



# IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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## Experimental Restoration of an Oak Savanna by Lars Brudvig

Oak savannas were a common feature of the Iowa landscape prior to Euro-American settlement, but pristine remnants are now quite rare. This demise began during settlement with destruction of savannas for agriculture. What remnants remained have by-and-large been degraded by fire suppression. Scattered or clustered overstory trees define savannas, and sparse canopies are maintained by frequent understory fires; however, with fire suppression, savannas can be rapidly encroached by trees and shrubs. Encroachment can fill canopy openings and may alter understory plant community composition. To restore encroached savannas, efforts have typically involved removal of encroaching trees and shrubs, followed by prescribed understory fires.

In collaboration with Dr. Heidi Asbjornsen (ISU, Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, I initiated an oak savanna restoration experiment for my Ph.D. research. In 2002, we identified an area of encroached white oak (*Quercus alba*) savannas along the western shore of Saylorville Lake, north of Des Moines. We established eight research sites: four to receive restoration and four to remain as encroached control sites. During the winters of 2002 – 03 and 2003 – 04, we mechanically removed encroaching woody vegetation from the four restoration treatment areas. A research grant from the Iowa Native Plant Society has helped us to annually monitor vegetation plots, and we now have data

from a four-year restoration sequence (one year pre-restoration and for three years after woody encroachment removal). Although we plan to continue monitoring these plots for many years to come, including after prescribed fires, I can highlight some of our findings to date.

Encroachment removal reestablished overstory structure and composition, as we selectively retained *Quercus sp.* Although a broken overstory still remains, tree recruitment has been dominated by encroaching species, especially ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*) and gray dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*). *Quercus alba* regeneration has been minimal because most seedlings are found under overstory oak trees, where light levels are still low after encroachment removal. We suggest that the locations of oak seedlings should be noted in other restoration efforts, to determine if this pattern is present. Since we found that bare rootstock seedlings transplanted into inter-canopy areas performed well after encroachment removal, transplanting might be a good restoration practice in other savannas. We found that restoration resulted in the addition of new understory species without the loss of preexisting species. Potentially, resource levels increased, because of reduced competition from overstory trees, which allowed for more understory species to coexist. Understory species richness increased at 1 m<sup>2</sup> and site-level scales, which was due to within-site proliferation of graminoids and woody species and site-level establishment of graminoids. However, forb richness did not respond as prominently, which is of concern as forbs comprise the bulk of understory plants in pristine remnants.

Prescribed understory fires will commence in fall 2007. We look forward to continued monitoring of these sites to help elucidate the interplay between fire, soil properties, understory composition, and woody encroachment. Although still a young restoration, our experiment helps to highlight the promise for restoring savannas degraded by woody encroachment. We thank the Iowa Native Plant Society for their help to support this research.

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(Before and after photos on page 8)

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## Leaves from the President's Notebook

### Reality shows

Among my past summer's activities was a day hike to the summit of Mount Jefferson in New Hampshire's White Mountains. (Had my wife, Yvonne, known how steep the Caps Ridge trail would become, she may have found alternative activities.) During numerous trips to the Presidential Range, I'd hiked to the tops of Washington, Madison, and Adams. I had not, however, returned to this area for nearly 20 years.

Above the tree-line, I was very pleased (especially when not looking for a hand-hold) to see cushion plants and cold-hearty woody plants such as *Empetrum* and *Vaccinium*. Inevitably, among these and other relict members of the arctic flora, I recalled my trip to Churchill, Manitoba. Soon thereafter I remembered the portion of an Ecology lecture where I tell my students that among arctic and alpine floras, shared species are the greatest with Mount Washington (80%) compared to the Beartooth Mountains (50%) and the Sierra Nevada (20%).

Although mildly surprised, I was also quite pleased that what I say in the classroom (at least in this case) is actually true.

I've had similar moments of personal insight. A June rainstorm in Big Bend National Park confirmed that most Chihuahuan desert precipitation comes in the summer. A season watching the Sioux City Prairie demonstrated that bloom stalks of prairie flowers steadily increase in height from April to September. A trip to Sequoia National Park showed that giant sequoias occur, just as the book predicted, at the middle elevations of the Sierra. Secondly, as far as those majestic big trees are concerned, I was awed by their beauty. Furthermore, if what I teach about secondary growth is true, then these ancient giants grow – cell by cell by cell – xylem to the inside of the vascular cambium, phloem to the outside.

Among the benefits for field botanists is the opportunity to experience nature in person rather than in the abstract. Warmer weather is coming. Field trips are in store. Participate. Among your discoveries might be something you already know.

*Brian T. Hazlett*

## On the Horizon ---- New INPS Logo and Poster

In our next newsletter issue we'll be unveiling a new INPS logo and announcing the availability of the first of a series of posters of Iowa's native plants! After serving us well for more than ten years, our original logo, designed by (then) high school student Sara Sheeley, will be "retired" to make way for a new design by Mark Müller. In addition, Carl Kurtz has compiled several of his beautiful photographs into a poster which will also feature the mission of the INPS.

Anna Gardner Memorial funds will be used in partial financial support of these two projects. If you wish to contribute to these projects in Anna's memory, your check (indicating this designation on the "memo" line or in a separate note) can be sent to our treasurer, Christine Taliga. Anna was our INPS webmaster and a skilled botanist, artist and photographer.

## INPS UPDATE AND HAPPENINGS

### 2007 Iowa Native Plant Society Annual Meeting

The 2007 Iowa Native Plant Society Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Iowa Prairie Conference. We will meet over breakfast on Sunday morning July 15. Our business should conclude well before the departure of post-conference field trips to Olson Nature Preserve, Steele Prairie, or the Denison area prairies. Hope to see you then.

### 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference

Plans for the 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference are almost set!

The Iowa Prairie Conference will be held at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City on the evening of July 13 and all day on July 14. Iowa Native Plant Society will have its annual meeting and will sponsor one of the post-conference field trips on July 15.

Speakers at the 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference include: Stan Buman, David Engle, Donald Farrar, John Price, Michael Stambaugh, a panel discussion, and the field trip leaders, Tom Rosburg and Scott Moats.

Helping with Iowa and Loess Hills prairie songs will be: Carl Kurtz, Molly McGovern, Danielle and Don Wirth, and David Zahrt.

Field trips will explore Broken Kettle Grasslands, Sylvan Runkel State Preserve, and prairies of private landowners and the Owego Wetland reconstruction.

Post-conference field trips on July 15 include trips in three directions:

to the east - Steele Prairie with Ginger Vietor

to the south-east - Denison area prairies with Glenn Pollock

and to the west an INPS-sponsored field trip - Olson Nature Preserve in Nebraska.

Please visit: [http://prairieplains.org/olson\\_nature\\_preserve.htm](http://prairieplains.org/olson_nature_preserve.htm)

The Iowa Native Plant Society's annual meeting will be held over breakfast on July 15, right before the field trips depart.

If you need to have registration forms mailed to you, please contact Barb Schultz at 712-258-0838. A new website is almost ready. It can be accessed by going to the same site as before: [www.woodburyparks.com/](http://www.woodburyparks.com/). Click on IA Prairie Conference on the left. Registration materials will be there when they are ready.

This is a great time to encourage someone new to attend! Due to an arrangement with Northwest AEA, it is possible this time to offer licensure renewal credit and graduate credit for educators. Those same educators, if this is their first conference, will be eligible for reduced conference registration fees due to a grant from REAP-Conservation Education Programs. Also, naturalists, college students, prairie landowners and possibly others who have never attended an Iowa Prairie Conference, will be eligible to apply for the reduced registration fee.

Special thanks to The Loess Hills Alliance, Woodbury County Conservation Foundation, and Briar Cliff University for sponsoring this conference, with major grants from REAP-CEP and the Living Roadways Trust Fund. Additional funding comes from several organizations including the Iowa Native Plant Society.

Look for the INPS table at the Iowa Prairie Conference. You'll see the new INPS poster created by Carl Kurtz and the new INPS logo created by Mark Muller! The posters will be available at a reduced price for INPS members.

Dianne Blankenship, Iowa Prairie Conference Co-chair

## The Iowa Native Plant Society's 2007 Field Trips

Compiled by Mark J. Leoschke

A big thanks to all our field trip leaders! All field trips are scheduled for Saturdays and begin at 10 a.m. unless otherwise noted. They take place rain or shine, so come prepared for the weather. The terrain varies from site to site, so wear appropriate footwear. Bring a lunch and something to drink.

The Iowa Department of Transportation's state highway maps are available at DOT rest stops and welcome centers. Larger state preserves are represented by small blue dots with the name of the preserve in blue letters. For instance, Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County is located southwest of Chester.

The Iowa Sportman's Atlas has county maps with wildlife management areas, state and county parks, state preserves, national wildlife refuges, etc. owned by public and some private conservation organizations. Its current edition (2006) has 911 street names for most, if not all, counties. Street names make it much easier to locate a favorite natural area or find a new one. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the atlas, check with your local bookstore; sporting goods store; call 1-800-568-8334 or [www.sportsmanatlas.com](http://www.sportsmanatlas.com). The cost is \$21.95.

### May 12th Webster County (north-central Iowa)

Deb Lewis, Curator of Iowa State University's Ada Hayden Herbarium, will lead a field trip to Brushy Creek State Preserve. Last July Bill Johnson and MJ Hatfield led a field trip to Brushy Creek State Recreation Area to see the facilities of the Prairie Seed Harvest Team (IDNR Wildlife Bureau) and tour Root Cellar Prairie. To further explore the diversity of this large recreation area (6,500 acres), this time the field trip site is the 260-acre part of the Recreation Area that was dedicated in 1988 as a geological, archaeological and biological state preserve. Participants will see how the tree composition varies from upland to slope and ravine to floodplain woodlands. The area should be in transition from the early- to mid-spring ephemeral flora, so favorite spring woodland wildflowers should abound. The scenic and deeply cut Brushy Creek valley displays a record of 11,000 years of geological history. In addition to exploring the preserve's flora and seeing some of the unique geological features, we can also observe and talk about the effects of having a state preserve contained within a popular and heavily-used state park. The Guide to Iowa's State Preserves reports that more than 100 species of birds have been noted from the recreation area — the hike up and down the slopes can be leisurely, with stops to observe a bird with binoculars or to take a photograph.

**Directions:** From US Highway 20 (about 9 miles east of the intersection with US Highway 169 in Ft. Dodge), turn south on County Road P73 and drive 3.5 miles. Turn east on 270th Street (Lakeview Drive) and follow the winding road as it passes the south end of the lake, then turns south and becomes Brushy Creek Road. Proceed to the first parking lot (for the overlook) on the west side of the road that is south of the park office.

### June 9th Clayton County (northeast Iowa)

Did you know that northeast Iowa is home to a federally threatened plant? It's true! Come along on a field trip to the Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge to see northern monkshood (*Aconitum noveboracense*) and learn about the refuge created to protect this rare flower (as well as federally endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail, *Discus macclintockii*). We hope to see many other interesting plants including paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), yellow birch (*Betula alleghaniensis*) and white pine (*Pinus strobus*) as well as a variety of ferns, mosses and liverworts. After lunch, we will visit an upland savanna restoration underway on Clayton County Conservation Board property near historic Motor Mill. Come and see how the understory is responding to mechanical tree thinning and prescribed fire.

**Directions:** We will meet at the Fast Trak convenience store along Highway 13 just north of the town of Elkader. Don't forget your cameras! Contact Connie Dettman (Private Lands program, Wildlife Bureau, Iowa DNR) at the NRCS field office in Elkader at 563-245-1048 with questions.

**July 15th Olson Nature Preserve** (Iowa Prairie Conference post-conference field trip) Bill Whitney of the Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI), Aurora, NE, will lead this field trip. Cars will depart from Briar Cliff University at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 15<sup>th</sup> or you may plan to meet the group at the site. This is a post-conference field trip following the 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference. More information (including maps) will be available at the INPS table in the exhibit area. It will also be possible to sign up for the field trip and to order a lunch.

The Olson Nature Preserve is located near Albion, NE. Although only 112 acres in size, several ecosystems are represented on the property. It is located at the eastern edge of the Nebraska sandhills and has characteristic blowouts and gullies. The plants found there are generally of a more western origin, like those of the sandhills proper. A grove of mature bur oaks clings to a steep slope. Ferns grow in the moist, cool forest. Wetlands at the base of the oak grove host plants and animals that are typical of the Loup River Watershed. The natural assets are a mature cottonwood grove, oxbow wetlands, lowland tallgrass and sandhills prairie, oak forest, an east-facing escarpment, and a small sandy canyon. Additionally, it includes more than a half-mile stretch of Beaver Creek, a perennial spring-fed stream. The creek forms the geological boundary between this easternmost tip of the sandhills and the rolling loess hardlands to the east. PPRI has owned and leased parts of this site since 1995.

**Directions:** If coming from the south (Albion, NE), Olson Nature Preserve is located eight miles north of Albion, on Hwy 14. Turn left (northwest) on Y Road and after one mile, turn left (south) at the entrance gate.

If coming from the north on Hwy 14, the turn to Y Road is a sharp right turn about four miles south of Petersburg, NE.

*continued page 5*

Alternatively, from Petersburg you can go west one mile, turn left (south) and in 2 ½ miles you will reach Y Road, turn left (southeast) and in one mile turn right into the lane to the preserve.

Directions from Sioux City: Take Hwy 20 to the west 87 miles. Turn left (south) onto Hwy 14, which is 12 miles past Plainview, NE. Then go south on Hwy 14 for 37 miles to Petersburg. See further directions above. Allow 2 hours 15 minutes to reach the preserve from Briar Cliff University.

#### **July 21st Scott & Clinton Counties** (east-central IA)

Bob Bryant, retired director of the Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, will conduct a workshop on ferns. The workshop will be based on his e-book, An Interpreter's Guide to the Ferns of Iowa, and will cover the identification, distribution, uses, folklore and photographing of Iowa's ferns. The workshop will include a tour of the Center in the morning and an optional tour of Sherman Park after lunch.

The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center (225 acres) and Sherman Park (231 acres) are located across the Wapsipinicon River from each other just north of Dixon, IA. The Wapsi River Center is the premier environmental education facility in eastern Iowa. The two areas form a 456-acre complex rich in plant and animal diversity. The Center is predominately upland timber, with some bottomland timber, open grassland, shrubs and rock outcroppings. Some of the open grassland has been planted to prairie. Over 290 species of plants have been identified at the Center and over 360 species at Sherman. Sherman Park is predominately upland timber with sand prairie remnants, prairie plantings, sand oak savanna, upland pothole marshes and a rock bluff. It has five species of plants that are on the Iowa threatened and endangered list; including royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*) and the daisy-leaved moonwort (*Botrychium matricariifolium*).

**Directions:** The Wapsi River Environmental Education Center is located about 1 mile northwest of Dixon. From Dixon go west on County Road Y4E about 1 mile and then turn right (north) on 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Follow the signs for about 1 mile. The Center's street address is 31555 52nd Avenue.

#### **August 25th: Butler County** (northeast Iowa)

Wolters Prairie Preserve is owned by the Butler County Conservation Board. The south half of the site has some high quality mesic to wet tallgrass prairie and sedge meadow. A number of native plants occur here (the display of the most important plant in the known universe, shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*) in late May is a treat), including uncommon species like Richardson's sedge (*Carex richardsonii*), the wily adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum pusillum*), tall nutrush (*Scleria triglomerata*) and hairy valerian (*Valerian edulis*). Our field trip leader will be Mark J. Leoschke, botanist for the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

**Directions:** From the intersection of State Highway 3 and State Highway 14 South (there is a Casey's General Store in the northeast corner of the intersection) in the southeast portion of Allison (not State Highway 14 North in the southwest portion

of Allison), drive 4 miles east on State Highway 3. Turn left (north) on Quail Avenue and travel about 2 miles (go past 195<sup>th</sup> Street). Wolters Prairie Preserve will be on the left (west) side of the road. Park along Quail Avenue and use the small wooden bridge to cross the ditch into the prairie.

#### **September 8th Pottawattamie County** (southwest IA)

Vincent Bluffs is 36 acres of Loess Hills prairie, savanna and a small woodland located in the heart of Council Bluffs, Iowa. The site is currently under restoration including the removal of invasive trees. The dotted blazing star (*Liatris punctata*) will be in full bloom. We might even find a couple of Ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes sp.*). Vincent Bluffs is at its best in the fall.

**Directions:** The prairie is somewhat difficult to locate. People are encouraged to contact Glenn Pollock for a street map with the marked location of the prairie: Glenn Pollock: 402 571 6230 (home); 402 572 2004 (work) or [pollockg@cox.net](mailto:pollockg@cox.net) From exit 5 of U.S. Interstate Highway 80 travel one block west to Woodbury Avenue and go south on Woodbury Avenue. Woodbury Avenue turns to the west after about 8 blocks. Continue on Woodbury Avenue until Thallus Street. Turn to the north and go 3 blocks to the end of the street and enter the parking lot. You have arrived.



#### **Manual of Grasses for North America**

On the web courtesy of Utah State, click on 'Manual on the Web' demo on right. You can select a species and see a range map of North America by county, or excellent line drawing illustrations, taxonomic treatment, etc. The site is still under development but worth checking out.

<http://herbarium.usu.edu/grassmanual/>

#### **Books: The Butterflies of Iowa**

(Bur Oak Book) by Dennis W. Schlicht, John C. Downey, and Jeffrey C. Nekola will be available in April.

## An Update on Plans for the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

Plans are well underway for the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar. The seminar begins on the evening of June 1 and runs through noon on June 3. Most activities take place outdoors at the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area and Sylvan Runkel State Preserve. Indoor programs and the dinner are at the West Monona High School in Onawa.

There is a great line-up of speakers and presenters. Licensure renewal credit and graduate credit for educators are available by registering with the Northwest AEA.

Speakers this year are: Diana Horton, Deb Lewis, Blake Mayberry, and Larry Stone. There are fewer speakers at the evening programs this year allowing more time at the campfire. Once again there will be storytellers!

Field sessions include many new sessions and those that have endured the years. To name a few presenters is difficult but Lois Tiffany will once again share her fungi expertise and Tom Rosburg hopes to introduce one-hundred prairie plants on one walk and one-hundred woodland plants on another! If you'd rather delve into natural history or even cultural history, or geology or entomology, there is a session for you.

The LHPS is an event for the whole family, with special sessions for children, for adults, and for all ages! There are choices to stay at camp, do a short walk, or take a long hike. Evening programs are indoors and at the campfire. The oldest attendee last year was 91! If you've never attended one, please consider coming this year.

For the first time, last year a Saturday program was begun for children during the adult evening program. This will be expanded and offered also on Friday night this year.

If you need to have registration forms mailed to you, please contact Gloria Kistner at 800-352-9040 ext. 6080. Updates about the seminar and registration materials will be available on the website: [www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/](http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/) (look under services).

Special thanks to Northwest Area Education Agency, Monona County Conservation Board, and Iowa Department of Natural Resources for making the LHPS possible each year, with the help of many other organizations, volunteers, and grants.

Dianne Blankenship, Coordinator

## Creating an Iowa Butterfly Survey Network

Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University in Ames is in the process of creating the Iowa Butterfly Survey Network (IBSN) which will use citizen scientists (volunteers) of all skill levels, amateur and professional, to conduct yearly population surveys of butterflies. This program will use a butterfly survey method known as a "Pollard Walk" which was developed in Europe and has been used for over 10 years by the Illinois Butterfly Monitoring Network ([www.bfly.org](http://www.bfly.org)) and the Ohio Butterfly Monitoring Network ([www.ohiolepidopterists.org/bflymonitoring/](http://www.ohiolepidopterists.org/bflymonitoring/)), and by the Florida Butterfly Monitoring Network ([www.flbutterflies.net](http://www.flbutterflies.net)) for the last two years.

A 2002 Iowa DNR report listed two endangered, five threatened and 25 special concern species of butterflies. That means, of the 122 species of butterflies believed to be found in Iowa, over one-fourth of those butterfly species' long term survival in Iowa is questionable. Conservation resources and funding is spread across a wide range of animals in Iowa, making it hard for experts to keep up with the needs of the most threatened animals while at the same time monitoring the less threatened individuals. This is especially the case for butterflies, but deeper than the issue of adequate monitoring is the larger problem of the lack of data on Iowa butterflies. There is no annual or up-to-date standardized data available to determine Iowa butterflies' current population, density, and distribution.

The Iowa Butterfly Survey Network hopes to fill this need using both citizen scientists and conservation professionals to monitor and survey habitat areas for butterfly populations. The IBSN will give baseline data for researchers on existing populations and their range, identify potential threats, identify beneficial or potentially harmful land management practices, show effectiveness of habitat restoration efforts and give an annual snapshot of the health of all Iowa butterfly populations. Because of their short life span and multiple generations in a year, butterflies are an excellent indicator for population trends or habitat suitability of all animals.

The ultimate goal of the IBSN is to educate Iowans about invertebrates, butterflies in particular, while at the same time encouraging people to take an active role in conservation. Participants in the IBSN will not only learn about native butterflies, but will also be able to take pride in generating much needed data critical for researchers, land managers and conservation professionals.

Currently, IBSN is recruiting interested individuals of all skill levels across the state to attend the spring 2007 training which will be held in Ames, Iowa at Reiman Gardens on Saturday, April 14 from 9 a.m. till noon. Individuals interested in participating in the 2007 spring training can sign up by calling Reiman Gardens at (515) 294-2710. The training is free to individuals 18 or older who are willing to gather seasonal butterfly data. Individuals between the ages of 14 – 18 may also attend with a supervising adult. Space in the 2007 training is limited so pre-registration is required. Updates and more information on the Iowa Butterfly Survey Network will be available on the web at [www.ReimanGardens.com](http://www.ReimanGardens.com).

For additional information contact Nathan Brockman, [mantisnb@iastate.edu](mailto:mantisnb@iastate.edu)

**DALLAS COUNTY Position: Roadside Technician**

Dallas Co. Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management -Two seasonal positions to perform duties in the field and office related to integrated roadside vegetation management (IRVM) under the general supervision of the Roadside Biologist and/or Assistant Roadside Biologist.

**Duration:** 14 weeks, May through August

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

Assist with all aspects of weed and brush control program including: operation of all types of spray equipment; chainsaws, brush cutters and mowers; record keeping; safe chemical handling. Establishment and management of native grasses and wildflowers in rights-of-way and other areas including operation of tractor, utility vehicle, tillage equipment and seeding equipment; operation of hydraulic seeder; installation of erosion control practices. Assist native grass and wildflower seed production operations including planting, weed control and maintenance of production areas; seed harvest from production areas and local remnants; seed cleaning and processing. Additional duties not listed may be assigned.

**Qualifications:** Must be 18 years of age. High school diploma, GED. Post secondary education in natural resource management or related field preferred: Employment or experience in the following preferred: prairie ecology and management, professional vegetation management, certified pesticide application, erosion control, plant or seed propagation and processing. Other education and/or experience in the following subject areas preferred: automotive, diesel or small engine mechanics; agriculture; basic computer skills and public relations. Must have Iowa Commercial Pesticide Applicators Certification (Categories 6) or be able to obtain. Must have valid driver's license.

**Compensation:** \$9.00 - \$10.00 per hour. Footwear allowance.

**To Apply:** Send resume by March 16, 2007 to Personnel Dept., Dallas County Courthouse, 801 Court St., Adel, IA 50003 or e-mail to: [personnel@co.dallas.ia.us](mailto:personnel@co.dallas.ia.us)

**DUES REMINDER AND  
NEW DIRECTORY TO BE PUBLISHED**

Initial steps are being taken to update and publish a new INPS membership directory. The last directory was published in 2003. **Pay your dues now** to ensure you are included in the new directory.

**NOTICE - Important Change :**

INPS Newsletter to be offered electronically. When renewing your membership please check on the renewal application how you would like to receive the INPS Newsletter. Starting in 2007 members will be offered the choice of receiving the Newsletter electronically – as a .pdf attachment through a notice sent on the INPS List serve or by US post. (Newsletter will also be available on the website.)

**NATURE CONSERVANCY SEEKS DIRECTOR**

The Nature Conservancy in Iowa is seeking a Director of Conservation Science. Essential Functions: The Director of Conservation Science (DCS) provides scientific leadership and support for the Iowa chapter, with a focus on freshwater and grasslands conservation and restoration. To view a complete job description please visit [nature.org/careers](http://nature.org/careers). To apply for this position please send cover letter, resume or CV to Laura Norian - [iowajobs@tnc.org](mailto:iowajobs@tnc.org) < <mailto:iowajobs@tnc.org> > . Application deadline is March 29th. The application deadline may be extended if necessary. Please share this announcement with anyone who may be interested. If anyone has questions or would like further information they may contact me at 515-244-5044, Laura Norian Operations Manager The Nature Conservancy in Iowa 515-244-5044.

letter received by email on the INPS list serve February 15, 2007

**Dear native plant enthusiast,**

We coordinate the Millennium Seed Bank Project, an international conservation project headed by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (<http://www.rbgb.org.uk/msbp/index.html>) that aims to collect seeds from 10% of the world's flora by 2010. By drying, sealing and freezing the seeds, their longevity can be extended for decades and even centuries for many species (200 years on average). Our project is storing seeds for long-term conservation, mostly for "what-if scenarios" such as extinctions due to global climate change or habitat destruction, but a portion can be requested by qualified groups for restoration or research. At the Chicago Botanic Garden we are undertaking the ambitious task of collecting 1,500 native species from the Midwest and Great Plains.

Our general collecting protocol follows: we collect 3,000 to 20,000 seeds from a single population for each species, never taking more than 20% of the available seed at the time of collection. We collect from at least 50 individuals (more is better) to maximize genetic diversity. We don't collect threatened, endangered or locally rare species for the MSB project. In addition to harvesting seeds, we collect at least 2 herbarium vouchers and record additional location/habitat data for each collection.

In order to meet our goal of seed banking native species for the MSB project, we want to collect seed from 300 species in this year. Because of the large geographic territory involved, as well as the large number of species to collect, we are recruiting and funding individuals who live locally throughout our target territory to help us in this effort by serving as "contract botanists" with the Chicago Botanic Garden. If you are aware of any botanists, amateur botanists, interns, volunteers or otherwise poor, starving graduate students who are knowledgeable about their local flora and would like to earn money by seed collecting for our project, please let either of us know, or feel free to pass along this email and our contact information. We are compensating contract botanists with \$50/ collection (compensation increases with the more collecting that occurs) and reimbursing them for mileage. We would provide training for these individuals, and more information on the MSB project at CBG can be found at <http://cbgseedbank.org/>.

Betsy Allen and Emily Yates, Millennium Seed Bank Coordinators, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, IL 60022  
[msb@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:msb@chicagobotanic.org)

## INPS MEMBERSHIP/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM AND SURVEY

Send with your dues of \$10.00 to

Christine Taliga, IA Valley RC&D,  
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