



The 9th Iowa Prairie Conference: The Practical Prairie

Please join the Iowa Prairie Network for the 9th Iowa Prairie Conference, July 11-13, in Ames. Plan on a weekend in the heart of Iowa enjoying and learning about prairies. Our theme, "Practical Prairies" will provide something for everyone!

A conference kick-off picnic the evening of July 11 (Maple Shelter, Brookside Park) allows gathering attendees an opportunity for networking. Everyone is welcome to join us for dinner, and a chance to meet and spend time with other prairie enthusiasts.

On Saturday, July 12, a series of lectures will be presented in Scheman Auditorium, on the ISU campus. Dr. Ron Panzer, Northeastern Illinois University, and Dr. James Trager, Shaw Nature Reserve, Missouri Botanical Garden, will deliver keynote addresses about prairie invertebrates. Concurrent sessions covering a wide range of prairie topics will follow the keynote lectures. Subjects include: plant succession in reconstructed prairies, legal protection of prairie remnants, benefits derived from prairie soils, an inventory of Iowa's known prairie remnants, and the benefits of using prairie plants to manage urban landscapes. There also will be a panel discussion of issues associated with prescribed fire. During breaks attendees will have the opportunity to browse various vendor, organization, and student research displays covering a wide range of conservation topics.

Saturday afternoon field trips will provide an opportunity to spend time with prairie experts in some of central Iowa's finest remnant and reconstructed prairies. Field trip choices cover 10 different tours, including Doolittle Prairie, Granridge, and Pohl State Preserve at Ames High. Sign up early, space is limited!

After the field trips there will be an evening banquet at the Scheman building, accompanied by prairie music! As if that wasn't enough, after dinner there will be a historic portrayal of Iowa-born Aldo Leopold, one of the nation's leading conservationists of the last century.

Sunday, July 13, breakfast (Big Bluestem Shelter, Moore Park) will be an opportunity to meet representatives of prairie organizations in adjacent states. We hope to get acquainted and work toward an inter-state prairie network, with the goal of fostering interaction between the groups. Following breakfast, prairie management experts will gather at Ames High Prairie to discuss their methods of coping with various invasive species. There will also be a opportunity to help work on invasive species on the site.

The Iowa Prairie Network has worked to put together an educational and fun prairie event, but we couldn't

have done it without the support of our primary sponsors: the Department of Transportation's Living Roadway Trust

Fund, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Support from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, the Iowa Native Plant Society, the UNI Prairie Institute and Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D is also greatly appreciated

Registration forms available at:

http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/prairie_conference/registration.htm

Or by contacting: Inger Lamb at 515-963-7681, email: ingerlamb3@mchsi.com.

Inside this issue:

Leaves from the President's Notebook	2
INPS Annual Meeting	3
INPS Field Trips	3
Calendar of Events of Other Organizations	5
Discussion of the Status of Work Toward an Iowa Flora	7
Adult Nature Weekend	8
Chamomile Remembered	9
Poison Ivy Tales	9
Book Reviews	10
INPS Membership Form	11
A Morning in Rochester Cemetery	12



Leaves from the President's Notebook

President: Sibylla Brown
Rt. 1 Box 240A
Leon, IA 50144
641-446-7358
timbrhl@grm.net

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

Secretary: Linda Scarth
1630 Wildwood Dr. NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
lscarth@
mmc.mtmercy.edu

Treasurer: Diana Horton
720 Sandusky Drive
Iowa City, IA 52240
319-337-5430
diana-horton@uiowa.edu

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

Program Committee:
Chairman: Mark Leoschke
2212 East Rose Ave #13
Des Moines, IA 50320-2613
mark.leoschke@
dnr.state.ia.us

Mary Brown
330 Windsor Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52245
319-338-3875
mlbrown@
blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Judy Felder
335 Beldon Ave
Iowa City, IA 52246
319-351-7718
rfelder@
blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Tom Rosburg
P.O. Box 234
Colo, IA 50056
641-377-2930
thomas.rosburg
@drake.edu

William C. Watson
P.O. Box 281
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Historian:
Deborah Q. Lewis
Dept. of Botany, ISU
Ames, IA 50011-1020
515-294-9499
dlewis@iastate.edu



Printed on recycled paper

When my husband, Bill and I bought our wooded property in Decatur County we didn't know anything about timber management. Thankfully, our district forester, Randy Goerndt, did. He knew that the overgrown oak timber needed help. Not only were there too many trees but the under story was so thick that there was little plant diversity in the ground layer. After Randy completed an inventory of the timber he wrote a management plan which outlined recommendations for tree thinning, crop-tree release and improving woodland wildlife habitat. He also told us that many of the management practices could be cost-shared through various federal and state programs.

At the recent INPS field trip here, I mentioned that we had received cost share help with our timber stand improvement and was surprised to learn that most of the participants had not heard of these programs. REAP, WHIP, and FLEP are the three basic programs available to private landowners. REAP and WHIP which provide 75% cost share are administered by the NRCS. FLEP, which also cost shares 75%, is administered by district foresters. Most of our funding was obtained through WHIP.

A new WHIP plan and ranking system has recently been developed for the state of Iowa by a committee composed of representatives from various statewide conservation groups. The committee recommended that forest land, grassland, and wildlife management be designated as funding priorities. Although the new WHIP plan is designed primarily to restore habitat for T&E wildlife species, the recommend practices also help restore conservative native plant populations.

Applications for cost share are ranked by location and by how much the management plan will improve habitat for targeted species. Grassland habitat ranking factors are determined by geographical priority, development of a comprehensive land use plan, and land use history. The grassland geographical priority areas are the Grand River Grasslands, Southeastern Iowa IDNR Quail project areas, and Loess Hills prairie remnants. In 2003, \$450,000 was appropriated for WHIP with \$4500 available for each Iowa county. Funding for 2004 has not yet been determined. For more information about this program call your NRCS office or district forester.

'Partners for Fish and Wildlife' is a program available to private landowners through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This program assists in the restoration of wetlands, grasslands and riparian corridors. For example, Partners will help restore wetland hydrology by removing or rerouting tiles. Grassland improvement includes help planting native grasses and controlling invasive species. Various local, state, and national conservation groups and government agencies work with Partners to achieve program goals. For more information regarding this program call the Iowa Partners for Fish and Wildlife office at (515)994-3400.

It's been over ten years since Bill and I began working with our district forester to restore our property. Although we haven't always agreed with him regarding canopy density, we are very pleased with the increased plant diversity. Even in timber with 80% canopy New Jersey Tea, Yellow False Foxglove, *Datris squarrosa*, and other conservative plants are thriving. Best of all is the satisfaction of knowing that we can restore the diversity of our oak savanna and that help is available to do it.

Sibylla

ANNOUNCEMENTS



INPS ANNUAL MEETING August 9, 2003



The annual meeting will be August 9, 2003. Meet at Doolittle State Preserve at 10:00 AM. Potluck lunch and business meeting follow at 12:00 PM at McFarland Park Conservation Center Multipurpose Room. Everyone please bring a main dish, salad or dessert. Drinks will be provided. At 1:30 Dr. Lois Tiffany will present her program, "A Life in Botany."

Directions to McFarland Park: From I-35 take Exit 116 (County Road E-29). Travel west 1/2 mile to Dayton Avenue, then north one mile to 180th Street, and then east 1/2 mile to the center. The address is 56461 180th Street.

Directions to Doolittle Prairie: From Interstate 35, south of Story City, IA, take the Iowa 221/County E18 exit (exit 123). Take E18 west for about 0.5 miles (560th Ave -- watch for preserve sign). Turn south on gravel for 1.25 miles to the preserve entry road on the west side of road. A parking area is available at the end of the lane.

or from Ames: go north on US Hwy. 69 to approximately 1 mile north of junction with E23/Gilbert corner (watch for preserve sign). Turn east on gravel for 2 miles. Turn north on gravel for 0.75 miles to the preserve entry lane on the west side of the road.

Iowa's Special Places: Bixby State Park and Preserve -

1. Geology and History

by Deb Lewis

Bixby State Park and Preserve is one of about 20 state preserves located in the region of Iowa called the Paleozoic Plateau. Shallow Paleozoic-age sedimentary bedrock in this northeast corner of the state has been eroded to create a rugged landscape, unlike any other area in the state. To zoom in a little closer in the region, several of Iowa's most biologically diverse preserves, including Bixby, are located along the Silurian Escarpment, which marks the western and southern boundary of the Paleozoic Plateau.

In the preserve, the Silurian-aged dolomite is exposed as bluffs, large slump blocks on the steep slopes, algal talus slopes, and an ice cave, the preserve's most prominent geological feature. Big Springs, a permanent, cold-water spring, runs into Bear Creek, which flows through the steep, narrow valley. Sinkholes are another feature of the so-called karst topography of the area.

In 1854, the Bixby family established a homestead of 300 acres in the area. The Bixby's recognized the special natural features of the area, and allowed use of the area free of charge. In 1919, Louis Pammel wrote about having enjoyed such a visit to the what he called Bixby Park - note that there were no state parks then. He described it as "a paradise for the lover of plants and the lover of wildlife in general". The citizens of Edgewood petitioned the state to acquire the land for a park, so the state purchased the 69 acres at the heart of the preserve in 1926, and it became Bixby State Park in 1931. In 1976, 115 acres were added to the park. All 184 acres of the park were dedicated as a state preserve in 1979.

Bixby State Park and Preserve is located about 2 miles north of the town of Edgewood in southern Clayton County. "Tune in next time" for more about this special gem in our state preserves system...

IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS 2003

Compiled by Mark J Leoschke

Thanks to all the field trip leaders for offering to lead us to beautiful natural jewels, in some cases places they own and love. All field trips begin at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and are held rain or shine. You should bring something to drink and food for lunch (unless the field trip description specifically says that lunch will be provided). Wear clothing/gear appropriate for the weather forecast and terrain the day of the field trip.

July 19th: Chickasaw County, Northeast Iowa

The Richters (Mary, Bernie and their daughter Lisa) are the proud owners of land that used to be part of a small, diverse farm until the Richters purchased the site in 1971. The time of their purchase (before intensive fence row to fence row agriculture was as widespread as it is now), as well as their stewardship of this site, accounts for the diverse range of habitats found here, including deciduous mesic and wet-mesic forest, sedge meadow, prairie and old field. The star of this site, and their pride and joy, is the pretty purple fringed orchid (*platanthera psycodes*) the largest known private population of this state threatened orchid in Iowa. It is possible we may get into some wet places, so bring boots. Mary Richter will be our field trip leader and will also provide lunch. Please contact Mary if you plan to stay for lunch (mlcr@rconnect.com or 641-228-7972. E-mails are preferred!).

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 18 and U.S. Highway 63 in New Hampton, go west on U.S. Highway 18 towards Bassett (about 11 miles). Turn left (south) onto Beaumont Avenue and drive one mile (you will drive through Bassett and over railroad tracks). Turn right (west) onto 210th Street (a gravel road) and drive about 1.4 miles west. Turn right (north) into a long driveway and park at the two story house with a large deck in the front.

August 23rd: Allamakee County, Northeast Iowa

Clear Creek Fish and Wildlife Management Area is owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The tract we will visit was purchased as an addition to an existing WMA by the DNR's Fisheries Bureau. This tract is a diverse site with a trout stream, deciduous forest, hill prairie plus a complex of fens and seeps. The complex is home to a number of uncommon and beautiful plants including bog birch (*Betula pumila*), fringed gentian (*Gentianopsis erini/o*), Grass of Parnassus (*parnassia glauco*), sage willow (*Salix candida*) and bog willow (*Salix pedicel/oris*).

The fen/seep complex is also home to the state threatened Baltimore checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*), a discovery made in 1986 by Dorchester resident and naturalist John Nehnevaj, who also found the fen/seep complex. This black, orange (including the tips of the antennae) and white butterfly is named after Lord Baltimore, a British colonial official in Maryland whose family crest included black and orange. The Baltimore checkerspot is the state butterfly of Maryland (The Baltimore oriole, now called the northern oriole, is also named after Lord Baltimore). The adults emerge starting in mid-June, mate, lay eggs on white turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*) and die by late July (adults may survive into early August in Iowa, though this has not been confirmed). Orange and black-banded larvae with branching spines emerge from the eggs and feed together inside a web. They over winter at the base of the host plant, become active in the spring, eating turtlehead and other plants. The approximately inch long larvae form beautiful white chrysalises with orange and black spots. Adults emerge in mid-June and start the life cycle all over again.

DIRECTIONS: From Dorchester in northwest Allamakee County drive east on County Road A16 to State Highway 76. Turn left (north) and travel about 2 miles to County Road X6A. Turn right (east) and follow this gravel road (it becomes Church Road) about 3 miles to a small blue address sign (Number 2629) on the left (north) side of the road. Turn left onto a farm lane and follow it back (east and north, crossing a small bridge) until you dead end at a parking lot (the lot is not big-some of you may want to meet in Dorchester or Waukon and carpool to this site). The fen/seep complex begins just west of the bridge, then proceeds north along the west bank of Clear Creek (This site is in Union Township nOON R5W Section 27 NW4). Mark I. Leoschke will be our field trip leader. Contact Mark at mark.leoschke@dnr.state.ia.us or 515-281-5951 if you would like a local map). **BRING BOOTS!**

September 6th: Taylor County, Southwest Iowa

We will be looking at the prairie remnants in the formerly pastured north portion of Lake of Three Fires State Park, owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Doug Sleep, park manager, will be our field trip leader. There are a number of prairie species here including wild petunia (*Ruellia humilis*), tall nutrush (*Scleria triglomerata*) and false eared foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*).

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of State Highway 49 and State Highway 2 east of Bedford turn right (north) onto State Highway 49. Travel about 4 miles to 220th Street. Turn left (west) and drive about 0.8 mile to a gate on the south side of the road (This is the north edge of the state park). Park on the side of the road.

Calendar of Events of Other Organizations

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ON PRAIRIE PLANTS TO BE OFFERED "Stewards of the Beautiful Land"

Marion, IA - "Stewards of the Beautiful Land" is a six-session educational course focusing on planning, implementing and maintaining Iowa's native prairie plants. Participants will learn about native vegetation and its use in projects such as roadside entryway plantings, butterfly gardens, and outdoor classrooms.

Sessions will be held on six alternate Tuesday evenings throughout the summer, beginning in June and ending in August. Now in its third year, Stewards of the Beautiful Land will be offered in Pella and Cass/Audubon counties. Each session will include classroom and outdoor field experience. Speakers will present ideas on topics such as native plant communities, restoration theory, native plant identification, basic design principles, safety issues, selecting plants, and maintenance. No experience or knowledge is necessary. There is a \$30.00 course fee; participants must attend all six sessions.

This educational program is co-sponsored by Trees Forever, the Pella Rollscreen Foundation, and the Iowa Department of Transportation, Living Roadways Trust Fund. Trees Forever is an environmental nonprofit organization based in Marion, Iowa, committed to responsible, long-term stewardship of forests, water, land and air. Today, more than two-thirds of Iowa's population benefits from the work of over 120,000 Trees Forever volunteers, partners and staff.

For more information or to register for classes, contact Tracy Feldmann, Trees Forever Roadways Team Coordinator at 1-800-369-1269 or 515-287-7021.

"The Prairies of Buchanan County" Saturday, August 9, 9:00 AM 3:00 PM

Join Iowa Ecotype Project manager Greg Houseal, BCCB Director Dan Cohen, and BCCB Naturalist Sandra Cabell for a tour of Buchanan county's unique prairies. We'll spend the morning exploring the wet prairie meadow complex of Patton Prairie, where wetland soils interspersed with well-drained sand lenses allow prairie cordgrass and little bluestem to intermingle, along with over 150 other native species. After lunch we'll head down to Rowley Fen, Blazing Star Prairie, and Bearbower Sand Prairie. From wet to dry, these small but diverse prairie gems will give you a good sense of the diversity of plant communities that constitute 'prairie' in Iowa. Meet at Mary Stevenson's Prairie's Edge nursery, 2 miles north of independence on Hwy 150, then one mile west on Otterville Boulevard (road to Littleton). Look for the barn on the north side of the road and wooden "Prairie Edge" sign. Beverage and treat provided. Bring a lunch, water, and dress for the weather.

For more information, please call Greg at 319-273-3005.

Natural Areas Conference "Defining a Natural Areas Land Ethic" September 24-27, 2003 Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, Wisconsin

The 30th annual conference, hosted by the Natural Areas Association and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, features presentations on natural area identification, protection, restoration and management. Also planned are a day-long invasive plants symposium and symposia on landscape ecology, large river systems, fire ecology, and private lands protection. Visit www.naturalarea.org for conference updates or contact Thomas Meyer at (608) 266-0394 or thomas.meyer@dnr.state.wi.us for more information.

Tours and workdays IPN

June 7 (Saturday): Watershed University events, Des Moines area. River clean-ups, educational events. See ww.watershed.org

June 7 (Saturday) National Trails Day. For more information see www.americanhiking.org, there are events in several Iowa counties.

June 13 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn Evening Hike. (2nd Friday of the month, May-Sept.). Lake Hawthorn has remnant prairie, many species blooming throughout the year. Meet at boat ramp parking area, east side Hawthorn Lake, on Victoria Ave., one mile east of V13, 2.5 miles south of Bames City, 3/4 mile north of intersection of Victoria Ave. and BOth St. Contact: Pam White at (641) 673-3508.

June 14 (Sunday): Species survey hike, 10 AM, Honey Creek State Park, Appanoose Co. Explore the area south of Lake Rathbun with Starla Atwell, DNR Park Manager. Meet at the park office as you enter the park. Contact Starla at (641)-724-3739 for more information and directions.

June 17 (Tuesday): Hitchcock Hike, 7 PM. Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie Co. Sponsored by the Pottawattamie Co. Conservation Board. Chad Graeve will lead a hike to Badger Ridge through restored prairie remnants and bur oak woodlands. Hike includes on-trail refreshment break (\$2/person). From exit 61A off I-29, go 2 miles east to Crescent, then 5 miles north on Hwy 183 to Page Lane, follow signs to entrance. Contact: Chad Graeve (712) 545-3283.

continued page 6

Continued from page 5

June 19 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie walk, 7 PM. Lloyd Crim will continue his tradition of monthly walks at Doolittle Prairie, just north of Ames. Directions in the INPS Annual meeting info. Contact (515)432-5026

June 21 (Saturday): Buffalo Day, 10-3, Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge, Jasper Co. Contact: (515) 994-3400.

June 28 (Saturday): Eddyville Dunes Hike, 10 AM. Glenda Buenger will lead a tour of this sand dune and wetlands complex. Look for pale green and tubercled orchids, prickly pear cactus, sweet flag and other native species. Meet at the Eddyville "Casey's", bring a sack lunch. For more information contact Pam White at (641) 673-3508.

July 7 (Sunday): Landscaping with Native Plants, 7-8:30 PM, Jester Park Lodge, Polk County. Pre-registration required. Contact (515) 323-5300.

July 11 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn evening hike. See June 13 listing for details. (515)963-7681 or ingerlamb3@mchsi.com

July 15 (Tuesday): Hitchcock Hike, 7 PM. Details as in June 17 listing.

July 24 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie walk, 7 PM. Lloyd Crim will continue his tradition of monthly walks at Doolittle Prairie, just north of Ames. Directions and contact information given under June 19 listing.

August 8 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn evening hike. See June 13 listing for details.

August 12 (Tuesday): Hitchcock Hike, 7 PM. Details in

August 21 (Thursday): Doolittle Prairie walk, 7 PM. Lloyd Crim will continue his tradition of monthly walks at Doolittle Prairie, just north of Ames. Directions and contact information given under June 19 listing.

September 1 (Monday): Prairie Heritage Day, Herbert Hoover National Historic Site, West Branch, Cedar Co. Contact: (319) 643-2541

September 5-7 (Friday-Sunday): IPN annual meeting, Denison. There are 5 cemetery prairies in the Denison area, and Derald Dineson State Preserve is nearby. Please plan to join us! More information and registration forms will be mailed to all current members in August.

September 12 (Friday): Lake Hawthorn evening hike, see June 13 listing for details.

September 13 (Saturday): Swamp White Oak Preserve workday, 9 AM - 2 PM, Muscatine Co. Sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. Call (563) 263-1847 for directions.

September 20 (Saturday): Starrs Cave State Preserve tour, 10 AM, Burlington area. See the cave and other interesting sites in the area. Bring a sack lunch or food to share. US 21 to Sunnyside Ave. on the north edge of Burlington, then east on Sunnyside to Irish Ridge Rd (note a brown recreational area sign), turn north on Irish Ridge, curve west until you see the entrance sign. Contact Pam White for more information at (641)673-3508.

September 23 (Tuesday): Hitchcock Hike, 6:30 PM. Details as in June 17 listing.

October 11 (Saturday): Cedar Hills Sand Prairie, Blackhawk Co., 9 AM - 2 PM. Sponsored by the Nature Conservancy. Call (563) 263-1847 for directions.

Discussion of the Status of Work Toward an Iowa Flora continued from page 7

coefficients of conservatism, wetland coefficients, habit, lifespan, habitat, synonymy, common names, and for those families available, the "Flora of North America" nomenclature. (Sounds like a great start toward the revision of the checklist!)

3) Should we be working on an atlas of the flora as a next step? A national project is underway by John Kartesz to provide distribution maps by county for every vascular plant taxon in the US. He has information from all but four states - regrettably, Iowa is one of the four. There is a strong possibility that Kartesz can find funding for basic information to be databased from herbarium records in Iowa. However, is that our highest priority and the best use of our time and efforts?

New ideas--

1) Nick proposed that we primarily need keys for identifying Iowa's plants. He recommended that we update PoW's keys (a set of keys to Iowa's vascular plants that Dr. Pohl prepared for use by his taxonomy students). We could also see how closely these follow the older keys done by Henry Conard at Grinnell (perhaps revised during his time at the University of Iowa). Nick volunteered to compare PoW's keys to Eilers and Roosa to see how comprehensive they are and where problems lie. Deb will try to compile (with the help of everyone doing floristic work in Iowa!) a list of new species for the state that are not included in Eilers and Roosa.

2) Can anyone suggest possible funding sources that may not have been explored in the past? Lynn and Anna have gotten funding from the Maytag Foundation for the Iowa Grasses project.

3) Do you have additional project descriptions, suggestions, questions, or other information to share? If so, these can be included in the next issue of the INPS Newsletter and/or discussed on the "iowa-native-plants" listserve.

Discussion of the Status of Work Toward an Iowa Flora Iowa Academy of Science Annual Meeting, 26 April 2003 compiled by Deb Lewis

Present: Christine Chandler (Putnam Museum, Davenport), Rosanne Healy (ISU), Deb Lewis (ISU), Nick Stoyhoff (Morton Arboretum, Chicago), Lois Tiffany (ISU), Mark Widrechner (ISU) [although unable to attend, Tom Rosburg has provided comments about his work and plans, and these are also included below]

After introductions of all who were present, Dr. Tiffany and Rosanne filled us in on their "fungal floristics" projects --

- 1) An ongoing survey of the fungal diseases of prairie plants, with surveys continuing on several of the state preserves (13 preserves and the prairie at Waubonsie State Park).
- 2) A survey of the fungi of the state preserves and parks, with projects last year at Backbone, White Pine Hollow, Ft. Defiance, Woodman Hollow, Pilot Knob, and Ledges and this year at several preserves in Hardin Co. Also Laura McCormick has been working on a checklist of the fungi of Woodthrush Woods State Preserve, and to a lesser extent, Deb has been collecting the "obvious" fungi of Bixby. This information is being compiled into an Access database.
- 3) The truffle survey will be published sometime soon. It has already yielded a new species -- the recently named *Mattioromyces tiffanyae* (obviously named in honor of Dr. Tiffany, publication accepted, but not yet out)!
- 4) Dr. Tiffany has signed on with the publisher for a 2nd edition of "Mushrooms and other Fungi of the Midcontinental United States".

Next we reviewed the status of several vascular plant taxonomic projects --

- 1) Bill Norris and Scott Zager are continuing their work on Iowa *Carex* (sedges).
- 2) Lynn Clark and Anna Gardner are studying Iowa's grasses (Poaceae). The Iowa grass database now contains more than 9000 records of ISC (Iowa State University Ada Hayden Herbarium) specimens, and the addition of IA (University of Iowa Herbarium) specimen records is underway. Anna is also getting photographs, descriptions, and other information entered into an Iowa grass website, which should be available on-line in the next few months.
- 3) Mark Widrechner's studies of *Rubus* (blackberries, dewberries and raspberries) have extended well beyond Iowa's borders. However, he is still collecting specimens and examining specimens collected by others in keeping track of the species and their distributions in the state.
- 4) Nick Stoyhoff has borrowed and annotated specimens of the red oaks from ISC and will soon request those from IA in his studies of the Iowa oaks (*Quercus*). He has surveyed the Iowa floristic literature for distribution records, too, and has entered the information in an Access database. He is also mapping the distribution using ArcView. As he went through the literature, he also collected the data for Iowa's hickories (*Carya*), maples (*Acer*), walnuts (*Juglans*), and ashes (*Fraxinus*).

Floristic projects --

- 1) The Iowa Department of Natural Resources/State Preserves Advisory Board continues to fund projects for inventorying the flora of the state preserves. Last year, a one-time addition to the "regular pool" of money has allowed for studies of a portion of Yellow River State Forest by Bill Watson, the lower Wapsipinicon River valley by Paul Bockenstedt, and three private and TNC sites in Clayton and Fayette cos. by Tom Rosburg. It is hoped that the state budget will allow the "regular" funding of preserves inventory projects for this year (looking good as long as last-minute cuts aren't made to the budget this week by the legislature). These surveys involve lots of other Iowa botanists.
- 2) Diana Horton is working on a database of Iowa's "Fragile Flora" (see the website for more info about this project at <http://frnp.its.uiowa.edu/herbariumlsearch.htm>)

All of the projects mentioned above are great for increasing our knowledge of Iowa's flora, but what direction should we be heading toward a published state Flora? Here's some background and projects that are currently underway:

- 1) Even though Eilers and Roosa's checklist (1994) is less than 10 years old, there are already many changes that could be made in updating it. Is it time for a revision? Deb has been noting some of the changes to taxonomic and distributional information (including new species in the state) in a copy of Eilers and Roosa. Tom will be on sabbatical for the next few months, and once the field season is ended, he hopes to make more progress toward revising the checklist. Tom would like to see the nomenclature updated (in part to reflect the taxonomy followed in the "Flora of North America"), inclusion of all published records of new species for Iowa, an update of distribution and abundance data, as well as include more species biological/ecological data.
- 2) Tom has also been working on a "species x site" database of the floristic data from manuscripts, reports, site surveys, etc. (These references are all paper copies, but come from a number of different sources. They now have about 200 sites in the database, with more to do, but currently no funding. The database also includes species data such as the Iowa

continued on page 6

ADULT NATURE WEEKEND
IOWA LAKESIDE LABORATORY
1838 Highway 86
Milford, IA 51351-7267
712-337-3669

THE 16TH ANNUAL ADULT NATURE WEEKEND WILL BE AUGUST 15-17, 2003

The program begins on Friday evening with a 6:00 p.m. check-in 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. McBride 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. No pets are allowed at Lakeside.

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 for a cabin with a bathhouse nearby, \$195 for a double-occupancy motel-style room, and \$225 for a single motel-style room. These prices include two nights lodging and five meals. For local persons who do not want lodging, breakfasts and dinner, the cost is \$114. No refunds can be made after July 11. \$25 is non-refundable with any cancellation. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to Lakeside Lab.

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 Lynette Seigley. Upon arrival participants may sign up to attend sessions of their choice on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday morning.

Lectures include Geological Views of Iowa's Great Lakes Landscapes --Jean Prior, Exploration of the Natural History of the Region (group field trip) -- Jean Prior and Lynette Seigley, and The Status of Aquatic Vascular Plants in the Iowa Great Lakes -- Gary Phillips. Sessions on prairies and prairie restoration (Paul Christiansen), insects (Woody Hart), wetlands (Gary Phillips), forest botany (Bill Pusateri), fungi (Lois Tiffany), birds (Lee and Nancy Schoenewe), geology (Jean Prior and Lynette Seigley), and archaeology (Joe Tiffany).

Registration: To register for the Adult Nature Weekend, complete the attached form and return it with your payment to the address indicated by Friday, July 25. The weekend is limited to 40 participants based on the order in which registrations are received. A waiting list will be kept in case there are cancellations. **For More Information and complete schedule of events:** Contact Sue Sprong by phone at 515-294-2488 or email at lakeside@iastate.edu.

REGISTRATION FORM

Adult Nature Weekend
Iowa Lakeside Laboratory
August 15-17

Name(s) _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone # _____ Email, _____

Housing Preference: See cost under General Information.
Cabin with Double Bed Cabin with Twin Beds

Roommate Preference, _____
(If none indicated, one may be assigned)

Registration Fee: \$175. Fee does not include transportation to Lakeside Lab. Make check payable to Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. Send to Adult Nature Weekend, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Office, 131 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1020.

CHAMOMILE REMEMBERED

by *Damian Pieper*

As soon as the boiling water soaked into my bag of Chamomile tea, the scent wafting up from it suddenly projected a once familiar and colorful scene onto my brain: An lush acre monoculture of feathery/ferny bright green sprinkled with tiny gold & white daisy-like flowers. The plants are rather delicate in spite of such robust appearance and, although more than waist-high, quickly trampled into fragrant tangles of bruised vegetation if you forced your way through it. Surrounded by tool shed, cattle bam, com crib, hog bam, stout wire fence and five gates, we called the space our "junk yard." Aptly named because it more or less automatically accumulated anything and everything for which we could not find any more suitable spot to reside. From the runners of an ancient sleigh with quatrefoils cast into its two inch thick iron, to empty bean cans, obsolete autos, farm machinery, and piles of used paving bricks. At odd intervals, the "junk yard" also became a temporary holding pen for large or small numbers of livestock when no better location could be found for them. Depending upon the numbers and kinds of animals involved, the meter-high jungle of lush greenery would be eaten and/or trampled into oblivion in short order.

Several peculiarities drew my attention to that plant. The distinct, unique, and powerful scent of all parts, but especially the blooming flowers. The fact that it grew nowhere else on our land, not even a few inches outside the wire boundary fence. Why should this peculiar plant choose what surely must have been the least habitable location around? And how did it manage to revive itself to fill the area after having been destroyed so many times? When I asked my Dad about those plants, he told me with absolute authority and finality that those were "Stinking-dog-weeds."

Quite a few years later, someone else told me that they were more properly called Chamomile. So I read everything that I could find about Chamomile, learning that several different plants were called Chamomile and I was unable to determine which kind we had. My teabag claims only to be filled with "chamomile flowers." Gray's lists half a dozen species in the Genera *Anthemis* and *Matricaria*, only one of which is believed to originate in North America.

Someday, I must re-visit the old farm to see if any of that Chamomile survives. Then perhaps, I may be able to determine whether it is a surviving native plant or one of the several introduced kinds.

Are there any Chamomile experts out there?

POISON IVY TALES

by *Damian Pieper*

"Its many forms," is the key to identifying Poison Ivy. And, before all else, it should be the first plant you learn to identify. Then you can enjoy your field trip without the risk of sitting in it...or worse. "Poison Oak" is a myth that refuses to die. "Poison Oak" is simply one plant, or sometimes only a part of one poison ivy plant that, for its own inscrutable purposes has decided to have deeply lobed leaflets rather than unlobed ones. If you dig up the whole plant, including all of the subsidiary plants sprouting from "runners" along the surface of the soil, you may be amazed at the variety of leaves on various parts of the same plant. Some will imitate Oak leaves, some imitate Bay-Leaves, some imitate Sassafras leaves, including "mitten leaves" some with a right thumb, some with left thumb, and just like Sassafras plants, some "mitten leaves" will have two thumbs! Often the tri-part leaves imitate the tri-part leaf of the Box-Elder so closely as to be indistinguishable from it. I have been looking at Box-Elder leaves (*Acer negundo*) and Poison Ivy leaves for more than a half a century, and there are still some few occasions when I can not be certain which is which, by the leaves alone.

On old farms, poison ivy sometimes happens to climb up a wooden fence post. After growing many years on that post, it produces few, if any, leaves on the post but grows a huge, perfectly spherical ball of branches and leaves just above the top of the post. People have actually mistaken those plants for carefully trimmed topiaries. The "armpit high patch" of vertical stemmed plants is another of its typical disguises. And that form is the most difficult to identify in winter when there are no leaves to be found.

The size of the leaf is no clue to its identity at all. A "typical" leaf on a poison ivy plant may be no more than a few millimeters long on a constantly clipped lawn plant. A "typical" leaf of an ancient tree dwelling vine may approach a yard in length. When it has climbed a tree or wall undisturbed for some years, the main vine grows lots of four-foot-long horizontal branches which are smooth, straight, gray-barked, and never have any of the adventitious rootlets on them. "Greenhorns" in the woods always mistake those for the tree's lower branches. Me: "Why did you wear shorts to pick berries in the woods? Did you look for poison ivy before you climbed up that tree?" She: "Yes, these are grape vines. I'm picking grapes." Then she decides that it will be easier to exit the tree by sliding down, thereby breaking off lots of small sap-filled twigs and crushing lots of juicy green leaves. Yes, there were grapevines on that tree. Mixed in among the grapevines were also a Virginia Creeper and just enough Poison Ivy to require several visits to the MD.

continued on page 11

BOOK REVIEWS

"Butterflies in Your Pocket A Guide to the Butterflies of the Upper Midwest", by Steve Hendrix and Diane Debinski

(Bur Oak Guide Series, University of Iowa Press), 2003. \$9.95
paperback)

This new Bur Oak Guide illustrates sixty-five species and is one of the first to use digital photos instead of drawings. The guide shows sexual differences between males and females, seasonal forms, and both the upper and undersides of wings when these are critical for proper identification. In addition to common and scientific names it also provides information on size, habitat, preferences, and months when each species can be found.

University of Iowa Press, 100 Kuhl House, Iowa City, IA
52242-1000; 319-335-2000 Fax: 319-335-2055; Book orders: 773-568-1550; E-mail: uipress@uiowa.edu

"The Gardener's Butterfly Book: A Guide to Identifying, Understanding and Attracting Garden Butterflies"

Alan Branhagen is a native of Decorah, Iowa who received a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from Iowa State University and a Masters Degree in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University. He is currently Director of Horticulture at Powell Gardens near Kansas City, Missouri. Alan has written an excellent book titled "The Gardener's Butterfly Book: A Guide to Identifying, Understanding and Attracting Garden Butterflies" that many of you would probably enjoy. It has chapters on Butterfly Gardening Regions, Butterfly Gardening Tips and then a number of chapters on individual butterflies. The latter chapters include sections on status, habitat, garden habits, garden nectar plants, garden host plants, identification, caterpillar and chrysalis for butterflies found throughout the United States. Many species of Iowa butterflies are covered. The text is great and the photographs wonderful (lots of detailed close-ups).

This book is published by the National Home Gardening Club of Minnetonka, Minnesota and is not found in bookstores. It is available for sale (\$24.95, hardcover) from two Iowa sources:

-Christian Camera, 418 West Water Street, Decorah, Iowa 52101; (563) 382-2906; chriscam@alpinecom.net
Christian Camera will ship this book. Contact them regarding shipping charges.

-Reiman Gardens Gift Shop, located on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

Submitted by Mark Leoschke

Sylvan T. Runkel: Citizen of the Natural World

Because of Sylvan T. Runkel, two generations of Iowa naturalists know the thrill of bird droppings, prickly ash, and wood ticks - as well as black-eyed Susans and bloodroots. Sylvan, who died in 1995, taught us the simple joys of nature.

The new biography, *Sylvan T. Runkel: Citizen of the Natural World*, reminds us how Sylvan's ranger hat, walking stick, and soft-spoken manner sparked a love of the outdoors in teachers, students, and others who joined his nature hikes. Sylvan's tales of plants and animals - "natural citizens" - brought the woods and prairies to life. He was coauthor of several popular books: *Wildflowers of Iowa Woodlands*, *Wildflowers of Illinois Woodlands*, *Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie*, and *Wildflowers and Other Plants of Iowa Wetlands*.

Sylvan encouraged us to "have fun" in the outdoors, and to "get acquainted" with the wonders of nature. "If we get acquainted with natural communities, we feel at home," he said. "Anyplace we feel at home, we feel like protecting."

Sylvan's own story is a slice of American history. His grandmother lived in a log cabin. He grew up swimming and boating on the Mississippi River. Sylvan saw the Wright Brothers and Charles Lindbergh, and became a pilot himself. As a teenager, he explored the West, then came home via the newly opened Panama Canal. As a young father, he struggled through the Great Depression. He supervised Civilian Conservation Corps crews. He climbed the Grand Teton and other mountains.

In World War II, Sylvan survived a D-Day glider crash and bullet wounds. After the war, he resumed his career with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. In retirement, he became a teacher, naturalist, book author, and conservation leader. Although he died in 1995 at age 88, Sylvan Runkel's legacy continues. Many Iowa naturalists and conservationists cite him as their inspiration, and his field guides remain the favorite reference for wildflower enthusiasts.

Larry A. Stone of Elkader and Jon W. Stravers of Harper's Ferry (formerly of Pella) who wrote Sylvan's 167-page biography, knew and worked with Sylvan for more than 20 years. They spent six years gathering stories and photos from Sylvan's files and from his friends in the conservation community. The result is a fascinating tale of a legendary Iowan.

The book is available for \$15, tax included, plus \$2 shipping, from: Larry A. Stone, 23312 295th St., Elkader, IA 52043. Phone 888-807-1828. Email lstone@alpinecom.net .

POISON IVY TALES continued from page 9

Then there is the painfully true story of the young couple who went to swim and sunbathe at the Cedar Valley Quarries (Now a county Park, I believe). They swam out to the pristine-looking (and obviously untouched) little stone island in the lower quarry. Agreeing that it was a perfectly idyllic, private spot to sunbathe after skinny dipping, they tramped the soft, innocent looking green plants flat in a spot just large enough to stretch out. The sheer beauty of the place enticed them to remain long enough to get badly sun burned. Allover. When the itching began, they thought there must be chiggers there and began to scratch. They made medical history of a kind over the next eight weeks at University Hospitals, for the achievement of contracting ivy poisoning in unmentionable places

As a native Iowan, I can assure you that Poison Ivy (*Rhus/Toxicodendron radicans*) can climb nearly to the top of most any tree in the state. With age, it usually develops a dense mat of adventitious rootlets all along the lower portions of the vine that help attach it to the available tree bark or other surface. Given enough time, the lower part of such a vine will grow as thick as your arm. Whenever I point out such a lonely old vine to someone, they usually return later to cut it off near the ground, and then it invariably dies. I always regret that because then I no longer have a venerable old specimen to show to people when I am attempting to teach them how to recognize it in all its many forms.

Whatever else you do in the woods or prairie, do not decide that those lovely big soft green leaves would make a great substitute for toilet paper.

Iowa Native Plant Society Web Pages: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbariumlinps/inps/home.htm>

Subscribe to the Iowa Native Plant Society Internet List

Do you have access to the internet/email? Do you subscribe to the INP server list? If not consider subscribing. You will receive reminder notices of upcoming events, follow and join in discussions about various subjects, recently members exchanged information as per the pros and cons of burning prairies and how it affects the insect population.

TO SUBSCRIBE:

Address: iowa-native-plants-request@list.uiowa.edu Subject: no subject Message: subscribe (your e-mail address)

INPS Membership/Change of Address Form and Survey

Send with your 2003 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.

A Morning at Rochester Cemetery May 27, 2003

by Donald N. Bardole

Today I went where the sound of Oriole, Cardinal, Bluebird, Brown Thrasher, and mosquito mix. Only rarely do human sounds impose . . . or have I chosen to block them out? I have gone to an ancient place where time does not seem to matter. There are, in that place, human dates, 1846, 1863, and such carved with names on weather worn marble slabs.

In that place blend colors with wild abandon. At first sight, there is the pure white to bright lavender of the recurved bell of the Shooting Star. Among it lives the dainty blue of the wild geranium. But the colors do not stop there. Never would a human designer dare to blend all those colors with any success. Consider the glowing orange of Puccoon and Krigia so close to the brilliant yellow of the early Buttercup and Golden Groundsel. Yellow and orange . . . only this brilliant and together in sunsets and on the prairie!

The Windflower, Beardtongue, and Wood Betony temper the scene with their brilliant white and subdued cream. And what about the exotic shape of the red and yellow Columbine! A few early, brilliant blue Widow Tears can be found, if you look closely . . . but not a single Prairie Rose is yet to bloom.

But the morning was not all joy. On the north side of the road the home of the Yellow Star Grass has been mown much shorter than most lawns. Maybe some could be found in an unmown section near by. I could not bear to look.

There was a prize today, on the prairie. There, just over the shoulder of the Cemetery, looking quietly at the gravel road were the Yellow Lady Slippers, glorious in their bright attire, extending their arms to embrace the morning.

Today, there was renewal at a place of sorrow.



Newsletter

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