



Erythronium

Newsletter of the Iowa Native Plant Society

vol. 16 no. 1 January 2010

Editor's note: This issue of Erythronium is dedicated to Dr. Lois Tiffany, who passed away on September 6, 2009. The issue includes several tributes, including the following one made at the Memorial Service on September 19th by Dr. Tiffany's daughter.

Dr. Lois H. Tiffany (1924-2009)



By Jean T. Day

I would like to first thank Mark Kane, staff and board members of the Iowa Arboretum for their kind welcome and assistance as we gather here to remember my mother and celebrate her life.

Mother led mushroom walks and had given lectures here many times over the years. Actually, her last public mushroom talk was given here several years ago. One of her former students, Peter Vander Linden, was the first director of the Arboretum. It has been nice to reflect on these connections as I prepared for this evening.

I was sharing with Rosanne Healy the memory of how much Mother had enjoyed sitting with KC kitty on her lap when visiting at our home. Rosanne remarked that she didn't realize that Mom liked cats. I was surprised, and asked, hadn't she heard about Mom and the kittens on the farm when she was a little girl? When Rosanne replied no, I decided that it might be good to speak tonight, to share a few memories from the non-academic side of her life.

One of Mom's favorite childhood memories was of playing with the barnyard kittens, rather than with dolls. She preferred to dress kittens up in dolly clothes. She said there was usually at least 1 kitten from

each litter that she could tame enough to be able to play with, dress up and push around in her doll buggy. Occasionally one of the dressed kittens would escape and go running off across the barnyard -- dress, bonnet and all.

When Mom first told me this story, it was simply about the fun she had as a little girl. Later, when I was older, she would also remark that she didn't know how *HER* mother

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Leaves of the President's Notebook...

Station Identification

I concluded an excellent summer with a weekend trip to the University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS). My dissertation chair, Edward G. Voss, was being honored for his life's achievements and the Michigan Botanical Club had organized a mini-foray to coincide with the event.

I had plenty of time during the drive back to Sioux City to reflect on how UMBS (and Ed Voss) had influenced my career path. Two years after college graduation, I spent a summer session at the Station taking Ed's Boreal Flora class while conducting a botanical survey of the then proposed Round Island Wilderness in the Straits of Mackinac. Among my goals were to broaden my perspective beyond that which could be provided by my graduate program at Michigan State, continue my interest in Michigan wilderness (my Masters thesis was centered on another of the proposed areas) and become better acquainted with Dr. Voss, who had invited me to attend.

By the end of that summer I had accomplished those goals plus I was fully grounded in the flora of northern Michigan, increasingly confident in conducting botanical inventories, and committed to pursuing research on islands in Lake Michigan. Ed and I had even agreed that, were I eventually accepted at U-M, I would investigate the floras of the Manitou and Fox islands under his direction.

My eventual participation in a PhD program in Ann Arbor would wait a few years. During the interim, however, Ed recommended me to serve as UMBS's primary investigator for a NPS-funded botanical survey of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore's North and South Manitou islands. Anticipated grants for continued botanical study at Sleeping Bear were delayed a year, so I spent the following summer managing the UMBS stockroom. That fall I initiated my graduate work at the main campus with subsequent field research at Sleeping Bear funded by federal grants awarded to the Station.

Like myriads of other students who summered at UMBS and similar biological stations, I enjoyed the intensive investigation, the camaraderie of fellow campers, and overall ambiance of the outdoor classroom. Naturally, I am pleased that two of my students have pursued similar experiences. Long may such opportunities continue.

Brian T. Hazlett

Dr. Lois H. Tiffany

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could have stood to watch her dressing and playing with the kittens like that. You see, her mother was an excellent seamstress and those were not simple doll clothes—but beautiful, lovingly made clothes with hand smocking, embroidery, tatting and crochet work. Mom was so appreciative of being allowed that freedom -- all part of a happy childhood.

Mom's childhood picture in the memorial folder was taken on her first day of school, Sept. 2, 1929. She told me she was very excited about her first day—and excited to wear the new dress her mother had sewn. So, there you have it, a look at the very beginning of her academic career.

I think many of you have heard Mom give her parents credit for helping her build such a “good foundation” for her life. I found this picture the other day and thought you might enjoy seeing her parents, Charlie and Blanche, who provided a loving home and contented childhood for Mom, in spite of all the difficulties of the depression years.

You may have wondered what it was like for me growing up with a mycologist mother. Part of it, most of you would expect. I was indeed learning about fungi and their common names—such as inky caps and puffballs, even as a preschooler. Mom started me on spring ephemerals and trees when I was about 6. And OK, many of you have heard about my first encounter with poison ivy when I was a preschooler—and you better believe from that moment on, I was drilled to identify poison ivy. Leaves of 3, let it be! Field trips and collecting fungi were part of my life from my earliest memories. And, how many other children got to take slime molds to school and show everyone how you could feed them oatmeal (old fashioned only) and watch them grow? All of this was so truly special and wonderful. How lucky we were!

There was also another side of growing up with Mom, which I think came from the practical, Iowa farm girl she had been. In many ways, I was raised very much as she had been. She taught me how to

manage a household, cook, bake, sew, preserve foods from the garden -- all along with her sharing stories of her childhood and her mother, who had died before I was born. Again, how lucky I was!

I know there have been, or will be stories tonight of the dynamic duo—Dr. K and Dr. T., but there are few people here that would remember another important botanist in her life, Dr. Joseph C. Gilman. He was Mother's major professor, mentor and along with his wife Louise, was much loved.

Mom has told me that Dr. Gilman treated everyone with the utmost courtesy and respect, whether a custodian or university president. I've always thought Mom did exactly the same. As I listened and watched her over the years, I never heard her be impatient or condescending to anyone. I always admired how she tailored her discussion or answers to her current audience, whether addressing her peers, explaining fungi to children, groups at public lectures, or the person who showed up on the doorstep (usually at dinnertime) asking whether they had found a toadstool or a mushroom. I have felt fortunate to be able to watch her “in action” all these years.

We have been reflecting on what my mother meant to us. I would like to remind all of you, and thank you, for all you meant to her. She would always share with me when one of you had phoned, or visited, or if news of you was passed along to her. She would remind me of when you had been a student, or of how she had known you. She always followed what you were doing with interest. Often people would tell me, “I took your mom's class, but I wasn't a very good student.” Well, I never heard a word about that from her. It was always her interest in what you were doing, her concern if you were having difficulties, and her delight with your accomplishments. So, thank you for all that you have given my mother, most especially your friendship, caring, and support through the years.

Eulogy to Dr. T:

Being a 1971 Iowa State University graduate majoring in Botany, I am sure that most of you know that I got to know personally Dr. Tiffany and Dr. Knaphus. These two individuals molded and changed the lives of so many ISU students in their guiding of their future(s). Well, I was no exception to that either. Both played a tremendous role in developing not only my love and understanding of the role Botany would play in my life, but also in the nurturing and enveloping me as a whole person from the philosophies of these two individuals. But the best that we got was ‘The Deal, We got Both! And I am sad that future ISU students will not get to know those friendly and probing faces as these students walk the ISU campus and entwine their life as students preparing to lead and work with thoughts that they have garnered while at ISU. Even my daughters, all of whom are science teachers in SE Iowa have been impacted by Dr. T’s thoughts and views and botanical influence. And my oldest daughter Alicia Schiller also became a Botany graduate from ISU, probably one of the last Botany majors before the ultimate change in departments at ISU. We probably represent the only father/daughter combination that graduated from ISU with a true major in Botany, and both of us being befriended by Dr. T and Dr. K.

Dr. T became my advisor, teacher, mentor and friend. She was as passionate about her commitment to me and her other advisees as she was to her love of fungi. And when I think about her Memorial Service being held at the Iowa Arboretum, I think of what a good choice, but at the same time, this Memorial Service for Dr. T could equally be held at Shimek State Forest or at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory or at Waubonsie State Park or at Backbone State Park. Or even at the Green River Valley in Utah or at Lake Lacey State Park. Really all of these places were loved by Dr. T, not only for her fungi, but for the magnificent scenery and her love to get out-of-doors to enjoy nature and the plants that abound.

You know Dr. T always had her nose to the ground. And she had a way of getting her students



noses in the ground, looking for those fungal specimens that always seem to lurk mysteriously in nooks and crannies. She was always collecting, and I always wondered if her middle name couldn’t be synonymous with Vasculum. It was always with her and was always a part of who she was and who she represented.

I also know that Dr. T loved to camp and to teach all of the newcomers to the Botany Club how to prepare a great meal over the open fire. Remember the BBQ chicken, sleeping under the tarps with a skiff of snow over the top, making campfire coffee with ISU-issued cheesecloth, those campfire cakes?

And those Morels! She was always calling me and asking, “Ernie, have you found any of those Morels yet this spring? And could you part with some and send them to ISU, we are collecting data.”

She was a great gal, a great pal, a great advisor, a great researcher, a great teacher, a great person, and a great comrade and friend. Dr. T was a tough cookie in and out of the classroom, but we lucked out as students, as we got ‘The Real Deal’. We got both her and Dr. K. Both of these are irreplaceable. We live in a different time, and as I reflect, students at ISU under these two great people received more than a college education, they gained ideals for a life time.

Sincerely,

Ernest Schiller, Botany Grad 1971

Dr. Lois H. Tiffany

In the words of Alicia D. Schiller-Holland, 2002 ISU Graduate: B.S. in Botany and a Minor in Science Education

Growing up I always was hearing stories about the amazing “Dr. T”. Why was I always hearing these amazing stories as a child, you ask? Well, my father was a Botany graduate from ISU in the 70’s and then passed on the stories about all the campouts and memories that he had experienced as a result.

I cannot recall the first time that I actually met Dr. Tiffany, but I have a fond memory of my first official science business related meeting with her. It was in the fall of 1994, I was a freshman in high school and determined to start my science fair project related to plants in some way. My dad set up a meeting with Dr. Tiffany and Dr. Knaphus (Dr. K) at ISU, where I sat down and talked over what I wanted to do with my research and how best I could develop a project that would allow growth of study during my high school years. I vividly remember walking into Dr. K’s office, a bit overwhelmed by its immense feeling of fullness. A few moments after walking in and sitting down, in walked Dr. Tiffany with coffee and cookies for all of us. Over the morning snacks they helped me narrow down a project investigating acid precipitation and its effects on agricultural crops. Dr. Tiffany provided me with my first roll of Crepe Cellulose for germinating my seeds, which over the four year of research lead me to the International Science and Engineering Fair two times in my high school career, to compete with the best high school researchers across the world. I also remembered Dr. T and Dr. K judging me each year at the State of Iowa Science Fair for the “Botany” award. They always probed me for my understanding of botany concepts, as well as getting to know me as a person. They were always good at that.

Upon graduating from high school I applied to Iowa State University in 1997 majoring in Botany. This was my dream for as long as I

could remember, or at least since I was in third or fourth grade. I had the pleasure of having Dr. Tiffany as my college advisor while at Iowa State University. The first few months of college I was so nervous, and she was always there to lend an ear or give me words of advice and encouragement. Her door was always open, and she was always willing to put down whatever she was working on to help me plan my classes for the next semester or to talk about my student teaching experience(s) or just catch up about my life and my family.

In my mind I can picture Dr. Tiffany in her office reading a journal article or looking into her microscope, and looking up as I walk in her office door, and greeting me with that big smile and a friendly hello.

Dr. Tiffany is an Iowa State University legend and such an icon for all researchers. She will be missed tremendously, but will always live on through our memories, stories and in my family’s case, our campfire meals, and camping adventures. Thank you Dr. Tiffany for all of your love, support and encouragement! ---And most importantly, thank you for being my mentor and my friend.



A Reminder, and a Big Thank You

As we start a new year, it's time to check to see if you are up-to-date on your dues. Check the mailing label if you get the newsletter by mail – it should have the most recent year paid noted on it. A renewal form is included in the newsletter. Note that your dues should be sent to Peter Hoehnle, at the same address as you've been using to mail your dues to Christine Taliga: Iowa Valley RC&D, 920 48th Ave., Amana, IA 52203.

Thank you, Christine, for serving as our Secretary/Treasurer for the past four years! We wish you all the best as you move from Iowa to a new home and new job!

New Wildflower Cards

Created especially for the Iowa Native Plant Society

A four-card set featuring photographs by Carl Kurtz appearing on the INPS Tallgrass Prairie Wildflower Poster is ready for your handwritten greeting or note. Select either notecards (3.5" x 4.9") or larger cards (4.9" x 6.8").

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Proceeds will promote conservation, education, and appreciation of Iowa's native plants through the INPS small grants program directed at preservation, restoration, and research of native plant communities.

Dr. Tiffany

Laura McCormick, September 19, 2009

I met Dr. Tiffany on the first day of classes at Iowa State in August 1970. I was a 19-year-old New Jersey girl who had come to Iowa State as a pre-vet student the year before. Realizing that wasn't quite right for me and following consideration over that summer, I had been directed that day to the office of a Dr. Knaphus in Bessey Hall to see about changing my major to botany. I met Dr. T. and Dr. K. when I walked through that door, and that day changed my life!

We are all here because we know – we have experienced and benefited from, each in our own way, the wonderfulness of Dr. Lois Hattery Tiffany. I know that whatever words I find to try to express it will not be good enough, whatever superlatives I might use will not even begin to approximate it...

I had many opportunities to benefit from Dr. T.'s wisdom and nurturing over the years. While an undergraduate, Dr. T. was my advisor and I also did some hourly work for her in her lab. I participated in a number of the invaluable Botany Club 10-day camping trips to Big Bend or Utah. There were a few occasions when I stayed at her house for several days at a time; she kept boxes of my stuff for me for years while I was out and about in the world. She was on my committee when I was a plant pathology graduate student, and for about 10 years starting in 1994, I was her Saturday employee, driving up to Ames from Fairfield on most Saturdays during the school year – weather permitting – to help her prep for class, transfer cultures, prepare media, defrost refrigerators, bring her whatever fungi I had collected for use in class, and do whatever she wanted me to do that day. This would seem not a practical or economically reasonable thing to do... but it kept me well-connected to Dr. T., and that made it a bargain for me. She would always have purchased some sweet rolls from Fareway, and we would sit and drink coffee and talk about whatever we felt like talking about until the conversation came to a natural end. Then she

Dr. Tiffany

continued..

would orient me to the day's work, she'd head home, and I'd work in the lab the rest of the day and then drive home.

When she was on the Preserves Board in 1999, it was Dr. T. who suggested to me that I apply to do the botanical inventories of the two state preserves in my county. Did she think I could do that? Yes! Then she supported me totally during that project. When I was doing the herbarium work, I would work in the herbarium all day Saturday, and then stay over at her house, often showing up at 10PM, whereupon she would feed me, and then, or in the morning over coffee, we'd talk about whatever botanical details were on my mind at the time. Then I'd work more in the herbarium on Sunday before driving back to Fairfield. At one point when I was getting a little overwhelmed with the variability of oak leaves and making sure I was identifying all my specimens correctly, after I told her what oaks I had listed already, Dr. T. had said, "That's enough oaks."

She never called any attention to my mistakes, being so sensitive not to cause any embarrassment or loss of confidence - like the time (in the early 70's) she needed more hemp seeds to grow the aquatic fungus *Saprolegnia* on, and I volunteered that I would go collect her some. I found wild hemp with seeds out on the edge of the woods somewhere and brought it back to Dr. T.'s lab after everyone was gone, and since it was getting late I left the seed-laden plant tops on a cart there to deal with later. You know that cart in the corner by the sink and the coffee pot? But that was a Friday afternoon! When I came into Dr. T.'s lab sometime on Monday there was no hemp to be seen. After asking a few questions I finally heard about - in a very low key way that put absolutely no blame on me - how Dr. Pohl had come into Bessey on Monday morning and flown into a rampage because the whole third floor reeked of marijuana!

Dr. T. - such a positive, giving person, always supporting what would further education or achievement or advancement or growth, always

supporting and giving you space to follow your own heart, no matter how unreasonable your decision might seem to others at the moment.

I've seen her get teary-eyed while talking about Pearl Harbor or the assassination of Lincoln.

And what a great sense of humor - how else could I have turned in as part of my fungal collection for mycology class a golf ball labeled *Scleroderma elastica*?

Can't you just see that little bundle of energy quickly and purposefully heading down the hall in Bessey? Or how, in the midst of a conversation, she would elfin-like put up her finger, look at you from corner of her eye, smile, disappear for a minute, and then come back with the absolutely appropriate page in a book or paper?

I know I stayed a child too long.

I hope that at some point in the future all of her patient, gracious nurturing that's been smoldering in me all these years will burst forth into glorious flame that will warm her heart. But I know she's not worried about it. As she said to me in her usual positive, supportive fashion in the last conversation we had earlier this year, "You still have time."

Time to do even more

To make even more of a difference in the world

To support more strongly the education of younger people

To invest more generously in the minds of the future

To stand more seriously in the service of preserving our beautiful natural world

Ray, Jean, Dave - thank you for sharing your Mom with me.

Dr. T. - thank you for everything, I love you, and I will catch up with you later!

From a student's perspective:

By Rosanne Healy

I had the great good fortune to be one of Dr. Tiffany's students, a life-changing experience for me. In sharing some of my memories, I hope that the examples I choose will highlight aspects of her personality and the teaching style that made her so exceptional.

Dr. Tiffany's mentoring style was to treat students as full adults with all the responsibility that entails. The effect was to foster independence, a trait we all admired in her. She was always ready to answer questions and give advice. I was struck early on by her respectful approach manifested by the use of sticky notes rather than writing directly over somebody's work, and her use of phrases such as "This is just a suggestion" when critiquing a paper.

The best aspects of her teaching came through in labs. She used beautiful color slides of the organisms we would be looking at, slides that brought you into the woods to see the marvels of fungi or slime mold fruiting. Her labs often required you to do some collecting and observation on your own. This was a wise way to invest the students in their own learning. She told me about an exercise that was particularly effective for a botany class that she taught some years ago. She had the students choose a shrub to observe over the course of the semester, keeping a diary of any changes that took place. The students were amazed at how much they learned through this simple observational exercise.

Some of her best advice regarded self-discipline, which she referred to as "clean living and self-denial". Throughout her long career, she wrote numerous research, review, and extension papers; kept up with the mycological literature for her classes, served on many student committees and provided literature peer review. I once asked her how she was able to keep up with all of it. I never saw her rushing around to get something done at the last minute. She replied that she sometimes had to take herself by the nape of the neck and make herself sit down to do the work. The image was humorous, but it comes back to me when I am

faced with multiple imminent deadlines. Another example of self-discipline came in the form of her phrase "old friend" for a fungus that she was familiar with. It was only after a considerable amount of time reading and looking through the microscope at fungi that I finally understood what she meant: the time you invest in learning about an organism through the literature and through personal observation is rewarded by the ability to recognize it just as you would an old friend!

Dr. Tiffany was remarkable for the extent to which she separated her private and academic life. This legendary compartmentalization sometimes resulted in some interesting situations. She required surgery while I was earning my MS with her. In order to not disrupt the mycology class she was teaching at the time, she asked me to fill in for her, but not tell anyone that she was in the hospital. That was not too difficult until the day that a fellow professor, whose custom was to have coffee with her a couple days a week, finally asked me "Where's Dr. Tiffany? What have you done with her?" I found out later that she had been making coffee every day – something I had failed to do while she was gone!

My fondest memories of Dr. T. are of our time spent together while traveling to foray sites where we looked for truffles or other fungi. It was on the truffle trips that I heard about some of her Botany Club trips to the southwest or fungus collection trips to Big Bend National Park in west Texas. I also learned that one of her favorite books was "Desert Solitaire" by Edward Abbey. Abbey shared her passion for nature, sometimes expressed with a wry sense of humor.

She was fairly patient with my tendency to get lost in the woods, even though she thought we really should stick to the paths. One time in Shimek State Forest in southeast Iowa, on a hot, thirsty afternoon, she patiently worked us back to the path. I was delighted to see the car off in the distance, but less happy to see that I'd left the headlights on. We stopped someone driving by who helped get my car started. During the long drive to recharge the battery, I asked Dr. Tiffany

if her family ever worried about her being out in remote places with me. She said “No”. This memory came back to me after her final trip to Big Bend. When asked how the trip was, she replied “Fine”. Then I asked Dr. Knaphus about the trip. He proceeded to tell me a hair-raising tale about how the van got a flat tire during a side venture into a remote place on the last day, and that they sat waiting for hours for someone to happen by! I realized at that point that her family didn’t worry because Dr. Tiffany never told them any of the worrisome things that happened!

I am once again a student, this time with the opportunity to teach and mentor while working on my dissertation. Dr. Tiffany was the inspiration for my chosen vocation. I find myself passing on the advice to my students that she gave me. I can imagine the same occurs in classrooms taught by all of her former students. Hers is a legacy of teaching that lives on!

Dr. Tiffany's Academic Contributions

Dr. Tiffany’s academic history was unique in many ways. Besides the obviously difficult path she took as a professor in Botany at a time when there were very few women faculty in this department at Iowa State, it is interesting to reflect on the fact that her entire schooling (including elementary school and high school) took place in the same county, with all of her advanced degrees being earned at Iowa State University, and yet her outlook, and scholarship were anything but parochial. Her mentor at Iowa State was Dr. Joseph Gilman, the author of “A Manual of Soil Fungi”, and who she affectionately referred to as “Doc”.

After earning her doctorate, she taught at Iowa State for 53 years, retiring in 2003, and then continued to teach for a couple more years for no pay. She maintained an office and lab on 3rd floor Bessey until her fatal fall, and was working on a manuscript of Fungi of Big Bend National Park in Texas where she and her longtime academic associate George Knaphus had done a 10 year study of fungal diversity, as well as continuing to identify fungi for people who walked in through her always open office door, the day prior to her fall.

Over those many years, she taught field botany, aquatic mycology, introductory mycology for undergraduates and a year long course in general mycology for graduate students that was one of the best of its kind. In addition, she taught field mycology every other year at Lakeside Lab for over 40 years.

Research: Her initial research was on *Claviceps* (ergot), but branched into other ascomycetes, such as on the taxonomy and developmental morphology of fungi in the *Diaporthales* and *Xylariales*, pathogenic fungi such *Colletotrichum*, an ecological study on the role birds might play in fungal propagule dissemination, and did some important collaborative work on fungi that produce mycotoxins in corn. She had a particular fascination for the fungicolous fungi (fungi that parasitize other fungi).

She was the major professor for 15 doctoral students and 25 Masters students (4 of whom went on to earn their PhDs with her)

I’m not sure what attracted other students, but what attracted me was her honest assessment that mycology is still a pioneering field. She presented mycology as a field of study that was exciting, with great potential for discovery, and accessible to those who had enough interest to pursue answers to their questions. She encouraged her students to pursue whatever topic caught their interest in mycology, which resulted in a broad range of topics covered by her students. As a consequence, she published papers with her students and colleagues on mycological topics that ranged from plant pathogens, (especially the rusts and smuts), including the response of these pathogens to burning in prairies, water molds and chytrids, comparisons of soil fungi under different treatment regimes, lichen diversity in Iowa, calcium oxalate crystals formed by various species in both the ascomycetes and basidiomycetes, developmental studies of various ascomycete fruiting bodies. She steered clear of advocating a particular study based on its potential to receive funding. While she clearly engaged in studies that would be helpful to the farming community and to

Dr. Tiffany's Contributions

continued...

consumers, she also attended to the lesser known fungi. I want to share one of her favorite quotes from Thomas Macbride that captures her spirit as well: "The saprophytic fungi of Iowa have been very slightly studied. Owing to their high economic importance, parasitic forms have claimed almost exclusively the attention of mycologists. Pure science however must not be neglected. Without it applied science is impossible and no study of natural objects is more praiseworthy than that which seeks to know these for themselves alone." (JIAC 1998:36)

A recipient of many awards, the most notable were: first recipient of the annual Mycological Society of America W.H. Weston, Jr. Award for Teaching Excellence in Mycology (1980), which was one of many teaching awards she received; Distinguished Iowa Scientist Award from the Iowa Academy of Science 1982, First recipient of the Governor's Medal, Science Teaching (1982), inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame (1991), First Veisha Professor of the Year (1993)

In her department at Iowa State, she was Chair from 1990-1996, and served on a multitude of committees.

She was a great advocate and contributor of the herbarium at Iowa State

She helped to get an NSF grant with Dr. Isely and Deb Lewis to integrate the University of Iowa mycological collection into the Ada Hayden Herbarium.

She also added over 8,000 of her own collections of fungi to the herbarium. She was the first mycologist in Iowa to make an effort to collect fungi from various state parks and preserves in the state of Iowa to document what is here, and to track changes. Particularly the plant pathogenic fungi in prairies. Hers was a long term study of fungi in prairies located in different parts of the state, such that she was able document what happens to these fungi one two and three years after a prairie is burned, and to document the differences between susceptibility of different ecotypes of Big Bluestem to particular plant pathogens.

Her impact on mycology:

- 82 referred publications, 2 books, a lab manual, a book chapter

- countless articles in the popular press, and extension publications, and gave invited talks and mushroom walks all over the state of Iowa.

She along with one of her students Judith Mathre discovered and described a new species of fungus *Elsinoe panici*, a pathogen of the native prairie grass *Panicum virgatum*. She also had a couple of fungi named in her honor: *Melanospora tiffanii* Kowalski 1965 (from a culture isolated from a leaf spot on brome grass that Tiffany made in 1954), and a truffle (appropriately from Story County, Iowa) named in her honor (*Mattiolomyces tiffanyae*)

Her impact on Iowa science:

- President of Iowa Academy of Science from 1977-78

- Governor's science advisory board 1983 on

- Chair of the Iowa Natural History Society (1989-1990)

- State Preserves Advisory Board

She encouraged her students to present their research at the annual Iowa Academy of Science Meetings.

I only knew her for the last decade or so of her life, and so no doubt have a relatively narrow understanding of who she was and what all she accomplished. However, if I were to pick out the accomplishments that I perceived as the most important to her, from the many in her life, I think they would be her mentorship of students, and her relationship with the public. She wanted her students and the public to truly appreciate plants and fungi. For her students, she challenged them to really look at what they were studying, and to understand their organisms of study at a deep level. For the public, she didn't simply identify fungi or answer questions. She tried to give new ways of looking at fungi so that people could truly appreciate them, and think

about the complexity of interrelationships in nature. But, she had a marvelous ability to distill complex subjects into explanations that the public could understand and appreciate. She in turn was truly appreciated for her accessibility. She cared about her students, and loved Iowa and Iowans.

Rosanne Healy

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

January 31 – Iowa Prairie Network, Region 5 (Central Iowa) Winter Meeting at DMACC in Ankeny, see www.iowaprairienetwork.org/calendar/calendar.shtml for more details and link to map

April 14 – Brian Hazlett has established a Prairie Studies Center at Briar Cliff University. He has scheduled Richard Manning, well-known environmental author and journalist, to speak on the evening of April 14th, probably at 7:00 p.m. Dianne Blankenship will lead a prairie walk at Sioux City Prairie before the talk. Meet in the western-most parking lot at Briar Cliff, on top of the hill at 6:00 p.m. We'll welcome the spring wildflowers and return to campus in time for the speaker. Sioux City Prairie is adjacent to BCU. Richard Manning will be speaking on the subject of his most recent of eight books, *Rewilding the West: Restoration in a Prairie Landscape*.

INPS will coordinate a new special week! The first annual Iowa Wildflower Week will be May 2-8, 2010.

Iowa Prairie Heritage Week coordinated by the Iowa Prairie Network will be September 12-18, 2010. Please plan field trips, work days, indoor programs, and cultural activities during both of those weeks and provide information to Dianne Blankenship at bennaid@hotmail.com.

The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will be June 4-6, 2010

The North American Prairie Conference will be August 1-4, 2010 in Cedar Falls, with a likely gathering of INPS members.

To receive updates about INPS activities, please provide your email address on your membership form or check the INPS website calendar.

Book Review

by *Mark J. Leoschke*

Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the Black Hills and Surrounding Area by Audrey Gabel and Elaine Ebbert. Black Hills State University Press, Spearfish, South Dakota. Copyright 2004. Paperback, 164 pages with color photographs plus black and white drawings.

This book is the result of the authors' multi-year inventory of fungi in the Black Hills, a biologically and geologically diverse region that straddles the South Dakota and Wyoming border. Relatively little mycological research has been conducted here. The book highlights the more common and interesting species found during the inventory that do not require a microscope for identification. The format is aimed at the interested amateur. A simple introduction with color photographs, along with black and white drawings, is found in the beginning of the book. It covers the vegetation of the Black Hills, fungi and their role in the ecosystem plus major fungal groups. In addition to fungi, some slime molds and lichens are also included.

Fungi, slime molds and lichens are divided into eight groups and keys are provided for each group. Over 100 species are illustrated with one or more beautiful color photographs. Common and scientific names are provided (some of the common names are humorous like Boring Gymnopilus and Tippler's Bane). Each species is described along with basic information about habitat and edibility plus a comments section with additional information on these topics and appearance, life history, etc. A mushroom calendar, glossary, references and county locations by species are found in the back of the book.

Some of the species familiar to Iowa fungi fans in the book include King bolete (*Boletus edulis*), netted mushroom (*Rhodotus palmatus*), red polypore (*Pycnoporus cinnabarinus*) and fringed polypore (*Polyporus arcularius*). Other species are associated with plants and plant communities not found in Iowa such as truncate club coral

(*Clavariadelphus truncatus*), cryptic globe fungus (*Cryptoporus volvatus*), pine waxy cup (*Hygrophorous speciosus*) and burnt sugar mushroom (*Lactarius aquifluus*).

The authors are cautious when describing edibility and rightfully so, since even experts can make mistakes in identification. They emphasize that people may have different reactions to eating the same species of fungus, even fungi considered generally safe like true morels. The comments on edibility are interesting and frequently amusing. The negative comments range from deadly poisonous, can cause cancer, not recommended, too tough to be appealing, inedible, unknown, why bother, certainly not, not worth it, can't imagine, too small to merit eating, not recommended because of the texture, not appealing for consumption and definitely disgusting which is my favorite. I had no idea there were so many ways to say "be careful" when considering eating fungi! The positive comments include edible and very delicious, reported as one of the best and my favorite "too beautiful to eat"—spoken like true mycologists and lovers of nature!

The Black Hills have different plant communities and species composition than what is found in Iowa. The flora includes representatives from the eastern deciduous forest, Rocky Mountains, boreal forests, prairies and the southwest United States. Ponderosa pine, Black Hills spruce, trembling aspen and Rocky Mountain juniper are common. Only one species of oak, bur oak, occurs in the region. The Black Hills is characterized by lower moisture, higher elevations and significantly different geology than what is found in Iowa. Despite the different biological and geological setting, I was surprised at how many species our state has in common with the Black Hills. I have used this book to help identify several of the fungi I have collected for the Ada Hayden Herbarium at Iowa State University.

Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the Black Hills and Surrounding Area is certainly a worthy addition to one's nature book shelf, especially considering it covers an area where serious fungal

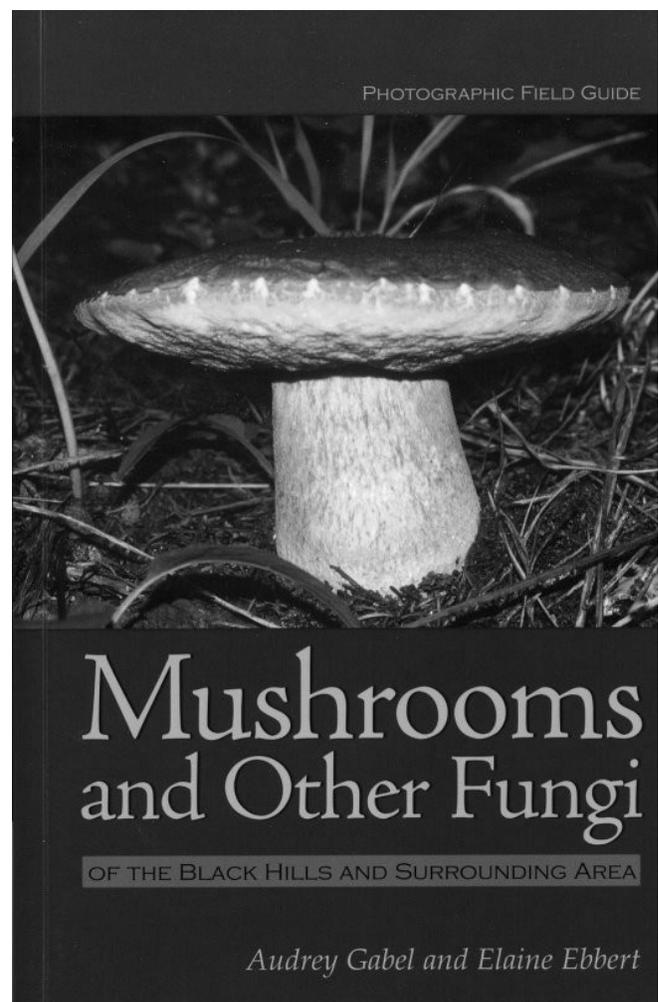
inventory has just begun, but is also useful in Iowa. The book costs \$14.95 and is available from these sources:

Borders Books, 2130 Haines Avenue, Rapid City, South Dakota. (605) 394-5334.

Black Hills Parks & Forests Association, 26611 U. S. Highway 385, Hot Springs, SD 57747. Downloadable order form: http://www.blackhillsparks.org/printable_order_form.htm

Black Hills State University Bookstore, Black Hills State University, 1200 University, Spearfish, SD 57799. 605-642-6279 or 605-642-6287.

Dr. Audrey C. W. Gabel earned her masters degree and doctorate in mycology under Dr. Lois H. Tiffany at Iowa State University. Elaine Ebbert was an undergraduate student of Dr. Gabel's at Black Hills State University.



Obituary

Lois Hattery Tiffany was born March 8, 1924, on a farm near Collins, to Charles and Blanche (Brown) Hattery. She married F.H. (Hank) Tiffany May 16, 1945.

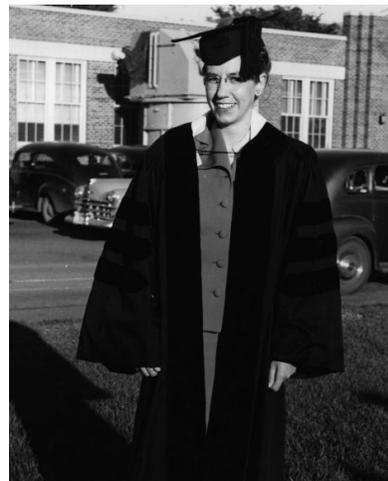
Held in high regard by the public as "Iowa's Mushroom Lady," and known by many students, colleagues and friends as "Dr. T," she was the matriarch of the Botany (and more recently, Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology) Department at Iowa State University. Her degrees were all from Iowa State University: Bachelor of Science in 1945, Master of Science in 1947, and PhD in 1950. She joined the faculty of the Botany Department in 1950, served as department chair from 1990 to 1996, and was named as Distinguished Professor in 1994. She retired in 2002.

Dr. Tiffany passed away on September 6, 2009. She is survived by her three children, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and one grandson.

Memorials may be made to the Lois H. Tiffany Scholarship Fund, in care of the Iowa State University Foundation, 2505 University Blvd., Ames, IA 50010.



5 yrs. old.



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NEWSLETTER

Iowa Native Plant Society

c/o Deb Lewis

Department of EEOB

Iowa State University

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