bridge Entrance. You will then reach an intersection with 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, a one-way heading east. Make a left on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Eastbound and proceed to a light-controlled intersection at 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Make a right turn at the light onto 30<sup>th</sup> Street heading up hill and proceed to a light controlled intersection at 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Make a left turn onto 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and proceed uphill again into the Augustana Campus. Parking Lot H will be on the right side near the top of the hill approximately 3 blocks from the 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. / 30<sup>th</sup> St. light. If you reach 38<sup>th</sup> Street, you have gone too far. Entrances to the Science Building are on the east and west sides near the north end (away from the parking lot). Please consult the map included with the Registration Form.

## FEES & REGISTRATION

Full Registration for the Annual Meeting will be \$50 and includes the mixer at Augustana College on Friday Evening and the banquet at the Quad City Botanical Center on Saturday Evening.

Saturday Only Registration for the Annual Meeting will be \$40 and includes the Saturday Evening Banquet Only.

Please fill out and mail the registration form to the address indicated with the registration fee.

**Silent Auction Items!!!!** Please bring items for the Saturday Night Silent Auction prior to the meeting with the name of the item and what it is worth so that bid sheets can be prepared ahead of time. Contact Randy Nyboer aka The Prairie Doc at [nyboer@inhs.uiuc.edu](mailto:nyboer@inhs.uiuc.edu) or 815 273-3184

## Joint Annual Meeting of Illinois and Iowa Native Plant Societies

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lodging for the Conference: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please remember to bring comfortable walking shoes and be prepared for weather; trips will proceed rain or shine.**

Please indicate your preferences for the different field trip & registration options below to help aid the Quad City Chapter in making the necessary provisions. Circle the desired trips (some group numbers may be limited) and meal preferences indicated below:

### Half-Day Trips

### All-Day Trips

Field Trip Schedule	Iowa	Illinois	Iowa	Illinois
Saturday Morning	Wildcat Den State Park	Collinson Research Site	Manikowski Prairie Maquoketa Caves	Palisades Park Lost Mound Prairie
Saturday Afternoon	Rochester Cemetery	Munson Cemetery		
Sunday Morning	Wapsi Education Center & Sherman Park	Black Hawk State Historic Site	N/A	N/A

You will receive an e-mail or mailed confirmation depending on the information provided.

All additional questions should be directed to [qc\\_inps@yahoo.com](mailto:qc_inps@yahoo.com) or for those without internet access, please call Alec Schorg, QC Chapter Secretary, at 563-940-2157 after 5:00 PM daily.

**Full Conference Registration : \$50.00      Saturday Registration Only : \$40.00**

Entrée Preference: Chicken Florentine or Roast Pork Loin

Salad Preference: Fruit or Mixed Greens or Pasta or Broccoli or House Garlic

Please remit completed form with payment to:  
 Illinois Native Plant Society  
 Quad City Chapter  
 936 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
 Rock Island, IL 61201



You will receive an e-mail or mailed confirmation depending on the information provided.

All additional questions should be directed to [qc\\_inps@yahoo.com](mailto:qc_inps@yahoo.com) or for those without internet access, please call Alec Schorg, QC Chapter Secretary, at 563-940-2157 after 5:00 PM daily.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Congratulations to the INPS 2006 Grant Recipients**

We're pleased to announce our 2006 grant award recipients. We have awarded a \$500 research grant to Iowa State University Ph.D. candidate Lars Brudvig for his study of the "Effects of restoration on oak savanna biodiversity, structure, and oak regeneration." His project will examine the effects of mechanical thinning and prescribed fire on white oak (*Quercus alba*) savannas along the west shoreline of Saylorville Lake.

We have also awarded a \$1000 restoration and management grant to Glenn Pollock of Omaha, NE for his "Vincent Bluff Savanna Restoration—Pilot Project." Glenn will be leading savanna restoration efforts on a 10-acre addition, acquired in 2005 in part with REAP funds, to the 31-acre Vincent Bluff Preserve, located on the southern edge of Council Bluffs. Efforts will include thinning trees on 1 acre of the site's overgrown savanna to test methods for restoring the remaining area.

We wish them well in their research and restoration efforts over the next year and look forward to their project reports in future issues of the newsletter! For more information about the grants, including the kinds of projects that are eligible and information for submitting a proposal, go to [www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/grantinfo.htm](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/grantinfo.htm).

### **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 16)

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Deadline for submitting information for the Summer Issue of the INPS Newsletter will be April 10, 2006. Send information to either Deb Lewis at [dlewis@iastate.edu](mailto:dlewis@iastate.edu) or Sandra Gossman at [srgossman@aol.com](mailto:srgossman@aol.com).

### ***In Memoriam***

Iowa has recently lost two outstanding conservationists. We remember and honor the accomplishments and contributions of our friends –

Joel C. Hanes, August 22, 1929 – September 15, 2005

Richard S. "Sandy" Rhodes, March 1, 1947 – November 28, 2005

### **'NATIVE PLANTS' MAGAZINE OFFER**

At no cost to INPS, we can offer our members a discounted subscription to the 'Native Plants' magazine published by the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. The ad free 'Native Plants' magazine educates people about the environmental necessity, economic value and natural beauty of native plants. The quarterly, 36 page magazine delivers timely, original information about the conservation, restoration and use of native plants to readers nation wide. In addition to how-to articles about different native plants, the magazine features topics like how fire heals native plant ecosystems, green roof gardening, urban forestry and invasive plant eradication. For more information about the magazine and the Wildflower Center go to <http://www.wildflower2.org/npin/magazine/premium.asp> or call (512)292-4200.

### **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](mailto:twiggp@unk.edu) (308) 865-8315 or [springerj@unk.edu](mailto:springerj@unk.edu) (308) 865-8920  
 Additional information: <http://napc2006.org/>

### **Request for Research and Inventory Proposals for State Preserves**

The State Preserves Advisory Board and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are soliciting proposals for inventory and research projects on state preserves. Proposals will be considered for biological, archaeological, geological, or historical inventories, management activities and other research for the state preserves program. Currently we anticipate having between \$30,000 and \$35,000 to fund several projects.

Funding is dependent on state appropriations that will be determined during the 2006 Legislative Session. The State Preserves Advisory Board and the DNR will not know if funds are available until early June. The Preserves Advisory Board will select projects at the April board meeting, contingent upon funding availability.

Examples of topics for proposed projects are inventories of flora and fauna, Phase I archaeological surveys, research of management issues, management activities, geomorphic studies, interpretation of preserves, or other innovative ideas.

The list of suggested sites and the procedure for applying are posted on the DNR website: <http://www.iowadnr.com/rfp.html> The deadline for applications is March 15, 2006.



## Iowa Prairie Network — Central Region Winter Meeting and Silent Auction February 18

This annual event will be held on February 18th at the Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny Campus, Bldg. 7. This meeting is free and open to the public. Doors open at noon, and the programs begin at 1 p.m. Program and presenters -Tom Rosburg (Drake University) reviewing the prairie restoration projects he's done with his students, who are paid from proceeds of our 2004 silent auction. Kelly Smith (Iowa DNR) will explain how she has helped Tom stretch the IPN money significantly by using Iowa DNR "Landowner Incentive Program" funds to match the IPN money.

Grassland bird identification and management tips by Bruce Ehresman (Iowa DNR)

A "Prairie Management Tools & Equipment" panel discussion/question & answer session led by Loren Lown (Polk Co. Conservation Board) and Carl Kurtz

A photo slide show titled "Things Worth Saving", presented by Ty Smedes (Ty Smedes Nature Photography)

All proceeds from the 7th annual silent auction, which will be held in conjunction with the winter meeting, will support the purchase of the Kothenbeutel Heritage Prairie. The silent auction's proceeds have grown each year, and last year's topped \$8000! The Kothenbeutel Prairie, which is being purchased by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, is a 40-acre parcel, with 32 acres of native prairie. The prairie has something for everyone — it is biologically and ecologically diverse, contains fossils similar to those at the Rockford Fossil and Prairie area in Floyd County, and also, following burns on the prairie, visible tracks of a stage-coach route can be seen.

## Johnson County Heritage Trust's Prairie Preview XXIII

Johnson County Heritage Trust's Prairie Preview XXIII will be held Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. and will be dedicated to the late Richard (Sandy) Rhodes. The presentation will be titled, "Indiangrass Hills . . . A Conservation Legacy". This year's speaker will be Mary Brown assisted by Judy Felder, Barby Buss and Ellen Hartz - all of whom were part of the Indiangrass Hills group and worked with Sandy on this 640 acre farm which they bought and have been restoring to native habitats.

Because it is such an important program for people in Johnson County who are interested in preserving and restoring our natural environment, Johnson County Heritage Trust has agreed to take over coordination of Prairie Preview from the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Prairie Preview program includes information and displays from your local environmental organizations and agencies. Refreshments will be provided. For further information please call Tammy Richardson (319) 857-4741.

Prairie Preview XXIII located at Montgomery Hall, 4-H Fairgrounds, 4265 Oak Crest Hill Road S. E., (Old Highway 218 South), in Iowa City.

## Dedication of the Paul Christiansen Prairie

Sunday, April 23, 1-4 p.m. Free event

Dedication of the Paul Christiansen Prairie. In recognition of Paul Christiansen's pioneering work to preserve and restore prairies and his commitment to educating people about biodiversity and prairies, please join the Indian Creek Nature Center, Cornell College, the Iowa Nature Conservancy, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Christiansen family to dedicate a prairie at the Nature Center as the Paul Christiansen Prairie. There will be light refreshments, live music, and a prairie planting. 1:30 p.m. Dedication Ceremony, 2-4 p.m. prairie planting (plants and shovels provided).

Indian Creek Nature Center, 6665 Otis Rd. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403, Call (319) 362-0664, [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org)

## 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.

There are sessions for people who like to hike, stay close to the site, sit at a picnic table, drive to other locations, sit indoors, and some sessions are special for children or families. The diversity and large number of sessions at the seminar promote the return of individuals year after year.

The seminar presents an excellent opportunity to learn about the plants and wildlife of the Loess Hills. Come immerse yourself in the natural history of the region. The outdoor experience is exceptional. If you desire to pitch a tent, camping is free at the site.

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](mailto:kistnerg@aea12.k12.ia.us). You can also call Gloria at: 712-274-6000, Ext. 6080 or 800-352-9040, Ext. 6080. Gloria can email you a more detailed summary of the seminar until the brochure is available. Dianne Blankenship is the new LHPS Coordinator ([bennaid@hotmail.com](mailto:bennaid@hotmail.com) or 712-255-3447).

To view the 2005 brochure, please visit the LHPS web site: <http://www.aea12.k12.ia.us/services/loesshillsseminar/>

This is the last year without an official registration fee. The optional meals must be pre-ordered and prepaid. One hour of graduate or AEA staff development credit is available for interested educators.

Please contact Gloria or Dianne with suggestions for programs or presenters.

This year's seminar is sponsored by the Western Hills Area Education Agency in cooperation with many organizations including the Iowa DNR, Monona County Conservation Board, INHF Agrestal Fund, and a REAP Conservation Education Program grant.

## **Garden of Discovery - a living history exhibit**

The Garden of Discovery is the living history exhibit at the Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Anyone interested in native plants should stop for a visit when passing through Sioux City. There are nine native plant gardens that were planted in 2004 and a Xeric Garden that was planted in late 2005. Work on the Xeric Garden continues into 2006. These gardens are home to about three hundred species of plants that grow in Iowa's prairies and the Great Plains. Featured are plants that Lewis and Clark found on their expedition. Plants are identified with signs inviting guests to wander along the paths. Lists of plants in bloom and in which garden they can be found are inside the Center. Lists of plants and information about them will soon be on the Center's website (<http://www.siouxcitylcic.com/index.htm>).

Also of special interest is the two-acre prairie planted by Jon Judson in 2003 with seed collected mostly from local remnant prairies. A Monticello Garden showcases a few plants Jefferson grew at his home, and an Indian Garden has the cultivated squash, corn, and beans that were important food sources at the time of the expedition.

Please feel free to contact the Native Garden Supervisor and Consultant, Dianne Blankenship ([bennaid@hotmail.com](mailto:bennaid@hotmail.com)), for more information.

The Sioux City Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, exit 149 off I-29, is a private, non-profit institution built and operated by Missouri River Historical Development, Inc. (MRHD).

### **IPN Region 6 Annual Winter Meeting**

Iowa Prairie Network Region 6 - Annual Winter Meeting – 'Potluck & Orchids', March 4, 2006, at Pioneer Ridge Nature Center, 6 miles south of Ottumwa on Hwy 63. There will be a potluck lunch starting at noon, at 1 PM Mark Leoschke (Iowa DNR) will give a presentation on "The Native Orchids of Iowa". For more information contact Pam White (641.673.3508, [pam-white@usa.net](mailto:pam-white@usa.net)) or Brant Schmell (641.898.7534, [bschmell@iowatelecom.net](mailto:bschmell@iowatelecom.net)). Everyone is welcome!

### **Prairie Hikes: Riverside Bluffs & Sioux City Prairie**

June 8 - 6:30 p.m. Prairie hike at Riverside Bluffs in Sioux City. Go to Kirk Hansen Park just east of West 19th St. and Riverside Blvd. Riverside Bluffs was purchased in the early 1990's with a REAP grant and is owned and managed by the Woodbury County Conservation Board. Contact: Dianne Blankenship ([bennaid@hotmail.com](mailto:bennaid@hotmail.com)) or WCCB (712-258-0838).

June 17 11:00 a.m. Prairie hike at Sioux City Prairie starting from the Briar Cliff University parking lot adjacent to the prairie. Sioux City Prairie is owned by the Iowa Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Contact: Dianne Blankenship ([bennaid@hotmail.com](mailto:bennaid@hotmail.com)) or Scott Moats ([smoats@tnc.org](mailto:smoats@tnc.org)).

## **ORCHID CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL GRANTS 2006**

from the NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION  
CAMPAIGN NEWS

Orchid Conservation International is pleased to announce that it is offering grants for projects directly related to orchid conservation. We will either provide a single grant of £5000, or make several smaller awards, depending on the projects submitted.

What will we fund? Although the following list is not exhaustive, it gives an indication of the types of projects that we will consider for funding.

- Establishing and maintaining organizations and management practices that protect orchids and their habitats.
- Studies of wild orchid populations
- Propagation techniques
- Educational projects

At present we are not able to fund

- Attendance at conferences
- Course fees
- Overheads
- Taxonomic projects, unless they have a direct conservation implication

Applications procedure and further details can be obtained from Philip Seaton (info below). Before submitting a final application you may find it useful to discuss your proposal with him. The deadline for submissions for grants for 2006 is 30th April, 2006. We expect to notify applicants of the outcome of their applications by 31st July, 2006.

Inquiries and applications should be mailed to:

Philip Seaton, Secretary - Orchid Conservation International,  
52 Shrubbery Street, Kidderminster, Worcs., DY10 2QY

Telephone: +44 (0)1562 742212

UK e-mail: [philip@seatonorchids.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:philip@seatonorchids.freeserve.co.uk)

Orchid Conservation International Ltd. is a Registered Charity

### **We have a need for seed!**

I grow native forb and grass seed for the Iowa DNR. This year across Iowa on public land we are seeding over 1800 acres with various mixes of natives. We strive to grow only local (3 zone Iowa origin seed). I recently heard Tom Rosburg speak about taking the extra step and making prairie reconstruction better for your area by including species unique to the area. I try to grow the common species that are spread across Iowa, but I do not have the unique species that are common to just a small portion of Iowa. On the other hand I provide seed for prairie reconstruction across the state and would like to take them the extra step and make them unique to that area. That is where I need your help. Do you have seed from a prairie remnant in your area? Would you be willing to donate it to the Iowa DNR to help make our public land a prairie treasure for all to experience? If you are willing please contact: Bill Johnson, Biologist, Prairie Seed Team, Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 515-432-2823 ext 107, [William.Johnson@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:William.Johnson@dnr.state.ia.us)

## 2006 Iowa SCORP

In November 2004 the Department started working on the next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) due December 31, 2006. The 2006 SCORP's primary function is to assess the supply of, and the demand for outdoor recreational opportunities, which will guide the development of an action plan for creating a wide base of recreational experiences for all Iowans to enjoy. Goals of this plan are to:

- \* Meet local recreation needs by providing close-to-home opportunities
- \* Increase availability of outdoor recreation resources to the public
- \* Enhance the quality of outdoor recreation resources
- \* Encourage state, county, city, and private sector planning for recreation to meet the needs of Iowans

Since last fall, a core committee of representatives (8 members) from the Department and County Conservation Boards has been meeting. This committee developed an RFP and conducted interviews for research and surveying services on outdoor recreation opportunities that Iowans are currently using or seeking. We selected the firm, Responsive Management, a public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, to ascertain the demographics of Iowans participating in outdoor activities, their attitudes toward outdoor recreation, issues impacting outdoor recreation participation, deficiencies of existing recreational opportunities and demand for new recreational opportunities.

Responsive Management has since conducted 8 focus group sessions (3 in urban areas and 5 in rural areas) around the state of Iowa. Data obtained from these sessions will be used to develop a telephone survey instrument that will be conducted by the firm's in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center. 1000 Iowan households will be randomly selected and contacted for this survey. Results will be delivered to the core committee by no later than February 2006.

After the results from the survey and focus groups have been delivered to the Department, the core committee will hold a report out and pre-planning workshop with all of the Department's Conservation and Recreation Stakeholder Groups. This workshop will take place sometime in late winter or early spring. Your comments during this workshop will be helpful in the development of the action plan for outdoor recreation.

If you have any questions about the SCORP planning process please do not hesitate to contact me. You can reach me by e-mail at [Michelle.Wilson@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Michelle.Wilson@dnr.state.ia.us) or by telephone at (515) 281-8675. So far this has been an exciting process and I look forward to your input for the future of outdoor recreation in Iowa.

Michelle Wilson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources-Conservation and Recreation Division  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319 Office: (515) 281-8675 Fax: (515) 281-6794 [Michelle.Wilson@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:Michelle.Wilson@dnr.state.ia.us)

### Fabulous Flora 2005 - 2006 Plant Identification and Appreciation

This hands-on field botany series gets you up close and personal with members of the plant kingdom. You will develop the tools needed to identify native flora by learning and practicing field botany skills. You will discover the characteristics of plants that show their relationships and seek out various native species in their natural setting. Our exploration will include visits to the prairie, upland forest, floodplain forest, and wetlands to appreciate the habitats where different groups of plants are found. We will meet at the Indian Creek Nature Center (6665 Otis Rd. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403) and utilize nearby areas for our field study.

This opportunity will be offered as a series of nine 2-1/2 hour sessions meeting 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. throughout the year beginning in September. Sessions may be attended separately or as a series.

Good physical condition is an asset for this course, since we will walk a lot, sometimes on uneven terrain.

Fabulous Flora is co-sponsored by Indian Creek Nature Center and the Cedar Rapids Garden Club/Blahnik Speakership Fund of the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation.

Instructor: Christine Kirpes

Cost for the series is \$10/session Members (\$80/course), \$15/session Non-Members (\$120/course).

Call (319) 362-0664, or email [janature@aol.com](mailto:janature@aol.com) <mailto:janature@aol.com> For more information or to register.

Session 6 - March 11 - Native vs. Introduced Plants, Problem Plants, Collection and preservation of plants and flowers

Session 7 - April 15<sup>th</sup> - Spring Ephemerals, Familiar Families, Adaptations for Woodland Life, Spring Flower Identification

Session 8 - May 13 - Wetland Flora, Important families. Aquatic Adaptations, Wetland Plant Identification

Session 9 - June 17 - Upland and Riparian Forests, Herbaceous Forest Plants and Vines, Weed Biology, Edible and Useful Weeds, Forest Plant and Weed Identification

## Rain Gardens and Prairie Plants: Grooming New Allies

By: Dan Mays, Walcott, IA  
January 2006

Recent Federal legislation is currently being phased in that requires municipalities and other entities to address storm water issues. As a society, we have been quite successful at collecting storm water but our disposal methods have relied upon 'getting rid of it' as quickly as possible. Sadly, this practice forces everyone downstream to bear the brunt of our collection efficiency. Obviously, if a community does not collect as much storm water, the problem becomes easier to address. Herein lays the potential for the establishment of rain gardens throughout communities.

'Rain Garden' is simply clever terminology for a small water retention area. It is designed to capture water from existing gutters and hard surfaces and hold it in a shallow depression long enough to allow the captured water to soak into the ground. The word 'garden' is used to accentuate the concept that these areas should be visually pleasing. Because of the typically deep-rooted nature of native plants, they are the plants of choice.

Rain gardens offer the potential to expose a tremendous number of the general public to the largely unknown wonders of our native flora. If rain gardens become a popular way to ameliorate storm water issues, the ranks of prairie advocates could begin to swell. However, if standard rain gardening advice continues as typically offered, a public backlash could result.

The problem lies not in the science but rather in the lack of aesthetic appeal to the general public. For most people, utilizing native plants in an urban setting is a practice still in its infancy. Due to a dearth of people knowledgeable about prairie plants, we have practiced the advice from naturalists who specialize in open prairie settings and restorations. While their science is good, urban aesthetics is not their strong suit. The standard advice for rural areas begins to falter in the urban, residential landscape. We are simply painting with too broad a brush.

Rain gardens have mistakenly been applying the standard advice: "Plant a broad spectrum of native plants and then see what survives." Think about that for a moment... Who can honestly call that technique, 'design'? It isn't – and it shows. Instead of randomly broadcasting a plethora of plants, one needs to instead select a few native plants that most embody highlights of the prairie. It is folly to attempt replicating the diversity of a prairie on small parcels because that essential prairie element, vastness, will never exist. One must rely upon what I call, "Capturing the essence of the prairie."

As a hypothetical example: The classic recommendation for a 160 square foot (16' X 10') rain garden would be one plant per square foot. The typical plant list would be comprised of about sixteen different species with ten species of each, randomly scattered throughout the bed – diversity being the catchword. While diversity certainly has great merit in a natural setting, it offers almost zero aesthetic value in a home landscape featuring native plants. Instead, a sense of visual chaos unwittingly develops into that dreaded WASP attack. ('WASP' is an acronym for Wild And Scary Prairie.)

Reduce the plant palette of our hypothetical example to four or five species planted in mass groupings of thirty-five to forty plants. The same number of plants will be used but a sense of order has been imparted to the design. Instead of the eye randomly bouncing from plant to plant, drifts of individual species calmly offer visual saturation. Show me a plant of Little Bluestem and it is interesting. Show me a mass planting of Little Bluestem and it is stunning!

If we approach urban native plantings from a design perspective instead of a restoration perspective, the public is more likely to embrace and hopefully join our efforts in the field.

### *Continued from page 1*

field studies in the mid-twentieth century were done by graduate students. They provided valuable data, but usually the list for any particular county was limited by the large number of counties in the study and by the time limitations of graduate students. Jimmie's work is especially valuable because he has the time needed to do a much more complete inventory of an area and the desire to do a thorough job.

Jimmie is self-taught and self-motivated, and prefers to work alone, in control of his own schedule. Besides his plant inventory work, he has had a long-time interest in Native American artifacts, and has found and recorded with the State Archaeologist's office about 250 Native American sites in central Iowa counties. He and Deb Lewis were the originators and successful campaigners for the use of Iowa biologist Ada Hayden's name for the recently completed new Ames city park—it has been named the Ada Hayden Heritage Park. Why is he doing all this? He will tell you that it is because of his love of the outdoors and for the pleasure of adding to the botanical knowledge of Iowa for others to use, enjoy and learn from. Or simply that he is doing it for the fun and satisfaction he gets from these projects.

Super, Jimmie.

# Enhancement of a Recovering Native Prairie

Amy L. Carolan and Laura L. Jackson  
University of Northern Iowa

There are very few native prairie remnants left undisturbed in Iowa. Through the work of my graduate advisor, Dr. Laura Jackson, I have been lucky enough to obtain access to one of these prairies. This seven-acre area, known as Daubendiek Prairie, contains a large amount of species diversity including: yellow lady's-slipper orchid (*Cypripedium pubescens*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), prairie phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), and three species of blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*, *Liatris aspera* and *Liatris ligulistylis*), just to name a few. In the past, about half of Daubendiek Prairie was once plowed and put into crop production; however, due to very wet soil types in the area it was soon returned to "unproductive" farmland. In the sixty years since crop production ceased, the native plants have started to reestablish themselves in the disturbed area. In terms of native species diversity, there is now a definite difference between the undisturbed portion and the disturbed portion of the native prairie.

An ongoing study by myself, Dave Williams, and Laura Jackson, has shown that over-seeding an area with native forb seed and then frequently mowing the area (about every third week) can enhance the diversity of an existing stand of vegetation without destroying the established plants. Using these findings, I began a similar study in May of 2005 at Daubendiek Prairie; the main goal was to increase species diversity in the disturbed portion of the prairie.

To begin this experiment, two 10m x 10m blocks were established in the disturbed portion of Daubendiek Prairie. The two blocks were each divided into four 5m x 5m plots and assigned to one of four treatments: mowed and seeded, mowed and not seeded, unmowed and seeded, and unmowed and not seeded (because there are two blocks each treatment had two replicates). The unseeded plots are used as a control to determine if the area is receiving seed naturally from nearby plants. The unmowed plots are used to determine if mowing helps increase germination and establishment of new plants. The mowing treatment began on May 25th and occurred every two weeks throughout the growing season.

To obtain seed for the plots in the seeded treatments, UNI students Kellie Evers, Robert Leavell, and I began collecting seed from plants on the undisturbed portion of Daubendiek Prairie. Over the Spring and Summer of 2005, seed was collected from: valerian (*Valeriana edulis*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), swamp saxifrage (*Saxifraga pennsylvanica*), white wild indigo (*Baptisia lactea*), rattlesnake master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*), bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), stiff goldenrod (*Solidago rigida*), thimble weed (*Anemone cylindrica*), grey-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), meadow blazingstar (*Liatris ligulistylis*), prairie blazingstar (*Liatris pycnostachya*), rough blazingstar (*Liatris aspera*), monarda (*Monarda fistulosa*), wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), virginia mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*), Ohio spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohioensis*), Kalm's brome grass (*Bromus kalmii*) and indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*). The plots that are to receive the seeded treatment will be broadcast seeded in early March of 2006.

In May of 2006, we plan to start monitoring our plots for seedling germination. Based on our previous work, we believe that the plots receiving a seeding and mowing treatment will have increased germination and establishment of native plants as compared to unmowed and unseeded control plots. If we find our method to be successful, we will expand our study site to include more of the recovering portion of Daubendiek Prairie. The Iowa Native Plant Society made this research possible through grant money, allowing us to commute to the study site every two weeks. Please check in with us next year for an update on this exciting project!

Figure 1: This is a photo of two of our mowed plots (they are side by side) at Daubendiek Prairie. Notice that the area around the plot is lacking in diversity and woody plants are invading.



# The Effects of Nitrogen on the Competitive Ability and Establishment of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)

Renae Schmitt

Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology  
Iowa State University

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) is an invasive biennial plant species that has become abundant in many Iowa forests. Its presence in forest understories is correlated with decreases in native herbaceous species. Increased nitrogen pollution from agriculture, altered forest disturbance regimes, traits such as early spring emergence and high seed output, allelopathy, and lack of insect herbivores are factors that may increase population sizes and the spread of garlic mustard. For part of my PhD research I am conducting field and greenhouse experiments to address how these factors contribute to the population growth and spread of garlic mustard.

In Spring 2005, I established plots in Brayton Forest (Delaware County) to determine the effects of disturbance and nitrogen on garlic mustard (GM) rosette growth and survival. I manipulated disturbance by removing litter and living plants and altered nitrogen levels by adding urea. I then added GM seeds that had been cold, moist-stratified in refrigerators to the plots. Throughout the growing season I monitored the number of new GM rosettes, the number and size of naturally established rosettes, number of adults, and percent cover of native plants and GM.

Unfortunately, very few GM seeds germinated in this experiment so I could not test if disturbance and nitrogen affected rosette establishment. However, I was able to determine the effects of disturbance and nitrogen on percent cover of native plants and naturally established GM. I found that percent cover of native plants and GM decreased with increased disturbance and remained low throughout the summer as expected. However, wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*) covered 80-100% of some plots regardless of the disturbance treatment. Nitrogen did not affect percent cover of native plants or GM.

I also established nitrogen plots in Brayton Forest and Hitchcock Nature Area (Pottawattamie County) to determine the effects of nitrogen on established GM populations. I again added urea to the plots and monitored the number and survival of GM rosettes throughout the season. I found that rosette mortality increased with increased nitrogen. This is probably because some plots had high soil nitrogen levels before urea additions and higher nitrogen levels became toxic to young rosettes. However, there were more large rosettes (10 cm in height) in plots with the highest nitrogen additions at the end of the growing season. I marked surviving rosettes in the fall and plan to monitor them as adults in 2006.

I will repeat these experiments with improvements including adding GM seeds to the plots earlier and monitoring natural soil nitrogen levels. In addition, I will conduct greenhouse experiments to determine the effects on nitrogen on GM growth and survival. I predict that disturbance and nitrogen will benefit GM populations, but I will have to consider how other factors such as reduced insect herbivory and allelopathy will affect GM population growth. In considering all factors, I hope that I will be able make suggestions on how to better control this invasive species.

I would like to thank the Iowa Native Plant Society for granting funds toward supplies for this project. I would like to acknowledge my graduate advisor Kirk Moloney for his assistance and advice. In addition, I want to acknowledge the Iowa State University Plant Sciences Institute and the George Washington Carver Fellowship Program for funding my graduate education.



**Iowa Native Plant Society**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2005, Clear Lake, IA**

The meeting was called to order ~10:15 a.m. There were no treasurer or secretary reports available to approve. The membership directory needs to be updated. The last addition was 2001-2003. Rosanne Healy is willing to update it for us, but would also be willing to pass the task on to another member. It was noted that the email discussion list had 252 members as of January 2004. The number of paid INPS members was estimated at 130. Christine Taliga of Williamsburg has accepted the secretary position and nominations are sought for treasurer and representatives at large.

**Old Business.** The 2004 grant recipients were announced and revised grant program guidelines and an evaluation procedure were discussed. Deb Lewis moved that the available grant money be capped at \$2000 (as recommended at the January board meeting), the restoration/management category be capped at \$1250, and priority given to fully funding applications. Motion was seconded by David Novak. Mark Leoschke cast a protest vote. Funding will be available to both public and private landowners for restoration/management but private landowners will be required to have a conservation easement in place. The following wording was approved for the application form “no funding for salaries at academic institutions or agencies, or agency overhead.” Motion made to approve by Carl Kurtz, second by Lloyd Crim. Matching funds will be “encouraged” in the grant application form, with preference given to applicants with matching funds during the evaluation process.

Providing the newsletter in an electronic form was discussed. Deb Lewis and Sandy Gossman will notify members through newsletters, the INPS email discussion list, and INPS website that members can receive their newsletter electronically. The newsletter will also be available through the INPS website.

**New Business.** Deb Lewis reported on the INPS membership to the REAP Alliance. Members discussed whether the INPS should continue renewing the annual \$100 membership. No decision was made.

The need for more publicity for field trips and the annual meeting was discussed. MJ Hatfield will share a statewide list of newspaper contacts with Christine Taliga. Members agreed that press releases about plants blooming in various parks across the state would help promote native plants. Linda Scarth volunteered (via a previous email) to work on a system for submitting the press releases.

Anna Gardner and Linda Scarth are encouraged to develop our website further, solicit input and contributions, and to add more images. We have 5 displays to promote the INPS at various events. Carl Kurtz suggested designing them as posters that could be easily updated and printed on a plotter. The posters could also be rolled and shipped easier. Several members agreed this would be a very desirable form of publicity, one that could easily be sent to libraries and schools. It was also agreed, though, that a table-top display is also still desirable and that it would be helpful to purchase easels that could be packaged with the current 5 poster board displays. Dianne Blankenship would like to have a display to be kept at the Lewis and Clark Discovery Center in Sioux City and Bill Watson indicated the Cedar Falls Public Library would welcome an INPS display.

Larissa was contacted by Bohdan Dziadyk, president elect of the Illinois Native Plant Society, about a joint annual meeting May 19-21, 2006 in the Quad Cities area. The proposed cost (\$40-50 for Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning) was a concern for some members. Suggestions were to pursue the joint meeting, but suggest that at least some of the dinners be optional (to reduce cost for some attendees), that the INPS have a time slot for a formal presentation, and a place available for an INPS display. Mark Leoschke was asked to help coordinate field trips in eastern Iowa with Bob Bryant.

The future of the INPS was discussed at length. There are concerns about the lack of interest by members in accepting leadership positions, difficulties building membership, and maintaining the identity of the INPS when coordinating joint meetings with other organizations. One observation was the lack of faculty members among meeting attendees and in the membership overall. Members agreed that we need to reach out to graduate students and high school biology teachers as well. Bill Blankenship suggested we explore other native plant societies to develop a model that works for Iowa. David Novak suggested boosting membership by giving complimentary 1-yr memberships like the Iowa Woodland Owners Association does after people attend a Woodland Managers class. A few groups that might receive these memberships include graduates from Master Conservationist classes and Master Gardeners. MJ Hatfield explained past efforts to incorporate, specifically, a session on native plants in the Master Gardeners curriculum, but also explained the difficulty in convincing Don Lewis to make the change. David Novak suggested devoting some time specifically to visioning and conceptualizing goals and objectives of the INPS. It was agreed that we need to continue this discussion. The meeting was adjourned ~12:10 p.m.

**Program.** Bill Johnson, seed harvest team manager for the IDNR, provided a very informative introduction to the Union Hills Wildlife Management Area. Following lunch, members toured Union Hills. A few waterfowl, including ruddy ducks, were observed in the restored wetlands and the prairie remnants revealed, most notably, the white lady-slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*).

Respectfully submitted,  
Larissa Mottl, President

**Treasury Report** as of 1/23/06 checking account \$10,111.59 and savings account \$70 balance. The 2006 grant award disbursements (\$1500 total) are not reflected in the checking balance.

## INPS MEMBERSHIP/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM AND SURVEY

Send with your 2006 dues of \$10.00 to

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional information or special interest for member directory entry \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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. Use this form for changes of address.

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

**To subscribe to the Iowa Native Plant Society Internet List**-(exchange information, receive reminder notices etc.) To Subscribe - address: [iowa-native-plants-request@list.uiowa.edu](mailto:iowa-native-plants-request@list.uiowa.edu) Subject: no subject

Message: subscribe (your email address)

### NEWSLETTER

**Iowa Native Plant Society**

**c/o Deb Lewis**

**Department of EEOB**

**Iowa State University**

**Ames, IA 50010-1020**