



Making Quality Herbarium Specimens: 2. Collecting by Deb Lewis

In the November 2000 issue of the newsletter, Diana Horton and I discussed the importance of preparing a good quality label for herbarium specimens. It is obviously important to obtain the "best plant material" for the specimen as well. However, this does not necessarily mean collecting the prettiest or largest or "small enough to easily fit on the sheet" sample. If you have been in the field with Lois Tiffany, you soon learned that she typically collects the "sick" (fungus-infected), often stunted, sometimes "ugly" plants, as these are the ones "displaying" the plant-parasitic fungi that she studies. So this brings up the initial question of "what is the purpose of collecting the plant sample?" Reasons for collecting can vary: to document the plants occurring in a specific area, to document the occurrence of a particular species (perhaps throughout its entire range), to be able to identify the plant, to use in some other (non-taxonomic) kind of research project (e.g., for molecular, anatomical, or biochemical studies), etc. This may determine the amount, quality, or specific parts of plant material needed, and also how the sample will be further processed. For this discussion, let's imagine that we wish to collect "voucher specimens" (that document the presence

of each species) for an inventory of the flora of an area (most Iowa collections added to the Ada Hayden Herbarium are the result of such projects).

Where to collect

The next question of "where to go?" has perhaps been answered if we already have the area that we want to inventory in mind. But we should consider whether it is okay to collect in that area and get permission (or even permits) if needed. Many areas that were open for collecting in the past, such as right-of-way, have become more restricted in recent years. Generally the Iowa Department of Transportation allows collecting for scientific purposes on road right-of-way. However, I have heard that access is no longer allowed on the railroad rights-of-way (at least in central Iowa).

Many of our highest quality natural areas, and thus the most appealing sites for collecting, are found in state, county or city parks and preserves. The appropriate agency should be contacted for permission before any collecting is done. Landowners generally expect that permission for access will be requested before visiting privately-owned sites.

Helpful supplies

Before visiting the site for collecting, consider what tools and supplies may be needed. Some that come to mind include maps, a collecting notebook, clippers, a trowel or other small digging tool, and various sizes of plastic bags (unless pressing specimens immediately in a field press). String tags or another means of keeping specific collections separate or linked to field notes may be useful. Especially on hot days, wrapping the specimens in dampened newspaper helps prolong the sample's good condition. A camera and film (or digital camera) provide a good way to document the presence of rare species. GPS units can help with accurately noting localities (especially in open sites). Collecting special plant groups such as mosses or aquatics may require a bit more planning and equipment. Finally, don't neglect your own personal comfort; include such items as water, snacks, lunch, insect repellent, etc. *Continued page 8*

Inside this issue:

<i>Leaves from the President's Notebook</i>	2
<i>INPS Field Trips and Activities 2001</i>	3
<i>In a Nutshell (Activities from other Organizations)</i>	5
<i>Field Trip Reports</i>	7
<i>Dawn of a New Lawn</i>	7
<i>15th Annual Adult Nature Weekend</i>	9
<i>Hitchcock Nature Area Hosts Summer Walks</i>	9
<i>Prairie Enthusiasts-Kirchner Prairie</i>	10
<i>Festival to Highlight 10,000 Pelicans</i>	10
<i>New Volunteer Program offers Stewardship Opportunities</i>	11
<i>DNR Forest & Prairie Staff to Receive Training</i>	11
<i>Request from Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Ctr.</i>	12
<i>Prairie State Mushroom Club</i>	13
<i>Hurray for "Dr. T"</i>	13
<i>INPS Membership Form</i>	13
<i>An Early Iowa Natural Historian</i>	14

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Leaves from the President's Notepad

What an interesting spring we have had, at least compared to the last few spring seasons. Or perhaps the phrase "more normal" is a better description.

At any rate it was sure a challenge to teach Field Botany this spring. Usually my class has at least six weeks of live plant experience as we head for the field by the end of March. This year we were still keying out winter twigs in mid-April. For our weekend field trip - which typically occurs in southern Iowa - we ended up going 70 miles further south into Missouri. We did find a good selection of the typical spring ephemerals at Wallace State Park and at Trice-Dedman Memorial Woods (a TNC Preserve) on April 14-15th, but that was pretty much it. Mustards took on an especially important role in the students' plant collections this year.

I recommend a visit to Trice-Dedman if you are traveling I-35 towards Kansas City. It's a 60-acre remnant of old-growth oak woodland, a plant community that was once a common element of the landscape fabric of northern Missouri. Here is an 1855 description of the oak woodlands by Thomas Dockery: "In the timbered portions of the county there was absolutely no brush. The trees were very massive and the ground underneath was covered with prairie grasses. The massive trees, the prairie flowers and grass all combined to make this a truly beautiful and inviting country." Today Trice-Dedman is more closed and most is forest with mature white, bur, black, and post oaks. However, a portion at the north end has been managed with fire over the last 10 years and is significantly more open and provides an interesting contrast. You can find Trice-Dedman by taking Highway 116 west of I-35 towards Plattsburg (exit 40). Follow 166 west for about 7.5 miles. The preserve is 2.5 miles east of Plattsburg and is mostly on the north side of the road. It's a beauty.

The INPS board met in late May and developed some ideas I'd like to share. First there will be more effort directed towards publicity for INPS field trips in the local media to encourage participation from the local audience. By tapping into the local County Conservation Board and getting our trips on their program, perhaps we can get publicity through newsletters they may produce or through news releases to the local media via the CCB. As a grass roots organization, we can grow our roots more extensively and deeper by bringing more rural connections into the INPS. Speaking of growing the membership - Linda Scarth has volunteered to begin work on a website for INPS. The first pages of the website will be devoted towards promotion of the INPS with links to other Native Plant Societies and favorite plant websites. Information on how to join and the advantages of membership will be conspicuous.

Second, the board sees the INPS moving into an arena beyond its original mission. We have the financial resources to begin to "put some money where our mouth is" - that is make donations to worthy causes with regards to native plant conservation. Three areas seem likely places for our consideration - land acquisition, education, and stewardship. In order to sustain this kind of commitment, we will be discussing making membership in INPS available at three levels. The basic level of \$10 would remain (this level sustains the four newsletters). Additional levels of \$15 and \$25 or more would provide additional funds above maintenance that could go into a conservation account from which donations would be made. We will be drafting some policy statements concerning protocol for making donations. These issues (and others, like a INPS poster) will be among the topics covered at the Annual Fall Meeting of INPS. Stay tuned to the newsletter for more on that (a quick peek - probably Oct. 20 or 27, main program a panel discussion on "Ethics/legality of plant seed collecting/plant propagation", and opportunity for participants to play "Who wants to be a Master Botanist").

Tom Rosburg

IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES 2001

Compiled by Mark J. Leoschke

All field trips are held on Saturdays and begin at 10 a.m. Come prepared for the weather, rain or shine, and wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Bring a lunch and something to drink.

June 9 Muscatine County, Southeast Iowa

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

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

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

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

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

July 14 Kirchner Prairie, Clay County, Northwest Iowa

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

Dr. Ada Hayden spent a lot of time exploring Clay County's fens, marshes and prairies in the 1930's and '40's. Dr. Hayden's work in this part of the state is described in: Hayden, Ada. 1943. A botanical survey in the Iowa lake region of Clay and Palo Alto Counties. Iowa State College Journal of Science 17:277-416 (you are most likely to find this journal in a university library).

Continued page 4

INPS Field Trips *continued from page 3*

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

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

August 11 Madison County, Southwest Iowa

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

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

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

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

September 22 Webster County, Northwest Iowa

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

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

IN A NUTSHELL (Activities of Other Organizations)

INHF = Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; IPN = Iowa Prairie Network; PSMC = Prairie States Mushroom Club; TNC = The Nature Conservancy, Iowa Chapter

June 9, Heritage Addition Dedication and Hike at Effigy Mounds National Monument. (Clayton County). The celebration of this new addition to the national monument will include a dedication ceremony, choice of guided hikes, Native American dancing, and more. Contact the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (phone: 515-288-1846) for more information. INHF

June 12, 6:30 p.m., Evening Walk at Richard Pohl State Preserve (Ames High School Prairie). (Story County). Contact field trip leader Deb Lewis (phone: 515-294-9499, e-mail: dlewis@iastate.edu) for more information. IPN

June 16, Workday at Vincent Bluff in Council Bluffs. (Pottawattamie County). Contact Cathy Engstrom (e-mail: cengstrom@inhf.org, phone: 515-288-1846) or check out the INHF website (www.inhf.org) for more information. INHF

June 16, 8 a.m., Workday at Centennial Cemetery. Contact Pam White (phone: 641-673-3508; e-mail: pam-white@usa.net) for more information. IPN

June 19, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Hitchcock Nature Area. (Pottawattamie County). See more information (including directions to meeting site) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact the park ranger, Chad Graeve (phone: 712-545-3283 or e-mail: yuccal@earthlink.net). for more information.

June 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Iowa Nature Mapping Training Workshop. Jackson County, Bellevue State Park, free registration. However, filling out a registration form (via e-mail if possible) prior to the workshop is requested. This workshop is designed to train Nature Mappers to "gain valuable data on Iowa's common terrestrial vertebrate wildlife" (see the INPS Newsletter Vol. 5, No. 3, Sept. 1999 for description of this project). Contact Jason O'Brien (e-mail: jpobrien@iastate.edu or by phone: 515-294-6440) for more information.

June 28, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Doolittle Prairie State Preserve. (Story County) Contact field trip leader Lloyd Crim (515-432-5026) for more information. IPN

June 30, 10 a.m., Grant Ridge Prairie Field Trip. (Story County) Grant Ridge, a private prairie, is owned by Roger Maddux and Cindy Hildebrand. Please contact Cindy or Roger (phone: 515-232-3807; e-mail: granridge@aol.com) before the walk for directions and so that parking can be planned. IPN

July 2, 7 p.m., Stargrass Prairie Evening Walk. (Story County) Stargrass is a reconstructed prairie at the home of Roger Maddux and Cindy Hildebrand. Please contact Cindy or Roger (phone: 515-232-3807; e-mail: granridge@aol.com) before the walk for directions and so that parking can be planned. IPN

July 5, 7 p.m., Prairie Walk at Lake Hawthorne. Contact Pam White (phone: 641-673-3508; e-mail: pam-white@usa.net) for more information. IPN

July 10, 6:30 p.m., Evening Walk at Richard Pohl State Preserve (Ames High School Prairie). (Story County). Contact field trip leader Rich Pope (phone: 515-294-5899; e-mail: ropope@iastate.edu) for more information. IPN

July 15, Kyle Swanson Prairie Dedication and Hike at Snyder Heritage Farm. (Polk County). Contact Cathy Engstrom (e-mail: cengstrom@inhf.org, phone: 515-288-1846) or check out the INHF website (www.inhf.org) for more information. INHF

Continued page 6

IN A NUT SHELL *continued from page 5*

July 17, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Hitchcock Nature Area. (Pottawattamie County). See more information (including directions to meeting site) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact the park ranger, Chad Graeve (phone: 712-545-3283 or e-mail: yuccal@earthlink.net). for more information.

July 26, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Doolittle Prairie State Preserve. (Story County) Contact field trip leader Lloyd Crim (515-432-5026) for more information. IPN

August 2, 7 p.m., Prairie Walk at Lake Hawthorne. Contact Pam White (phone: 641-673-3508; e-mail: pam-white@usa.net) for more information. IPN

August 14, 6:30 p.m., Evening Walk at Richard Pohl State Preserve (Ames High School Prairie). (Story County). Contact Trish Patrick (phone: 515-294-4504; e-mail: tpatrick@iastate.edu) for more information. IPN

August 17-19, Adult Nature Weekend at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. (Dickinson County). See more information (including directions to Iowa Lakeside Lab) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact Sue Sprong, ILL Secretary (phone: 515-294-2488; e-mail: lakeside@iastate.edu), for more information.

August 19, 10 a.m., Mushroom Foray at Red Rock Lake. See more information (including directions to meeting site) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact the foray leader, Don Huffman (phone: 515-628-1773) for more information. PSMC. See more information else where in the newsletter.

August 21, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Hitchcock Nature Area. (Pottawattamie County). See more information (including directions to meeting site) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact the park ranger, Chad Graeve (phone: 712-545-3283 or e-mail: yuccal@earthlink.net). for more information.

August 23, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Doolittle Prairie State Preserve. (Story County) Contact field trip leader Lloyd Crim (515-432-5026) for more information. IPN

September 6, 7 p.m., Prairie Walk at Lake Hawthorne. Contact Pam White (phone: 641-673-3508; e-mail: pam-white@usa.net) for more information. IPN

September 11, 6:30 p.m., Evening Walk at Richard Pohl State Preserve (Ames High School Prairie). (Story County). Contact field trip leader Lynn Clark (phone: 515-294-8218, e-mail: 19clark@iastate.edu) for more information. IPN

September 16 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Pelican Festival Jester Park Camp area #4 (Saylorville Lake) for more information see article else where in this newsletter.

September 22, Oak Savanna Field Day at Full Circle Farm. (Boone County) The farm is located just south of Ledges State Park. The Field Day is sponsored by Practical Farmers of Iowa. Contact Nan Bonfils or Don Adams (phone: 515-795-3288) for more information.

September 25, 7 p.m., Evening Walk at Hitchcock Nature Area. (Pottawattamie County). See more information (including directions to meeting site) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact the park ranger, Chad Graeve (phone: 712-545-3283 or e-mail: yuccal@earthlink.net). for more information. See more information else where in the newsletter.

September 30, 10 a.m., Mushroom Foray at New Wine Park near Dyersville. See more information (including directions to meeting site) elsewhere in the newsletter. Contact the foray leaders, Karen and Neil Necker (phone: 319-975-7713 or e-mail: mushrooms@mwci.net). for more information. PSMC. See more information else where in the newsletter.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

A PRAIRIE WORK DAY IN ALLAMAKEE COUNTY

By Mark J. Leoschke

The Iowa Native Plant Society sponsored a work day on Saturday, April 21st at a hill prairie in the Iverson Bottoms Wildlife Management Area southwest of Dorchester in Allamakee County. This work day was part of a statewide effort organized by the Iowa Chapter of the National Audubon Society. A total of 18 people showed up to put in a morning's effort- 14 volunteers (including a group of 8 led by Dr. Kirk Larsen from Luther College in Decorah), 2 DNR staff (Bob Kurtt, the area wildlife biologist and Ross Bosworth, a wildlife technician) and 2 Americore workers. Bob and Ross brought chain saws, which really helped with the larger red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*). The rest of us used hand saws to cut down smaller trees or pruners to cut smooth sumac (*Rhus glabra*) and dogwood (*Comus spp.*). Moving cut trees was a lot of work until we discovered that red cedars are round enough to roll at least part way down hill if you made sure no one was in the way! By the end of the day we had cleared about an acre and our efforts were quite evident from the road and the nearby Upper Iowa River access parking lot. Thanks to all who showed up to help give this hill prairie a chance to thrive again.

EXPLORING THE SOUTHERN IOWA DRIFT PLAIN

by Linda and Robert Scarth

Ray Hamilton led the combined INPS, IPN and Jackson County Conservation Board walk on Saturday. It was a great outing enjoyed by all, especially because of Ray's knowledge and enthusiasm. Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie has one of the most dense stands of shooting stars on a hillside that any of us had ever seen. A typical array of prairie plants was seen. Bobolinks were heard. We saw a lovely caterpillar species on several false indigo plants and wonder about which butterfly they will become. The hill prairie and woodland owned by Chuck and Jeanne Jorgensen was the next stop with its lovely display of starflowers and birdsfoot violets. After lunch at Maquoketa Cave State Park, we spent the afternoon at Pine Valley Wildlife Area. The walk to the aligific slope was over hill and dale and through creeks and worth every step of the way. Back along the Pine Creek we saw monkshood plants and what we thought might be the empty shell of the rare snail, many kinds of ferns, and usual woodland flowers. A pair of American Redstarts made an appearance. We had not seen any garlic mustard at the first two stops but sadly, found it here.

We all owe Mark Leoschke thanks for arranging this and the upcoming outings. Hope to see you at Wildcat Den SP on June 9.



"DAWN OF A NEW LAWN"

by Andy Wasowski

I though you might be interested in my latest article in the June 2001 issue of Audubon magazine, "Dawn of a New Lawn." It describes the history of the conventional land-centered landscape and the move toward more environmentally friendly native landscapes.

Making Quality Herbarium Specimens: 2. Collecting *continued from page 1*

What to collect

Assuming population sizes are large and the individual plants are not too big, typically good specimens of herbaceous species are comprised of the entire plant (or even more than one for small individuals), including the underground roots, rhizomes, etc. However, in my opinion, long-lived perennial species such as ferns, mature compass-plants, and the like, as well as rare species, should typically not be dug, even if the population is quite large (and certainly note the comments below!). It is unnecessary to dig woody plants; simply clipping a representative branch (hopefully with flowers and/or fruits) is sufficient. Both flowers and fruits may be helpful (or required) for an accurate determination of the plant. Sometimes both flowers and fruits are not available on the same plant, so a "whole plant" plus the additional flowering or fruiting part of another makes a nice, complete specimen.

To collect or not to collect...

Getting a great herbarium specimen is not always the ultimate concern. Do not collect even common native herbaceous species if the population size is small - we do not want to cause the extirpation of the population. Many botanists apply the "1-in-20" rule, which is simply that no collecting (i.e., digging up the sample) should be done if a population of a native species has fewer than 20 individuals, only one plant taken if fewer than 40, etc. Sometimes, especially for easily recognizable species, it is possible to collect only a small part of the plant (e.g., just a flower and leaf) and have that serve as an acceptable sample for a voucher specimen. The "no more than 1-in-20" rule can again apply to the stems, flowers, or leaves in such cases. If there is any doubt about potential damage to a population, take only a photograph! A further note of caution: a population may contain plants of varying ages/sizes (and small, unrecognizable juveniles) and often several rare species are found in close association - in the excitement of finding one, rare "jewel", be careful not to trample others!

Information needed

The information eventually needed for the specimen label was listed in the previous article about labels: the name of the plant (if known), location, habitat, other collectors, and date are the minimum required -- see that article for the specific details. The best time to record the necessary data about the plant, population, and site is at the time that the sample is collected. A permanent field notebook is often used for recording data, although some collectors are reluctant to take this valuable record-book out into the field where it may be lost or damaged. While recording the information in the field is the best way, many of you have perhaps noted that this isn't the "usual way". Especially if only one site is to be visited and without a large number of specimens to be collected there, typically only scant information (if any) is actually recorded (except in memory) in the field, and the rest isn't written down until the plant samples are pressed. But note that this can be "dangerous" if several sites or habitats are visited, if information relating to specific samples can be easily confused, if specific details about the samples are noted that might be forgotten, etc.

What next?

The samples either need to be pressed right away or else kept in good condition until they can be put in the press. Standard presses are heavy; the herbarium here has field presses that are sometimes used for particularly "fragile" plants (have you ever noticed how quickly the petals fall off some plants, like bloodroot, after collecting?), those that wilt quickly, or those that have leaves that roll up (like many grasses) after collecting. However, typically plant samples are placed in a plastic bag (white instead of black if you'll be working in the sun) until they can be conveniently placed in the press. As mentioned under supplies, wrapping in damp newspaper in the plastic bag helps in keeping the plants fresh until the samples are pressed. If possible, putting the plastic bag in an ice chest or even under the vehicle rather than carrying it around all day may help maintain the sample quality. The next article will cover the pressing and drying techniques, so "stay tuned".

15TH ANNUAL ADULT NATURE WEEKEND

August 17-19,2001

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

The 15th Annual Adult Nature Weekend will be August 17-19,2001. The program begins on Friday evening and ends Sunday after lunch. It is planned for the education and enjoyment of adults who are interested in nature.

General Information

Location: Iowa Lakeside Laboratory is located on the west shore of West Okoboji Lake in northwest Iowa. Every summer it serves as a center for teaching and research. Area habitats include prairies, lakes, kettle holes, marshes, alkaline fens, and wooded ravines. The Iowa Lakeside Laboratory was established in 1909 under the leadership of Prof. Thomas H. Macbride to provide a place where the rich variety of plants and animals of the northern Iowa lake and prairie region could be studied.

Facilities: Rustic stone and wood buildings house a lecture hall, labs, dining hall, bathhouse and sleeping facilities. All meals are served in the dining hall. There are no facilities to accommodate children or pets.

What to Bring: Sturdy, comfortable clothing and footwear, field guides, flashlight, a sweater or jacket as evenings may get chilly, rain, gear, insect repellent, sunscreen and binoculars.

Cost: The cost of the program is \$175.00*, which includes two nights lodging in a cabin with bathhouse facilities and five meals. For a local person who does not want lodging, breakfasts and dinner, the cost is \$114. No refunds can be made after July 13. \$25 is non-refundable with any cancellation. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to Lakeside Lab. (*Double-occupancy rooms and/or single-occupancy rooms with bathroom are available at check-in, you will be able to upgrade on a first-come basis. Rates will be an additional \$20 or \$50 respectively.

Instruction and Faculty: Eight courses will be offered in a field trip/lecture format. The Saturday morning session will be an exploration of the natural history of the region for all participants, lead by Jean Prior and Lynnette Seigley. Upon arrival participants may sign up to attend sessions of their choice on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning.

For more information or to receive the registration flyer: Contact Sue Sprong by phone at 515-294-2488 or email at lakeside@iastate.edu.

HITCHCOCK NATURE AREA
HOSTS SUMMER WALKS

Hitchcock Nature Area is an 830 acre preserve owned and operated by the Pottawattamie County Conservation Board. The preserve is located 5 miles north of Crescent off of Highway 183. The preserve boasts tremendous ridge-top prairies, oak woodlands, miles of hiking trails, and amazing scenic views. In an effort to showcase the preserve, staff at Hitchcock Nature Area will lead evening walks on various routes through the preserve. Each walk promises to showcase different wildflowers, grasses, birds, and animals. According to Park Ranger Chad Graeve, "People will be amazed at the new things they will see with each return visit. About every two weeks there is a flush of new wildflowers on the prairie and the woodlands change throughout the season as well." This series of guided walks will provide the perfect opportunity for people to witness the ever-changing face of Hitchcock Nature Area. Participants are encouraged to wear long pants and sturdy shoes and insect repellent is recommended.

Directions: Hitchcock Nature Area is located 5 miles north of Crescent off of Highway 183. From the Council Bluffs/Omaha area take I-29 north to the Crescent exit. Travel east into Crescent on Highway 988. At the "T" intersection take Highway 183 north 5 miles to Page Lane. Follow signs to the entrance. All walks will begin at the Lodge at 7 p.m.

Evening Walks:

Tuesday, June 19, 7:00 PM Prairie Ecology and Pioneer Cemeteries

Tuesday, July 17, 7:00 PM Prairie Ecology

Tuesday, August 21, 7:00 PM Prairie Ecology and Pioneer Encounter

Tuesday, September 25, 7 PM Prairie Ecology and Migrating Raptors

Chad Graeve - Park Ranger, Hitchcock Nature Area
27792 Ski Hill Loop, Honey Creek, IA 51542
(712) 545-3283, email yuccal@earthlink.net



PRAIRIE ENTHUSIASTS - KIRCHNER PRAIRIE

by Ty Smedes

Many of you may not be aware that Kirchner Prairie (in Clay County), has come into public ownership. It was in private hands until about two years ago. This high-quality Prairie features an Eastern (upland) portion that consists of 90 acres of virgin prairie, that was hayed each summer for about the past 90 years. The Western 80 acres (also virgin Prairie) was used as permanent pasture, and was actually pastured pretty hard. The DNR burned it this Spring, and will be managing the recovery effort. The pasture also contains a 35 acre cattail marsh surrounded by a wet sedge meadow. Waterfowl and shorebirds are present, including nesting Wilson's Phalarope....

The Eastern portion contains many common species of Prairie forbs found in Northern Iowa, including a few notable species such as Showy Milkweed and Prairie Fringed Orchid.

This Prairie is a gem, and should do nothing but improve, now that grazing and haying are a thing of the past. Tom Neal (of the Spencer DNR office) will be managing it...

Land acquisitions of this size and in prime agricultural areas are expensive, and the Kirchner acquisition was only made possible by the availability of several funding sources.

Kirchner is located a few miles SE of Langdon, and about 1 mile SW of Dan Green Slough, in Clay County. The DNR has installed a parking area, and it is signed.

I wrote a Kirchner Prairie article for the current (summer) issue of Pheasants Forever Magazine, so if you have access, you may want to read the article, for more information. Or, if you would like a photo-copy of the article, just e-mail me your PO address, and I will drop one in the mail to you.

Again, Kirchner Prairie is a wonderful addition to our group of publicly owned Prairies. I hope many of you find time for a visit!

*Editor's Note: Mark Leoschke will lead an INPS trip field to Kirchner Prairie on July 14. See details in the list of Field Trips.

FESTIVAL TO HIGHLIGHT 10,000 PELICANS

by Loren Lown

Join us on Sunday, September 16, to celebrate the second annual Pelican Festival by observing the incredible gathering of the American white pelicans at Jester Park. View the pelicans through high-powered spotting scopes and listen to a variety of educational programs throughout the day. Bring your younger family members to the "kids" tent for games and other fun projects. Numerous free opportunities will await people of all ages from around the state. The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Camp Area #4.

Saylorville Lake has become the site of a natural wonder rarely seen anywhere else. It is the amazing gathering of American white pelicans en route to their southern wintering grounds. That's right, pelicans in Iowa! As many as 10,000 pelicans can be found on the lake from mid-August through September. Jester Park's Camp Area #4 is one of the best viewing areas to see these magnificent birds.

Can't attend the Pelican Festival or want a sneak peak of the pelicans? Viewing opportunities and educational programs will be provided on Saturday, August 25 and Sunday, September 9, from 2 - 4 p.m. at Jester Park, Camp Area #4. Educational programs will focus on migrating waterfowl at Saylorville Lake.

Fall is an exciting time on the lake. Be a part of the excitement and bring your binoculars!

NEW VOLUNTEER PROGRAM OFFERS STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Written By: Loren Lown, Natural Resource Specialist
Polk County Conservation Board

On May 14, 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark left Camp Wood River, Ill. on one of the most daring adventures of our country's history. They began a trek to the Pacific Ocean and back to St. Louis that crossed the western half of an unexplored continent. Their expedition was known as the "Corps of Discovery". They recorded animals, Native American nations, plants, and rivers; all new to occidental eyes. The landscape they traversed was in balance and the natural forces of climate and fire still drove the prairie ecosystem as they had for eons.

One hundred and ninety seven years later many of the animals and plants are gone forever; Native Americans were displaced from their lands; and the wild rivers dammed and channeled. I flew to Seattle in a little over four hours last year. This was approximately the same route that took the explorers nearly a full year to travel before reaching the Pacific. Times have changed and so has the face of the land that Lewis and Clark knew.

Polk County Conservation Board (PCCB) manages over ten thousand acres of parkland in our County. Staff is adequate to maintain recreational opportunities, understaffed to meet the demands of environmental education, and totally inadequate to maintain and restore natural areas.

The time has come to restore our few remaining natural areas! PCCB has begun a new program called the "Corps of Recovery". The Corps is to be a vehicle by which public partners, in conjunction with PCCB, work to restore areas of woodland, wetland, and prairie. We need and must have volunteer assistance if we are to save our natural areas. The Corps program is modeled after successful stewardship programs in the Chicago and Madison areas. These programs have proven that private individuals can assist in the restoration of natural areas, and even lead the process. The increased sense of ownership has lead to an informed public and a constituency eager to protect "their" parks.

The program is in the process of soliciting Natural Area Volunteers (NAV) to dedicate hours toward restoration projects. This original collection of volunteers will be called upon to assist in a variety of projects in parks close to their homes (or their hearts). As the program develops, leaders will distinguish themselves and eventually will become Stewards or co-Stewards.

A Steward will take on the responsibility of restoration, or of an aspect of restoration, in one of our natural areas. A restoration plan will be drafted in conjunction with PCCB professional staff but the primary responsibility will be with the Steward or co-Steward. They may work alone or organize volunteer help to accomplish the task they have undertaken.

The Corps of Recovery is an opportunity to become more involved with the natural world and to further educate ourselves. It also makes the statement that our environment is special to me and I care enough to work hard and leave something for those who follow me. E.O. Wilson said it best in his book, *The Diversity of Life*, "There can be no purpose more inspiring than to begin the age of restoration, reweaving the wondrous diversity of life that still surrounds us".

If you agree, then the Corps of Recovery is for you! To find out more about this program, contact Polk County Conservation Board Natural Resource Specialist, Loren Lown, at 515-323-5364.

DNR FORESTS & PRAIRIES DIVISION STAFF TO RECEIVE TRAINING

By Paul Tauke

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forests & Prairies Division is going to be receiving training on habitat classification typing for possible use in Northeast Iowa. This technique is currently being used in Southwest Wisconsin and we will be exploring its suitability for our State. John Kotar from the University of Wisconsin will be training our Northeastern Iowa Foresters and several staff foresters on how the system works. This training session will also involve a number of private consulting foresters and western Illinois Foresters. In the habitat classification system much higher consideration is given to forest floor plants and what they can tell foresters about the site. How this information can be utilized in our Iowa site is yet to be determined. However, if this pilot project proves successful it will provide Iowa foresters with another forest management tool and a new way to look at and evaluate the entire forest system.



LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER

4801 LA CROSSE AVENUE AUSTIN, TEXAS 78739-1702 512292-4200 FAX 512 292-4627

Dear Native Plant Gardeners,

Show Us Your Successes Using Native Plants!

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center needs your help. Here at the Wildflower Center, we are dedicated to educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants. One of the most popular exhibits in our Visitor's Gallery is a book of pictures that exhibits native landscape success stories from across North America. The photographs depict native landscapes ranging from corporation headquarters framed by wildflower meadows, to vibrant patches of butterfly friendly Black-eyed Susans in a family's backyard.

This is where your landscape comes in! It is time for us to update the book. Using the World Wide Web, we are creating an online gallery where people can come together to share their love, appreciation, and stories of native plants, as well as some more technical information about cultivation and maintenance.

Because pictures are worth a thousand words, we are asking you to send us your personal native landscape slides and photos. The photos can be on as grand or as small a scheme as you desire. We need to see native plants, but we are also looking for pictures that include an entire habitat. Birds, butterflies, bees and babies are all part of the ecosystems we inhabit. We hope to illustrate our mission by displaying thriving examples from across the continent. With your help, and your story, we can begin to help visitors from all regions of the United States display our regional beauty and preserve our natural heritage.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Ogren
Public Programs Manager

We want to know:

- **How has landscaping with native plants added to beauty and cut cost and maintenance in the area you maintain?**

Please return your photos and slides with your answer to the question above to ogren@wildflower.org fax to: (512)292-4627, or mail to 4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin, TX 78722.

Please include your mailing address and/ or email address so that we can continue to communicate.

THE PRAIRIE STATE MUSHROOM CLUB

has two foray dates scheduled.

by Dean Abel

Sunday, August 19, we will meet at Red Rock Lake at 10:00 AM to hunt for mushrooms and identify fungi. From 1-80, turn south on Hwy 14. Go through Monroe and continue south about 3-4 miles. Turn left on county road T14 just north of Red Rock Lake, and proceed 3/4 mile east to reach the entrance of Cordova County Park (marked Elk Rock State Park on most Iowa maps). Follow the right fork in the road, and proceed to the picnic/parking area. Foray leader is Don Huffman (515-628-1773, huffmand@central.edu). Bring a sack lunch.

Sunday, September 30, we will foray at New Wine Park, 4 miles north of Dyersville on Hwy 136 near the town of New Vienna. It is a large park with bathroom facilities, picnic area, camping with electricity and showers, and lots of parking. The foray leaders will be Karen and Neil Necker (319-875-7713, mushrooms@mwci.net). Hopefully we will be able to tour the Necker's mushroom farm that afternoon. They supply shitake and oyster mushrooms to many restaurants and stores in the area. Bring a sack lunch.

HURRAY FOR "DR. T"!

Dr. Lois Tiffany was honored on April 3rd for 50 years of service on the faculty of Iowa State University. The Botany Department and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences held a reception to honor her long career and many achievements. She is a nationally-renowned mycologist (fungus researcher) and has received numerous awards for her research and teaching. One of her many studies of Iowa fungi is documenting the "plant-parasitic fungi" on prairie plant species. Please note that this recognition does NOT mean that she is ready to retire. So may "Dr. T" have many more years of adding to our knowledge of Iowa's often overlooked-but important - fungi!

INPS Membership/Change of Address Form and Survey

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Additional information or special interests for member directory entry _____

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

In memory of an **Early Iowa Natural Historian - Esther Jones Willroth** (1884-1988) lived in Crawford County (Charter Oak and Denison) all of her life. Glenn Pollock says, "She would have been an enthusiastic member of the Iowa Native Plant Society if we had been in her time. At the age of 99 she told me stories of exploring Crawford County in and around 1890. She loved native plants and wrote many poems about them."

A MAGIC HILLSIDE

I know a magic hillside
All covered with dew,
Where such lovely things abide
And burst upon our view:
A carpet of dainty trillium
Amid a bank of unfolding fern,
Pink and white spring beauties by the million,
And other woodland flowers at every turn.

Here nesting birds of every kind,
Saucy squirrels try to hide from view.
Mosses of many type you find
Trees hold their sheltering shade over you

A silver stream murmurs near,
Its tinkling waters one can hear
It is truly heaven to linger here an hour,
In this magic woodland hillside bower

Esther Willroth



Newsletter

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