



# Erythronium

Newsletter of the Iowa Native Plant Society vol. 20 no. 1 May 2014



## **Iowa Wildflower Month – May – Celebrates our Native Wildflowers**

*Dianne Blankenship*

The Iowa Native Plant Society is promoting the annual Iowa Wildflower Month this May to encourage Iowans to get outdoors to enjoy our wildflowers and our natural areas.

These activities are similar to events in other states and are located in many parts of the state. If you'd like to see wildflowers in a natural area, this is your opportunity to join a scheduled walk.

Spring is the time of the blooming of many woodland flowers and is the beginning of a long parade of prairie flowers. There are many different sponsors of walks: the Central Iowa Sierra Club sponsors walks in Polk County and Guthrie County; the Iowa Native Plant Society in Johnson County, Story County, and Woodbury County; the Iowa Prairie Network in Polk County, Story County, and Woodbury County; and numerous walks are offered by county conservation boards including these: Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Jones, Linn, Marshall, O'Brien, Polk, Pottawattamie, Wapello, Warren, Winneshiek (at Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County), and Woodbury. The Iowa Arboretum near Madrid is offering a guided walk on May 10 and self-guided walks on all weekends in May. Some of these activities are scheduled as late as the end of May when Monona County Conservation and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources help the Northwest Area Education Agency put on an entire weekend event that features wildflowers in prairies and woodlands in and near the Loess Hills, at the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

In addition to the many walks, there are four work days scheduled – at the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's Shimek Forest Wildlife Management Area, at The Nature Conservancy's Folsom Point Preserve, at the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation's Turin Prairie, and at Whiterock Conservancy.

Workshops and programs about using native plants in the home landscape are provided at Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids and there are several at the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar.

The Friends of Warren County Conservation, the Iowa Arboretum, Iowa City's Hickory Hill Park, and Indian Creek Nature Center are each holding a plant sale that includes native plants.

Contact information and details about these activities can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. These (and any additional ones as they are scheduled) may also be found on the Iowa Native Plant Society website at [www.iowanativeplants.org](http://www.iowanativeplants.org), and many are on the county conservation board parks site at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com). All activities are open to the public, although a few have fees, and a few require pre-registration. Please note this in the descriptions of the trips.

Outdoor events can be cancelled due to weather conditions, so check for updates. Dress for the conditions and weather.

While most of these walks feature woodlands, prairies are the focus of walks and talks during Iowa Prairie Heritage Week. The Iowa Prairie Network coordinates this week, which will be observed from September 7 to 13 this year.

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## Leaves from the President's Notebook

### *Native Garden Lessons from a Cardinal Flower*

It goes without saying that native plants and flowers are good for insects and animals, including humans. The difficult issue is to remember that most natives are as wild and the bees, butterflies, birds and deer that like and use them. Native plants may not like to stay where we humans put them. They also have life histories that are quite different than the vegetables, annuals and perennials that humans domesticated and hybridized and subsidize with water and fertilizer.

That is one of the things that those of us who love and encourage the planting of native species have not addressed for ourselves or for those we are trying to encourage. Speaking as one without a green thumb and who is laissez-faire about garden design, I am not a garden club member. I am quite happy to sprinkle seeds found on a walk or photo excursion. I scatter seeds in the front yard if they came from a prairie and in the backyard near trees and shrubs if from a woodland.

When I buy a native from a plant sale or native nursery, I put it in its general habitat type (front or back). Then I let nature take its own course because years ago I learned from a cardinal flower.

We love the challenge of photographing cardinal flowers. They are a color that cameras, computers, projectors and printers do not understand nor know what to do with. We know we have to work to trick the machines to portray the colors as close to what we see as possible.

So some years ago we bought several cardinal flower plants at a native plant sale and placed them in the moist area in the backyard. They bloomed there the next year and then began their migration around the yard. Sometimes they bloom in the same place for several years but they mostly send their descendants to new locations where they may stay put for a while before their seeds move on. We do not mind but an orderly gardener with a careful planting scheme would soon get frustrated with this adventurist plant.

Native cardinal flowers are said to be perennial. Our experience is that it acts more like a biannual or short-lived perennial and it likes to move. I wonder how the garden store domesticated ones behave. That got me thinking about the behavior of other plants.

The trout lily patch that was here when we moved in has grown in size and sent out several colonies, even one into the front yard. It out competed the lilies of the valley. Virginia bluebells move about but not as much as cardinal flowers. The yellow trillium gets more rotund each year but does not have any outliers. The cream gentians do not bloom every year. The small cluster of mayapples has existed for years and then two years ago pushed its boundaries out considerably.

*continued page 4...*

## INPS's 2014 Grant Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2014 INPS Small Grants:

### **Woodbury County Conservation Board Prairie Rescue and Safety Equipment**

Dawn Snyder, Woodbury County Conservation Board, \$994, to purchase equipment for restoration of multiple Loess Hills native prairie sites

### **Bena Brook Woodland Restoration**

Jean Wiedenheft, Indian Creek Nature Center (Cedar Rapids)

\$1250, to restore / remove invasives from a 12-acre woodland, part of a larger woodland restoration effort

### **Dakins Lake Restoration Project**

Amy Yoakum, Story County Conservation Board \$1170, to restore a degraded prairie remnant in Dakins Lake county park - invasive removal and sowing of native violets (for regal fritillaries)

### **Community Awareness of Native Plantings**

Christine Kaldenberg, Willowwind School, Iowa City \$250 education grant, to install educational signs about prairie/bioswale plantings - students will identify native plants and design signs

For more information about the Small Grants and Restore Iowa! Grant Programs, see the INPS website: <http://www.iowanativeplants.org/grants.php>, or contact Connie Mutel, [connie-mutel@uiowa.edu](mailto:connie-mutel@uiowa.edu).

## 2013 Restore Iowa! Grant

Johnson County Heritage Trust was pleased to have received the Restore Iowa! grant from the Iowa Native Plant Society. The \$1,000 grant supported our goal of restoring the native plant community on Pappy Dickens preserve. The Pappy Dickens Preserve is a 15.7 acre preserve that borders Iowa City's Hickory Hill Park on its North West side at 1356 Dodge Street Ct. The preserve provides a nice buffer for the park and extends the large urban wild-land park habitat for numerous bird species and other wildlife. The preserve consists of developing mixed-hardwood woodland, which was historically very open.

Pappy Dickens preserve is believed to have potential to turn into a more natural native plant community. There are a few old oaks on the property with also some younger oaks coming in. Historic aerial

photographs show the area, as early as the 1930's, as rolling savanna that was probably grazed, but never plowed. We have already created a few openings on the areas that were for the most part filled in with invasive shrub species and very few trees. The areas that had a few trees on them in the photos have some younger oaks coming in. This is the area we worked on with volunteers to promote the growth of the white, red, and black oaks. We believe that once we remove the understory, which is dominated by honeysuckle, and get fire through the area, we will start to see more native vegetation come back into the area.

The main objective with this grant was to get young Iowans out on the land, in an effort to educate and teach them the value in restoring these properties and their importance to Iowa. We had several different groups come out and help in our efforts to restore this property. We were able to partner with a teacher at Kirkwood who was already teaching her students about Iowa's native plant community. The students had volunteer hours they needed to fulfill for their class, which we provided at Pappy Dickens Preserve. We were also able to get a local Boy Scout troop, some seniors from City High, a corporate group, and other local youth and adults that were members and neighbors to volunteer.

All the volunteers were informed about the grant, the history of the property, and the plant community on the property, its importance and why we are restoring the property. We were able to hold 8 volunteer days on the property this last year. The money was used for the purchase of chemical, safety gear, refreshments, equipment, and wood chipper rental. Overall we felt we had a great turnout for the workdays. We were able to clear a lot of understory and educate many young as well as old Iowans. The Johnson County Heritage Trust is very grateful for having received the grant and was happy to help get young Iowans out on the land.





## Leaves from the President's Notebook

*continued*

These and other peculiarities of native plants in a small urban garden need our attention, even though many of us consider native plants on more of a landscape scale, like prairie restorations. We need to be advising patience and a sense of humor and humility when we encourage gardening with mostly natives on a small urban lot. Remember native plants and flowers are wild and wonderful, unless they have been domesticated and sold in garden stores. The characteristics that made them valuable to bees, butterflies and birds may have been lost when selected for long bloom times or specific heights. There is a parallel universe to horticultural plants and we may need to go through the looking glass to live with them.

*Linda Loos Scarth*

## Report on Ryerson's Woods

*Diana Horton, UI Biology Emeritus Professor*

Ryerson's Woods is a wooded, 49-acre Iowa City park bisected by a deep ravine and several tributaries. 219 species have been documented, including 198 vascular plants, of which 91% are native, and 21 species of mosses and liverworts, all native. There are at least 10 rare/infrequent species, including Wild Sarsaparilla and Spikenard, Purple Cress, two Sedges, Spinulose Fern, Purple Rocket, and a moss *Helodium blandowii*, and 8 fern species, including Maidenhair Fern, Northern Lady Fern, Dissected Grapefern, Rattlesnake Fern, Southern Bladder Fern, Spinulose Fern, Sensitive Fern, and Interrupted Fern. Garlic mustard is virtually nonexistent. The only significant management issue is alien Honeysuckle species that are invading from the perimeter of the park where they were planted.

The site is dominated by deciduous woodland with White Oaks, Bitternut and Shagbark Hickories, Red Elms, Hackberry, Ironwood, and Chokecherry and Missouri Gooseberry, as well as considerable deadfall, a consequence of the straight-line wind storm of 1998. The ravine system is remarkably pristine and supports extensive colonies of Wild Sarsaparilla, Maidenhair Fern, and Interrupted Fern. Both the upland and the ravine support a spectacular spring flora with abundant Large-flowered Bellwort, Anise Root, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Mayapple, and Geranium, and carpets of Toothwort, Spring Beauty, Dutchman's Breeches, White Trout Lily, Bristly Buttercup and Southern Bladder Fern.

Iowa City acquired Ryerson's Woods in 1985. The vegetation of the site was the subject of UI student, Sophia Krajewski's, Honors Thesis in 2010. In 2011, based on the results of her research, the Iowa City Department of Parks and Recreation nominated Ryerson's Woods to be designated a Biological State Preserve. The Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board is expected to make a decision on April 29, 2014.

## Prairie Seed Bank Looking for Collectors in Iowa

*David Sollenberger, Chicago Botanic Garden*

The Dixon National Tallgrass Prairie Seed Bank at the Chicago Botanic Garden is looking for qualified botanists to collect seeds of native species from our target list for preservation in the seed bank. If you are an active manager of a natural area and are familiar with the flora of your site, we encourage you to collect seeds for the seed bank. Our mission is to conserve the genetic diversity of the vascular flora of the tallgrass prairie. We seek to collect seeds of at least one population for the approximately 540 species on our target list from each of the 12 ecoregions that represent the majority of the tall grass prairie region. The target list can be found on our website at [www.sciencecollections.org](http://www.sciencecollections.org). Our general collecting protocols were developed to capture a high degree of genetic diversity without compromising the health of the source population. General collecting protocols are as follows:

- Collect no more than 20% of mature seeds.
- Collect seeds from at least 50 individuals in a population. Ideally a total 3000-20,000 seeds should be collected.
- Complete a field data sheet with GPS location data, associated species, soils and information about the population being collected.
- Collect two herbarium specimens (preferably with a piece of root).
- Collect a leaf for future DNA analysis.

\*Our protocols are revised for populations of less than 50 individuals or populations of species that naturally produce few seeds.

Contract collectors will be awarded a small stipend (\$125-\$135) for their collections and shipping costs will be covered. We will also assist you in securing collecting permits if required.

Please contact David Sollenberger, Seed Bank Manager at [dsollenberger@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:dsollenberger@chicagobotanic.org) for more information on how to get started.

# Iowa Native Plant Society Field Trips

( denotes Iowa Wildflower Month activities)

## Spring Wildflower Walk in Ryerson's Woods

10:30 am-12 pm, Saturday, May 3, 2014

All ages are welcome. The dirt trail loop is 1.15 miles and has some steps. Please clean shoes before coming to avoid bringing unwanted invaders onto this beautiful site.

Location: About 3 miles south of downtown Iowa City, on Riverside Drive South. Take Riverside Drive south, past the Iowa City Airport. Ryerson's Woods is directly south of the Johnson County Fairgrounds, on right (west) side of the road. If coming from out of town, take Hwy 218 south to exit 89, turn north onto Riverside Dr.; Ryerson's is on left side of road. Location and trail map:

<http://www.icgov.org/?id=1042>

There is a posted trail map at the park, but if you want a paper map, please print one from this website.

Brenda Nations (Iowa City Sustainability Coordinator) and UI Biology Emeritus Professor Diana Horton will lead a spring wildflower walk and assist with plant identification. Refreshments will be provided by New Pioneer Food Co-op in Iowa City.

Please see description of Ryerson's Woods' special botany on page 4 of this newsletter.

Sponsors: Iowa Native Plant Society and New Pioneer Food Co-op (Iowa City/Coralville).

For more information, contact Brenda Nations: 887-6161 (weekdays) and 319-541-1758 (cell, Saturday morning).

## INPS field trip to Ciha Fen Preserve

9:30 am-12:00 pm, Saturday, May 10, 2014

All ages are welcome. We'll be walking, but not long distances.

(see <http://www.inhf.org/ciha-fen-preserve.cfm> )

Dress appropriately. Wear rubber or waterproof boots (or you can avoid wet areas). Please clean shoes before coming, to avoid bringing unwanted invaders to this beautiful site.

Directions: Proceed south from Sutliff (in far-

northeastern Johnson County), jog west on 130th St to White Oak Ave. Head south on White Oak Ave 0.7 miles to 145th St. Turn left on 145th, and go 0.6 miles to the fen (on north side of road). Find on Google Maps by using the fen address as your destination: 5656 145th St NE, Lisbon IA 52253.

The 80-acre Ciha Fen Preserve is a sand prairie/savanna complex on a wind-deposited sand ridge. It contains the Ciha Fen, which is one of two documented remaining nutrient-poor fens known in the state of Iowa. Ciha has numerous rare plant and animals species, with 225 native plants identified to date. Casey Kohrt (Prairie Enthusiast, and IDNR GIS Administrator) and will lead the field trip and assist with plant identification; UI Professor Art Bettis (Earth and Environmental Sciences) will discuss the fen's unique geology and describe the ongoing hydrological studies of his graduate students.

A few of the plants you might see include pussytoes, cleft fox, columbine, rock jasmine, wild strawberry, wild geranium, hairy pucoon, fringed pucoon, prairie buttercup, bluets, lance-leaved violet and bird's-foot violet, just to name a few.

Over the past three years the Johnson County Conservation Board has been removing eastern red cedar and invasive brush and trees from the area.

Sponsored by: Iowa Native Plant Society

The public is invited and welcome.

For floristic lists or a map of the area, please email: [dianne.blankenship@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.blankenship@gmail.com)

## Doolittle Prairie Walk in Story County

7:00 – 8:30 pm, Thursday, May 22, 2014

Doolittle Prairie State Preserve, south of Story City, Story County ([map](#)). This is the first in a series of 2014 walks at the preserve. Enjoy a leisurely walk in this outstanding prairie with a leader who knows this prairie very well. Lloyd Crim has been leading walks at Doolittle for over two decades.

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## INPS Field Trips

*continued*

Directions: Watch for a sign to the east of US Hwy 69 between Ames and Story City (north of “Gilbert Corner”). Follow the signs to the preserve.

Sponsored by: INPS, Region 5 of IPN, and Story County Conservation.

Contact Lloyd Crim at (515) 432-5026 or [lloydcrim@gmail.com](mailto:lloydcrim@gmail.com).



## Wildflower Walk in the Loess Hills in Sioux City

10:30am – 12:00pm, Saturday, May 24, 2014

Mount Talbot State Preserve, Stone State Park, or possibly Sioux City Prairie, Talbot Road, Sioux City, IA ([map](#))

Wildflower Walk in the Loess Hills – we will take a leisurely walk along the ridge of the preserve and enjoy the prairie wildflowers. Expect to see puccoons, prairie violets, locoweed, blue-eyed grass, flax, milkvetch, and other spring bloomers.

Directions: Note – the Mount Talbot State Preserve is located on an ungraveled section of Talbot Road. Since this section of road can be nearly impassable if muddy, we will meet near the Memorial Drive entrance to Stone Park. Meet at the intersection of Memorial Drive and Talbot Road at 10:30. We will decide to drive north to the preserve or, if there has been recent rain, we will likely head south on Talbot Road and instead will visit Sioux City Prairie.

Sponsors: Iowa Native Plant Society and Iowa Prairie Network.

Contact: Dianne Blankenship, [dianne.blankenship@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.blankenship@gmail.com), 712-255-3447



## Loess Hills Prairie Seminar

Friday, May 30 (evening) to Sunday, June 1 (noon), 2014

Numerous activities, indoors and out! See the description in the LHPS article on page 10 and at the

LHPS website:

[http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs\\_and\\_services/loess\\_hills\\_prairie\\_seminar/](http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs_and_services/loess_hills_prairie_seminar/)

## INPS Field Trip to Pitsor Prairie in Franklin County

11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Saturday, June 7, 2014

Pitsor Prairie is a private, approximately one acre, linear mesic tallgrass prairie on a moderate, north-facing slope above an open drainageway. Despite its relatively small size, Mark Leoschke's August 9, 2013 visit to this prairie (with the owner Joe Pitsor and Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Bureau's Prairie Resources Center wildlife biologist Bill Johnson) produced a list of 64 native species based on what could be identified that day and Joe Pitsor's photographs. We will be adding to this list by exploring the spring flora with Mark J. Leoschke, botanist for the DNR's Wildlife Bureau in Des Moines.

Directions: From the intersection of U.S. Highway 65 and State Highway 3 in Hampton drive approximately 4.3 miles north to County Road C25 (190th Street). Turn left (west) and travel 2 miles to Nettle Avenue. Turn right (north) onto Nettle Avenue and drive approximately 0.5 mile. Park along the road – the prairie is just west of Nettle Avenue (T92N R20W Section 6 NE4 NE4 SE4). If you cross a bridge over Buffalo Creek you have gone too far north.

Sponsored by the Iowa Native Plant Society.

The public is welcome to attend.

Contact Mark Leoschke at (515) 281-5951 or [Mark.Leoschke@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Mark.Leoschke@dnr.iowa.gov)

## Doolittle Prairie Walk in Story County

7:00 – 8:30 pm, Thursday, June 26, 2014

See May 22 description.

## Doolittle Prairie Walk in Story County

7:00 – 8:30 pm, Thursday, July 24, 2014

See May 22 description.

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## INPS Field Trips

*continued*

### The World of Insects program in Woodbury County

6:30 – 7:30 pm, Friday, August 1, 2014

Sioux City, specific site to be determined (watch for more information on the Iowa-Native-Plants discussion list or the calendar on the INPS website:

[www.iowanativeplants.org](http://www.iowanativeplants.org))

Join insect enthusiast MJ Hatfield this evening as she shares images and general identification of Iowa insects. MJ is active in prairie restoration efforts and her work has led to a keen interest of insects and their significance to native biological communities. She is a contributor and promoter of the BugGuide, an online insect identification website that provides a forum for citizens to share insect photos and personal experiences, with experts chiming in on identification and scientific knowledge.

Sponsored by: Iowa DNR, Woodbury County Conservation, Iowa Prairie Network Region One, and Iowa Native Plant Society.

### INPS - Insects and Wildflowers of the Prairie at Spirit Knoll in Plymouth County

10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Saturday, August 16, 2014

Join insect enthusiast MJ Hatfield as she will be sweeping for insects, doing some show and tell and educating about insects. Bill and Dianne Blankenship will help with plant identifications.

This area will become a State Preserve in October. Beautiful photos of the area can be found at Randall Williams' collections of albums:

[www.flickr.com/photos/16785966@N05/sets/72157635131698848/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/16785966@N05/sets/72157635131698848/)

Directions: The area is located approximately 3 miles north of Stone State Park on Highway 12. ([map](#))

Sponsored by: Iowa DNR, Woodbury County Conservation, Iowa Prairie Network Region One, and Iowa Native Plant Society

## Doolittle Prairie Walk in Story County

7:00 – 8:30 pm, Thursday, August 21, 2014

See May 22 description.

### INPS Annual Meeting, Speaker, and Field Trips in Boone County

10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Saturday, September 6, 2014 (an Iowa Arboretum prairie walk will precede the meeting from 9:00 – 10 am)

Schedule of the day's activities:

10:00 Introduction/Welcome to the Arboretum

10:15 Woodland walk at the Arboretum

11:45 Lunch (bring your own) and INPS Annual Membership Meeting

1:00 pm James Locklear will speak, title: **The View from Phlox Mountain**. Phlox is a genus of 60 species that includes many of America's most beloved wildflowers, and has yielded plants that are cultivated by gardeners around the world. Jim Locklear spent a decade researching and writing a book on this important group of plants that was published by Timber Press in 2011. His illustrated presentation will explore the ecology of phlox species in the wild and the history of their use in the garden. Jim is director of conservation at Lauritzen Gardens in Omaha, and he will also briefly describe the garden's efforts to conserve endangered plants in the Great Plains. He has worked in the field of public horticulture for nearly 30 years, previously at the Dyck Arboretum of the Plains in Kansas, the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, and the Morton Arboretum in Illinois.

2:15 Field trip - Walk through the Reconstructed Prairie and then visit various gardens at the Arboretum

Directions: 1875 Peach Ave, Madrid, IA 50156; from Luther, turn west on E-57. Watch for Iowa Arboretum/4-H camp sign and turn left at Peach Avenue. ([map](#))

Sponsored by: INPS and the Iowa Arboretum

### Iowa Prairie Heritage Week, September 7 -- 13

Check the calendar on the INPS Website:

[www.iowanativeplants.org](http://www.iowanativeplants.org) and the Iowa-Native-Plants discussion list where IPHW activities will be announced.





## Additional Iowa Wildflower Month Events in May

(those sponsored by other organizations)

May 1 - 5:00pm - Woodland Wildflower Walk at Garrison Rock Wildlife Area near Ottumwa; **Wapello** County Conservation; 641-682-3091

May 1 - 11:30am to 1:00 pm - Brown Bag Lunch and Woodland Walk at Grammer Grove near Liscomb; **Marshall** County Conservation; 641-752-5490

May 1 - 6:00 to 7:30 pm - May Day Hike at Easter Lake Park in Des Moines; **Polk** County Conservation Board; 515-323-5300

May 3 - 8:00am - Mushroom Ramble near Toddville in **Linn** County; meet at the Wickiup Hill Learning Center parking area and be ready to car pool to the Wickiup Hill Natural Area; Prairie State Mushroom Club and Linn County Conservation (fees for non-members of the mushroom club); 319-892-6450 [conservation@linncounty.org](mailto:conservation@linncounty.org)

May 3 - 8:30am to noon - Into the Wild & Out with the Mustard! Work Day in Allamakee County; at Heritage Valley near Decorah; registration required; Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; Mary Runkel [mrunkel@inhf.org](mailto:mrunkel@inhf.org) 515-288-1846, ext. 17 (Note: two shifts, morning or afternoon)

May 3 - 9:00am - Spring Native Plant Sale at Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids in **Linn** County; 319-362-0664 <http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org/>

May 3 - 10:00am to 4:00pm - Native Plant Sale begins at the Iowa Arboretum near Madrid in **Boone** County; 515-795-3216 <http://iowaarboretum.org>

May 3 - 1:00 to 4:30pm - Into the Wild & Out with the Mustard! Work Day in Allamakee County; at Heritage Valley near Decorah; Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation; must register with Mary Runkel at 515-288-1846, ext. 17 [mrunkel@inhf.org](mailto:mrunkel@inhf.org) (Note: two shifts, morning or afternoon)

May 3 - 2:00 to 3:00 pm - Wildflower Hike at Buena Vista County Conservation Park's South Shelter area, near Peterson; **Buena Vista** County Conservation Board; register at 712-295-7985 by Friday May 2 at 4pm.

May 4 - 2:00pm - Flowers at Fowler's (Fowler Forest) near Smithland; **Woodbury** County Conservation; 712-258-0838

May 6 - 6:30pm - Wildflower Walk at Margo Frankel Woods State Park in Des Moines in **Polk** County; Central Iowa Sierra Group; contact Peggy at 515-285-6864 [peggybrownndm@google.com](mailto:peggybrownndm@google.com)

May 10 - 10:00am - Mushroom Foray at McNeil Nature Preserve near Preston in **Jackson** County; Prairie States Mushroom Club <http://iowamushroom.org>

May 10 - 10:00am to noon - Wildflowers at Engeldinger Marsh near Maxwell in **Polk** County; Tom Rosburg leading; Iowa Prairie Network and Polk County Conservation; 515-323-5300 [www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation](http://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation) [www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org)

May 10 - 10:00 to 11:00am - Woodland and Reconstructed Prairie Wildflower Tour at the Iowa Arboretum near Madrid in **Boone** County; 515.795.3216 <http://iowaarboretum.org>

May 13 - 6:30 to 8:00pm - Birds and Some Wildflowers at Walnut Woods State Park in West Des Moines in **Polk** County; Central Iowa Sierra Group; contact Jane at [jrclark@radiks.net](mailto:jrclark@radiks.net) or 515-223-5047

May 14 - 8:30am to noon - Friends of Shimek Group Work Day at Shimek State Forest Wildlife Management Area near Farmington in **Lee** County; meet at lower campground entry loop area; contact John Byrd at [John.Byrd@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:John.Byrd@dnr.iowa.gov) or Ringo Covert at [covertr@westburlington.org](mailto:covertr@westburlington.org)

May 17 - 9:00 am to noon - Native Iowa Plant Sale at Annett Nature Center and Park near Indianola; sponsored by the Friends of **Warren** County Conservation sponsor this sale; 515-961-6169

May 17 - 10:00am to 1:00pm - Workday at Folsom Point Preserve south of Council Bluffs in **Pottawattamie** County and **Mills** County; sponsored by The Nature Conservancy; 712-568-2596, [ehohman@tnc.org](mailto:ehohman@tnc.org)

May 17 - 10:30am to 2:30pm - Wildflower Hike at Nations' Bridges County Park in **Guthrie** County; carpool from near Clive; Central Iowa Sierra Group; contact Jackie at 515-577-0375



May 17 - 10:00am to 2:00pm - Wild Edibles Workshop at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area near Ottumwa; fees involved so pre-registration is required by Friday, May 9; **Wapello** County Conservation; 641-682-3091 [www.wapellocounty.org](http://www.wapellocounty.org)

May 17 - 1:00 to 3:00pm - Mushroom Foray at Pioneer Ridge Nature Area near Ottumwa; Prairie States Mushroom Club and **Wapello** County Conservation - 641-682-3091 <http://www.iowamushroom.org/>

May 17 - 10:00am to 4:00pm - Plant Sale, Featuring Monarch Madness at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City in **Johnson** County; Bloomington Street Entrance Shelter; milkweed starts and other plants to create essential monarch habitat; Friends of Hickory Hill Park

May 17 - 4:30 to 5:30 - Woodland Wildflowers Walk at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City in **Johnson** County; Bloomington Street Entrance; led by Casey Kohrt; Friends of Hickory Hill Park

May 17 - 1:00 to 3:30pm - Plant a Butterfly and Pollinator Garden program at Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids in **Linn** County; fees involved; register on [www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org](http://www.indiancreeknaturecenter.org) or call 319-362-066

May 17 - all day - Volunteer Work Day at Whiterock Conservancy near Coon Rapids in **Guthrie** County; 712-684-2697 <http://www.whiterockconservancy.org>

May 18 - 10:00am to 4:00pm - Plant Sale, Featuring Monarch Madness at Hickory Hill Park in Iowa City in **Johnson** County; Bloomington Street Entrance Shelter; milkweed starts and other plants to create essential monarch habitat; Friends of Hickory Hill Park

May 18 - 12:00 to 4:00pm - Native Iowa Plant Sale at Annett Nature Center and Park near Indianola; The Friends of **Warren** County Conservation sponsor this sale; Warren County Conservation; 515-961-6169

May 20 - 6:30 - Wonderful Wildflowers at the Prairie Heritage Center near Peterson; carpool to a local natural area; **O'Brien** County Conservation; 712-295-7200

May 20 - 7:00pm - "Hitch Hike" at Hitchcock Nature Center near Honey Creek in **Pottawattamie** County; hike along a Loess Hills prairie ridge top to the McIntosh Pioneer Cemetery, founded in 1874; fee of \$2.00 per person; 712-545-3283

May 24 - 1:00pm - Make and Take Craft - Featuring

Native Flower Art at Central Park Nature Center at Center Junction; **Jones** County Conservation; 319-481-7987 [naturalist@co.jones.ia.us](mailto:naturalist@co.jones.ia.us)

May 25 - 2:00pm - Wildflower Walk at Hayden Prairie State Preserve in **Howard** County; Winneshiek County Conservation; 563- 534-7145, [conservation@winneshiekwild.com](mailto:conservation@winneshiekwild.com) [www.winneshiekwild.com](http://www.winneshiekwild.com)

May 27 - 4:00 to 5:30pm - Get Active in Nature (for kids) Spring Nature Walk at the Lime Creek Nature Center & Conservation Area in **Cerro Gordo** County; children must be accompanied by an adult; registration required – 641-423-5309

May 30 - 9:00am to noon - G.R.A.S.S. Turin Prairie Work Day north of Turin in **Monona** County; call for details or see Loess Hills Prairie Seminar information; Iowa Department of Natural Resources; 712-420-2437

May 30 - June 1 - Loess Hills Prairie Seminar in Onawa and at the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area in **Monona** County; sponsors: Northwest Area Education Agency, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Monona County Conservation; support: **Iowa Native Plant Society** and numerous organizations and agencies; contact Dianne Blankenship, 712-255-3447, [bennaid@hotmail.com](mailto:bennaid@hotmail.com) or Gloria Kistner at Northwest AEA at 712-222-6080, [gkistner@nwaea.org](mailto:gkistner@nwaea.org) [http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs\\_and\\_services/loess\\_hills\\_prairie\\_seminar/](http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs_and_services/loess_hills_prairie_seminar/)

## Other Events Beyond May

June 21 – 9:00 am to 12:30 pm - *Restore the prairie and bring in the summer!* Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. Work day and ice cream social on a northeast Iowa prairie. Teenagers to adults welcome. More info: [www.inhf.org/volunteer.cfm](http://www.inhf.org/volunteer.cfm); to RSVP or for more details: Mary Runkel: 515-288-1846, [mrunkel@inhf.org](mailto:mrunkel@inhf.org).

July 12 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm - *INHF and Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge partner for the prairie!* (come at 8:30 a.m. for coffee and conversation before the work day!) Work will depend on the Refuge's needs for the day. All ages welcome. More info: [www.inhf.org/volunteer.cfm](http://www.inhf.org/volunteer.cfm); to RSVP or for more details: Mary Runkel: 515-288-1846, [mrunkel@inhf.org](mailto:mrunkel@inhf.org).

## **The 38<sup>th</sup> annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar – These Special Loess Hills**

May 30 evening - June 1 noon

Attend any part or all of this classic weekend!

Field sessions begin at the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area, northeast of Onawa, Iowa, and evening programs are held at West Monona High School in Onawa.

Many of the fifty outdoor sessions feature native prairie or woodland plants, and workshops encourage using native plants for landscaping at home. Also, there is a session on how to deal with invasive plants.

INPS supports the seminar and has many board members offering sessions, including Connie Mutel's Understanding and Communicating Climate Change, Deb Lewis' Keys and Other Methods for Identifying Plants and Who's Your Neighbor? A Plant's Eye View of the Prairie, and Brian Hazlett's Woody Plants for Beginners. Also, botanists, Bill Pusateri, Tom Rosburg and Bill Zales are offering several sessions each. MJ Hatfield is providing both daytime and late evening opportunities to learn about insects. Her Saturday afternoon Introduction to BugGuide field session and workshop requires pre-registration.

Choose from sessions on birds, amphibians and reptiles, Native American culture, history, ecology, prairie restoration, photography, writing, sketching, and literature of the prairie.

Offsite sessions include an educational boat tour on the Missouri River; visits to the Turin Man Site, a prairie cemetery, or a farm or orchard that features conservation practices; a natural history/geology tour; and a mini-bioblitz - an entire morning of exploring a newly acquired prairie area, Turin Prairie, with leaders from many different fields.

Many sessions and programs are for children or are family-friendly. Make a puppet at camp or search for geocaches in the prairie. The Eulenspiegel Puppets will perform on Saturday evening with the help of a grant from the Iowa Arts Council.

The University of Iowa Press will have many books for sale in the Exhibits and Silent Auction area, and they are releasing a new book edited by John T. Price.

Daryl Smith is speaking on Saturday evening about The

Renewed Assault on the Prairie, and then Darrel Draper will perform thanks to a grant from Humanities Iowa.

Educators can register to receive credit.

There is no registration fee and only a few sessions require pre-registration. Meals must be ordered in advance or you may bring your own food. Primitive camping is also free and campfire programs are provided both evenings.

Begin with a pre-seminar work half-day at Turin Prairie on May 30. See the website for details.

The Northwest AEA coordinates the seminar with the help of co-sponsors, the Iowa DNR and Monona County Conservation, and the support of many organizations like the INPS. For a full list, see the website (below).

For more information contact Gloria Kistner at Northwest AEA at 712-222-6080 or 800-352-9040 ext. 6080 or [gkistner@nwaea.org](mailto:gkistner@nwaea.org). The full program, many other documents, and registration information is available at [http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs\\_and\\_services/loess\\_hills\\_prairie\\_seminar/](http://www.nwaea.k12.ia.us/en/programs_and_services/loess_hills_prairie_seminar/).

Dianne Blankenship, Coordinator of the LHPS for NWAEA  
[dianne.blankenship@gmail.com](mailto:dianne.blankenship@gmail.com)

## **12th Annual Project AWARE**

July 12-19, 2014 - Big Sioux River

John Pearson will be leading some field trips at various locations in Northwest Iowa during this week. The title for his field trips will be: "wildflower-watching, lichen-looking, and insect-inspecting in parks, preserves, and peaceful places."

John's field trips will be to:

- Blood Run on July 12
- Gitche Manitou on July 13 (AM)
- Peterson Prairie on July 13 (PM)
- (Newton Hills State Park (South Dakota) on July 15)
- Oak Grove State Park on July 16

Watch for updates and more details.

12th Annual Project AWARE, July 12-19, 2014

Big Sioux River, 91 miles

[www.iowaprojectaware.com](http://www.iowaprojectaware.com)

## INHF's Hagie Award Winner 2013: Jimmie Dean Thompson

Monica Worsley, INHF's Robert R. Buckmaster  
Communications Intern



Jimmie Dean Thompson, our 2013 Hagie Heritage Award recipient, was recognized for his extensive work inventorying plant species in Iowa.

Photo by: Deborah Lewis, Curator Ada Hayden Herbarium, Iowa State University

Jimmie Dean Thompson has a knack for identifying plant species.

After working at the Ames post office for 32 years, Jimmie retired in 1997. In his retirement, he has made noteworthy contributions to conservation through his identification of several hundred previously unrecorded plant species in central Iowa.

“He has perhaps contributed more to our knowledge of plant distributions and diversity patterns in Iowa than anyone in the past 50 years,” wrote nominator Bill Norris, Western New Mexico University botany professor.

This year Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation recognizes Jimmie’s dedication to identifying plant species as a self-taught plant enthusiast with the Lawrence and Eula Hagie Heritage Award.

The Hagie Heritage Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to conservation and improvement of Iowa’s natural environment.

Jimmie was nominated by Bill Norris from Western New Mexico University and Deborah Lewis, Curator at Ada Hayden Herbarium at Iowa State University. He also received endorsements from Lynn M. Alex from the State Archaeologist’s office; Mark Widrlechner,

Assistant Professor of Horticulture and Agronomy at Iowa State University; and John Pearson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources botanist.

Retirement with a purpose

Following his departure from the postal service, Jimmie began to teach himself botany. He joined staff from the Iowa State University’s Ada Hayden Herbarium, an archive and research center of preserved plant specimens for taxonomic studies. By 2000, Jimmie had discovered one-third of the plants cataloged in a ten-year study of the plant life in Ames. Several of the plants he found were determined to be new to Iowa.

Jimmie has also started his own inventories, including plant surveys of Hamilton County where he found and documented 1,001 species. He has also explored Boone County and Ledges State Park. Despite having no formal training in botany, he has a vast knowledge of plant species and has written scientific papers on his findings. Four of these papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals and a fifth, “An Inventory of Vascular Flora of Hamilton County, Iowa” appeared in the *Journal of the Iowa Academy of Science*.

Jimmie’s contributions to conservation go beyond his documentation of plant species. He has helped remove invasive species from Ledges State Park and participated in outreach and education events.

In addition to his discovery of numerous plant species, Jimmie has found 250 American Indian artifact sites, including burial mounds that he reported to the State Archeologist’s office for protection from development.

Lewis said in her nomination letter that Jimmie “started with just a lot of enthusiasm for learning about and growing plants, but through hard work and with a keen eye and great memory for plant names and traits, he has become one of the best botanists in the state.”

Jimmie is a self-taught plant enthusiast who has contributed greatly to ensuring the preservation of Iowa’s beautiful natural resources!

### Calling All Students – INPS Student Membership Only \$5!

One-time payment of the student membership fee of \$5 will allow you to join INPS, receive the electronic version of the newsletter, and also be eligible for the member discount on any INPS items for the entire time you are a student.



# Iowa Native Plant Society Membership Form

The Iowa Native Plant Society is a forum for plant enthusiasts, gardeners, and professional botanists to exchange ideas and information, and to work together to:

- encourage conservation and ethical use of Iowa's plants
- promote education about Iowa's plants, their habitats and cultural habits, and the preservation of these plants and their environment
- appreciate and enjoy Iowa's native flora

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

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

County: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check here if you do not wish to have this published in the member directory.

Newsletter delivery method:  email  mail (choose \$15 membership below)

Select membership category and dues/contribution\*:

\$10 Member (if selected email above)

\$15 Member (if selected mail above)

\$25 Anemone\*

\$150 Dodecatheon\*

\$50 Botrychium\*

\$200 and + Erythronium\*

\$100 Calamagrostis\*

*If donor, prefer to remain anonymous.*

Send with your dues to: INPS Treasurer  
IA Valley RC&D  
920 48th Ave.  
Amana, IA 52203

Additional information or special interest for member directory entry:

\_\_\_\_\_

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. Please use this form for changes of address.

\* Annual contributions beyond basic membership are tax deductible. Iowa Native Plant Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.



## Iowa Native Plant Society 2013 Contributors

### *Anemone* Level -- \$25 to \$49

|                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dean Abel                   | Ann Kimber               |
| Steve Beaumont              | Casey Kohrt              |
| Pegi and Mike Bevins        | Steve and Karen Laughlin |
| Mary Brown                  | Steven McKay             |
| Anne Burnside               | Marlene Michel           |
| Barbara Buss                | Connie Mutel             |
| Douglas Caulkins            | Donald Nelson            |
| Jane R. Clark               | Robert E. Nicholson      |
| Lloyd Crim                  | Don and Gayla Ohde       |
| Jean Day                    | Linda and Robert Scarth  |
| Jerry Depew                 | James R. Scott           |
| Donald Draper               | Erma Selser              |
| Mark Edwards                | Nancy Slife              |
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| James Fluck and Julie Scott | Ann Stillman             |
| Beverly Foote               | Russell Tabbert          |
| Jack K. Freeman             | Teresa Testroet          |
| Patricia J. Hansen          | Daniel Thompson          |
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| Craig Hemsath               | Bill Tollefson           |
| Kirk Henderson              | Ginger Walker            |
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| Jonathan and Karla Ice      | Susan West               |
| Linda Kerber                | Trelen Wilson            |
| Jim Kessler                 | Bill and Dotty Zales     |

### *Botrychium* Level -- \$50 to \$99

|                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Margaret Bailey             | Christine and Roger Kirpes   |
| Lisa Bean                   | Bill and Judith Klink        |
| Bill and Dianne Blankenship | James and Rose Marie Monagan |
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| Suzan Erem                  | David and Rosemary Osheim    |
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| Beth J. Henning             | Steve and Jane Schomberg     |
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| Joe Holland                 | Karen Viste-Sparkman         |

### *Calamagrostis* Level -- \$100 to \$149

|                     |                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sibylla Brown       | Mark Widrlechner            |
| Ron and Barb Eckoff | Andrew Williams and Rebecca |
| Elizabeth Garst     | Christoffel                 |
| Inger Lamb          | Linda Zintz                 |
| Dan and Cyndia Mays |                             |

### *Erythronium* Level -- \$200 and above

Marybeth Slonneger