Iowa Native Plant Society
Newsletter

May 1998 Vol. 4, No.2

A Thumbnail Sketch of the Missouri Native Plant Society

submitted by Larry R. Morrison

President, Missouri Native Plant Society

The Missouri Native Plant Society (MONPS) can trace its immediate origin to a group of botanists meeting in 1978 to discuss the status of rare plants in Missouri. Out of this discussion came the establishment of an ad hoc steering committee to plan an organizational meeting for a native plant society. It was this steering committee which prepared the groundwork for the June 2, 1979, formal organizational meeting of the Society.

The first set of by-laws of the society, adopted at that June meeting, set the tone for the new organization as envisioned by its founding members. Article I of those by-laws presented the essential reasons for the creation of MONPS:

> "The purpose of the Native Plant Society of Missouri is to promote the preservation, conserva-tion and study of the wild plants and vegetation of Missouri, the education of the public to the value of the native flora and its habitat, and the publication of related material."

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With some minor fiddling with the words over the years, the Society has maintained these goals throughout its existence. As this statement indicates, from the very beginning, members of the Society have seen education--of ourselves and the general public-as one of our primary foci. Recently we have also broadened this goal to include trying to educate some of the local legislators and town governments as well about the value of native plants and the need for their protection.

As the Society grew, it became apparent that no matter how active the state organization became, it could not begin to have meaningful programs in all areas of the state. Consequently, in 1981, in order to get a larger number of people involved in the Society's activities, the state board of directors agreed to the establishment of local chapters of the Society. Board members believed that such local chapters would expand the opportunities for regional floristic inventories, local field trips, educational programs, and exhibits. They were also convinced that such local affiliates would bring new growth and vitality to the parent organization, and promote recognition of the Society through the local presence.

From the beginning, MONPS members saw the need for a Society publication as part of their self-imposed mandate to educate themselves and the general public. In the early years of the organization, the Society published a somewhat hybrid combination journal-newsletter, entitled *Missouriensls.* This publication contained everything from scientific technical articles to meeting minutes to the calendar of events. In 1985, the board of directors decided to establish two separate publications. *Missouriensis* would remain as a more formal "technical" journal, publishing such things as inventory records, book reviews, "how to articles," and

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Leaves from the President's Notebook...

Over the last few weeks many of us have been patiently waiting for a warm afternoon to look for the first pasqueflowers of the season. If you are in the right place on an April evening, you may hear and see the mating ritual of the woodcock. We can also search for hepatica, bloodroot, pussywillows, marsh marigolds, or puccoons as spring progresses.

One of my main interests for years has been the prairie. I still remember the high school field trip during which I was introduced to Clay Prairie State Preserve for the first time. Professor Cyrus Lantz from the University of Northern Iowa showed us prairie smoke, big bluestem and compass plant. I have been back to the prairie many times since to explore.

The Executive Officers ofINPS had an enjoyable meeting on February 28 at the Tama County Nature Center at Otter Creek Lake and Park. We covered a lot of material and made some decisions on Society matters. We even have some ideas on 1999 field trips and presenters. If you have ideas for future field trips or would like to serve on a committee, contact the Society. Those of us at the meeting enjoyed the fire in the fireplace, and watched bald eagles on the lake from the main room.

On April 4, a Spring Meeting was held at the Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids. We enjoyed a brown bag lunch out on the deck while listening to singing birds and watching honeybees fly by. After a business meeting, Dr. Paul Christiansen gave a presentation on effects of potassium fertilizer on a new prairie planting on sandy soils. No significant differences in biomass or species frequency were found between treatments, and normal successional trends were observed in species presence. Paul noted that other researchers had found significant differences from adding nitrogen fertilizer to prairies.

We invite our members and other wildlife enthusiasts to attend the remaining 1998 meetings and field trips. Come out and enjoy the plants and meet some friends.

Ed Freese

Editor's Messages:

In February, we began Tom Lammer's series of plants first described from and/or named for our state. This issue brings more changes. Two new columns are added to reflect the needs of INPS members.

To keep members in all areas of Iowa up to date on the status of issues, the chair of our action committee will be providing updates. Jane Clark's column will appear quarterly as the "Conservation Comer." If you would like more information on specific topics, e-mail Janeat:jrclark@radiks.net.

The second addition is an open forum where plant enthusiasts can share information, interesting tidbits or request input for projects. Since this allows us to look back at the people, events and organizations that contributed to botany in Iowa, as well as ahead to its continued unfolding, we are calling this our "Roots and Shoots" column.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce that Charles A. Butterworth will assume the editor position for the INPS newsletter while he pursues a Ph.D. at Iowa State University. Although his current area of research is the Genus *Mammilaria* in the cactus family, his botanical interests are far ranging. After receiving a horticulture diploma from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, he completed a B.S. in Botany at Reading University, U.K. In addition to extensive travels in pursuit of his ethnobotanical interests (to Spain, the Canary Islands and Mexico), he has several years experience as a botanical consultant and editor, both for Reader's Digest Books (U.K.) and on a freelance basis. If you want to know more about Charlie, visit his web site at: http://www.public/iastate/edu/-cbutter/indexlhtm

Iowa's Very Own II. Prairie Crabapple *Pyrus ioensis* (A. W. Wood) Carruth

by Thomas G. Lammers

Prairie crabapple is a slow growing short-lived tree, seldom exceeding 25 feet in height, with a round open crown and a trunk up to 18 inches in diameter. In its deeply toothed ovate leaves and white to pink flowers, it is very similar in appearance to other native North American crabapples, e.g., southern crabapple *(Pyrus angustifolia* Ait.) and sweet crabapple *(P. coronaria* L.). The main difference from these relatives is its greater pubescence: the new growth of *P. ioensis* is densely hairy as it expands, while the undersides of the leaves remain fuzzy throughout the growing season and the floral cup (hypanthium) and flower stalks (pedicels) are densely woolly. Like many of our popular fruits (e.g., pears, peaches, plums, apricots, cherries, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries), apples are members of the Rose Family (Rosaceae).

As suggested by its common name, prairie crabapple is largely confined to the Midwest. The greatest concentration of populations occur from northern Indiana to central Minnesota, south to Missouri and eastern Kansas; scattered outliers are found as far south as Texas and Louisiana. Originally, its primary habitat was the transition zone between deciduous forest and tallgrass prairie, where it commonly formed dense thickets. Today, it grows primarily in forest gaps, old pastures, and on thinly wooded stream terraces, often in the company of hawthorn *(Crataegus* spp.).

The fruits of prairie crabapple are hard, bitter, yellowish-green, and 1-1 1/2 inches in diameter. They can be made into palatable jellies or cider, and are relished by many songbird species, as well as by pheasant, grouse, turkey, quail, squirrels and whitetail deer. The hard heavy wood is of little commercial value, but is often cut as firewood. With its abundance of attractive spring blossoms, the tree is occasionally planted as an ornamental. Those of you who have a "Bechtel's crab" in your yard are growing a double-flowered cultivar of this native species.

Prairie crabapple was first recognized by Alphonso W. Wood (1810-1881), an instructor and administrator at a variety of secondary schools (most for women), who eventually became Professor of Botany at the College of Pharmacy (now part of Columbia University) in New York. Dissatisfied with botany textbooks then available, he published his own "Classbook of Botany" in 1845. The book proved immensely popular, its several editions going through 50 printings and selling 800,000 copies. On page 333 of the 1861 edition, the prairie crabapple was first described. Wood considered it a midwestern variety of the more eastern sweet crabapple, naming it *Pyrus coronaria* var. *ioensis* A. W. Wood in honor of the state of Iowa, where it was first found. The reason for the odd spelling? Wood (who once taught Latin to young ladies) apparently believed that scientific names should not include letters such as W that were not used by the ancient Romans. While current rules of nomenclature carry no such prohibition, neither do they permit a change of spelling in a case such as this. Regretfully, we're stuck with it.

In the "Centennial Catalogue of the Plants of Kansas" (1877), State Botanist James H. Carruth (1807-1896) elevated Wood's variety to species rank as *Pyrus ioensis.* Since that time, virtually all manuals and floras have concurred in treating prairie crabapple as a distinct species. However, there is a difference of opinion on generic placement. Some botanists treat apples and pears as a single genus under the name *Pyrus;* others segregate the apples as the genus *Malus,* leaving *Pyrus* in the strict sense to the pears. For those who prefer the latter classification, the combination *Malus ioensis* (A. W. Wood) Britt. was validated in the first edition (1897) of Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States. Either name is correct, depending on your views of the relationship of apples to pears.

Sadly, we know nothing of the circumstances surrounding the discovery of the prairie crabapple in Iowa. In his frustratingly terse original description, Wood reported only that the name was based on a specimen sent to him from "Iowa" by "Dr. Cousens." We do not know where in Iowa, or who this botanically inclined medico was. He did send other Iowa collections to Wood, including a tantalizing specimen of the hairy water-clover, *Marsilea vestita* Hook. & Grev., collected "along the Mississippi River." From this and the early date, one would suspect that he practiced medicine at one of the larger river towns, such as Davenport or Dubuque, but that is only conjecture. Perhaps his name will be familiar to some local-history buff among the INPS membership, and that part of the mystery at least can be cleared up.

When an original description is less than verbose about the type locality of a new species, further information is often found on the specimen label itself. Unfortunately, the whereabouts of the type specimen of prairie crabapple are unknown. The remains of Wood's personal herbarium is housed at the New York Botanical Garden. However, many specimens, including the type of prairie crabapple, were lost or destroyed long before they found their way there in the 1930s. As a result, we do not know exactly where in Iowa the prairie crabapple was discovered--only that its oddly spelled name forever marks it as one of Iowa's Very Own.

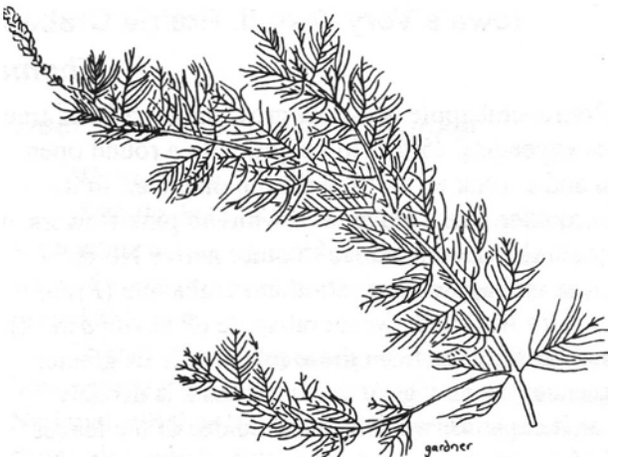
Eurasian watermilfoil
(Myriophyllum spicatum)
submitted by Gary Phillips and Steve Anderson

In the 1980s, reports began to appear in the upper Midwest concerning an aquatic plant that was beginning to infest lakes and cause serious problems. The initial response to these reports was one of guarded optimism. Sometimes with new exotic species, original fears never fully materialize. This was not to be the case with this species. Within several years, the plant had rapidly spread to numerous lakes across the area. As the number of new infestations continued to add up, concern began to grow in Iowa.

The focus of this concern was Eurasian watermilfoil *(Myriophyllum spicatum),* an exotic aquatic weed which is native to Europe and Asia. Eurasian watermilfoil was first documented almost fifty years ago in waters of the Chesapeake Bay area. Since its arrival to the United States, the plant has moved steadily westward and is now found in 40 states and three Canadian provinces. Eurasian watermilfoil is presently known to exist in the waters of all states bordering Iowa except South Dakota. It is also common in the Mississippi River and is found in that portion of the river bordering Iowa.

Eurasian watermilfoil was first discovered within the state in Iowa in 1993 in Crystal Lake in Hancock County. It has since been reported occurring in St. Benedict Pond in Kossuth County (1994), Walnut Creek Marsh in Ringgold County (1994), Kounty Pond in Buchanan County (1995), Wilson Grove Pond and Sweet Marsh in Bremer County (1996 and 1997, each), and Snyder Bend in Woodbury County (1996). It has also been documented in Pools 9, 11, and 13 in the Mississippi River. To date, all infestations in interior waterbodies in Iowa have been chemically treated during the summer of 1997, or earlier. Infestations in Crystal Lake, St. Benedict Pond, and Walnut Creek Marsh appear to have been successfully eradicated.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a member of the watermilfoil family (Haloragaceae) of plants. Members of this large and widespread family of plants exhibit long, slender, submerged stems and leaves arranged in whorls of three or four. Leaves are divided into leaflet pairs, the number of which are commonly used for species identification. Eurasian watermilfoil typically exhibits 10 to 21 leaflet pairs per leaf, the leaflets are closely spaced, the plant has a fragile appearance, the leaves collapse against the stem when removed from the water, the plants branch profusely at the surface, and there is no production of winterbuds (turions).



Eurasian watermilfoil is a highly prolific perennial submergent aquatic plant that spreads primarily by means of vegetative propagation. When the plant is broken into small pieces, these fragments can take root and grow a new plant. Fragmentation can occur as a result of boating activities or naturally through a process called autofragmentation which occurs at the end of the normal growing season. Once the plant has been fragmented, these fragments can be carried to new locations in a waterbody by wind or water currents. These fragments may also be transported between bodies of water after they become attached to boats and/or trailers.

This plant is capable of growing under a wide range of environmental conditions and on a variety of bottom substrates. Although this plant typically grows in shallow water, under clear water conditions it can exist in water up to 30 feet or more in depth. The surface mat-forming growth and prolific nature of the plant also allows it to outcompete and replace native aquatic vegetation. For these reasons, Eurasian watermilfoil is extremely difficult to manage and control.

After introduction into waterbodies, Eurasian watermilfoil establishes dense stands which by mid-summer reach the surface of the water and create heavy mats of vegetation. These mats of vegetation severely restrict boating, water-skiing, sailing, fishing and other forms of aquatic recreation. Eurasian watermilfoil also displaces native aquatic vegetation, thereby reducing the species diversity and ecological stability of a waterbody. While Eurasian watermilfoil may provide good fish habitat in certain instances, severe infestations generally have a negative impact on fish and wildlife populations. Infestations in a waterbody also impact local economies by lowering the value of lakefront property and reducing tourism. Control and/or eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil can become extremely costly. **In** Minnesota, for example, nearly $500,000 are spent annually on the management of Eurasian watermilfoil infestations.

On the Horizon…

Schedule of INPS Activities 1998

ALL FIELD TRIPS BEGIN AT 10:00 a.m.
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

BRING A SACK LUNCH

For more information, call 515-294-9499

Saturday, May 16: FALLEN ROCK STATE PRESERVE/ SANDSTONE PALISADES, Steamboat Rock (Hardin County) Wildflower Hike
Enjoy a spring wildflower walk along the Iowa River Greenbelt in Hardin County and see a mix of plants from northeast, southeast and central Iowa as three glacial time periods converge on the Iowa landscape in these two sites. Hike along wooded bluffs and through floodplain forest to look for spring wildflowers. Climb Pennsylvanian-aged sandstone bluffs and walk softly among clumps of brown moss, marginal shield fern and club moss. See white pines, yellow birch and leatherwood. Wear proper footwear, since footing is not the best in some places.

Leaders: Ed Freese

Directions: From D35 in Steamboat Rock drive 1/4 mile south on S56. Turn right (west) into Tower Rock County Park. Fallen Rock State Preserve and Sandstone Palisades will be reached from here by walking west along the river.

Saturday, June 13: WOODLANDS AND PRAIRIES OF CRAWFORD COUNTY (Deloit IA; co-sponsored with the Iowa Prairie Network) Wildflower Hike/Plant Inventory
The Crawford County Conservation Board approached INPS for help in conducting an inventory of this site which is primarily owned by the county. Part of the Ian is on a steep hillside of the Boyer River Valley. This area was recorded as timber land in 1854 by the first surveyors. Since it has not been plowed, though occasionally grazed, during the past 140 years it remains a virgin forest. Large populations of prairie plants occur on this and some of the surrounding hills.

Coordinators: Glenn Pollock and Tom Rosburg.

Directions: Meet at the fire-station in Deliot, Iowa, north of Denison on Hwy 39. We will carpool from there to the site about 3 miles north of Deliot on road M40.

Saturday, June 13: BUFFALO SLOUGH PRESERVE (Cerro Gordo County, co-sponsored with The Nature Conservancy) Wildflower Hike/Work Day
Participants will join forces to continue a floristic inventory of this recent TNC acquisition, which is a channel fen surrounded by residential areas. Buffalo Slough is home to many rare or endangered species including sedge skipper and Baltimore butterflies, and great angelica, swamp aster, fragrant false indigo, bog buckbean, bog bedstraw, sage willow, bog willow and bracted orchid. A work day is scheduled for the afternoon to begin removal of purple loosestrife (an aggressive exotic plant) from the site.

Leaders: Jerry Selby, Bill Norris, Mark Leoschke

Directions: From the intersection of Hwy 65 and 12th St. NE in Mason City, turn east onto 12th St. and go to North Carolina Ave. (the first intersection after the Winnebago River). Turn north for approximately 1½ miles to 2319 N. Carolina Ave. You will be directed to a parking area east of the house at this address.
Note: Be prepared for sun, bugs and wet conditions.

Saturday, June 21, 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.: JOINT FIELD TRIP WITH MISSOURI NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (Harrison and Mercer Counties, MO; Ringgold County, IA) Wildflower Hikes
Visit local prairie remnants with fellow native plant enthusiasts from Missouri. Morning hike will begin at the Helton Prairie Natural Area at 9:00 a.m., and carpool to other Missouri prairie sites from there. At 2:00 p.m., travel to the Ringgold Wildlife Area in Ringgold County, IA to visit other diverse prairie habitat. It is anticipated that we will see Mead's milkweed during one or more of our stops.

Directions: Helton Prairie Natural Area (Harrison Co., MO): From 1-35 and Hwy 136 in Bethany, MO, travel east on Hwy 136 approximately 7 miles to County Rd 00. Turn right (south) onto County Rd 00 and continue ½ mile; tum left (east). Go east about 2 miles to the "Helton Prairie Natural Area" sign. Meet here at 9:00 a.m. along the roadside on the NW corner of the Wayne Helton Memorial Wildlife Area.
Ringgold Wildlife Area (Ringgold Co., IA): From Lamoni, lA, proceed west on J55 for 8½ miles to P64, the first blacktop road west of Lamoni. Tum left (south) on P64 for 1½ miles; then tum right (west) on the first gravel road to the Ringgold Wildlife Area. Plan on arriving at this site between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 11: EDDYVILLE DUNES (Mahaska and Wapello Counties; co-sponsored with Iowa Prairie Network and Sierra Club, Central Iowa Group). Wildflower Hike

Visit a wetland/sand prairie site that is known to possess almost 600 species of vascular plants, including the state endangered pale-green orchid which should be in bloom during this field trip. Eddyville Dunes is also home to Blanding's turtle, ornate box turtle, six-lined racerunner and several rare snakes. A DOT road construction project slated for this site will have a severe impact. Depending on landowner permission, we intend to visit several areas in the Dunes besides the IDOT right-of-way for the Bypass project, providing a broader perspective of the Dunes' extent and diversity. There are sandburs and wet areas; wear boots.

Leaders: Pat McAdams and Glenda Buenger; call 515-632-8308 if you want to check local weather conditions on the 11 tho

Directions: Because of limited parking at some stops, we need to carpool as much as possible. People coming from the north please rendezvous at William Penn College, located on Hwy 63 North, Oskaloosa. Park at Wilcox Library, 1 block west of Hwy 63 North on Trueblood Ave. We will have vans to proceed to the Dunes. People coming from the south may meet at the picnic tables on the levee, downtown Eddyville. From Hwy 63 in Eddyville, turn west on Walnut St. (first street north of Casey's), go to end of Walnut St.

Saturday, August 1: CONE MARSH (Louisa County) Wildflower Hike

We will have an opportunity to see abundant plant and animal life in this large marsh which lies in the lowland between the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. The marsh was formed from a series of oxbow lakes left by the Iowa River as it changed its course over the years. Once Iowa had several million acres like Cone Marsh, but these have been nearly all lost due to draining of the land for agriculture. We will hike over floodplains, terraces and dunes as the water level permits.

Leaders: Toni Hesseltine and Louise MacEachern

Directions: We will meet in the park at Conesville and caravan west 2 miles to the marsh. Conesville is on Hwy 70, 7 miles north of Columbus Junction. To reach Conesville from Muscatine, drive west on Hwy 22 to Nichols, then turn south 7 miles on Hwy 70 to Conesville. From Iowa City, take U.S, Hwy 6 east to the Lone Tree turn onto X14 South. Just before Lone Tree, take Hwy 22 east to Nichols, then Hwy 70 south to Conesville. The park is next to the highway, directly south of the old elevator. Cone Marsh is in the northwest segment of Louisa County, just south of County Rd G28.

Friday to Sunday, August 21-23: CHEEVER LAKE/ ANDERSON PRAIRIE STATE PRESERVES (Emmet County; co-sponsored with the Iowa State Preserves Board) Plant Inventory/Wildflower Hikes

Cheever Lake is a "prairie pothole" with year-round water cover that is home to a diversity of wetland and aquatic plants. These include white and yellow water lilies, coontail, wild rice, water milfoil, bulrush, burreed, arrowhead and whitetop grass. Anderson Prairie contains plant communities ranging from dry prairie and wetland to oak savanna and floodplain. The dry prairie is dominated by sideoats grama and little bluestem; mesic prairie by big bluestem and Indian grass; and wet areas by slough grass, bluejoint and numerous sedges. Forbs are abundant and showy, especially in prairie areas. A number of rare plants have been found at Anderson Prairie, including kittentails, biscuit root and yellow monkeyflower.

Leaders: Gary Phillips and Bob Moats

Directions: Meet at the Estherville City Park, located south of Hwy 9 on the west side of the West Fork of the Des Moines River. The parking lot is just south of the swimming pool.

Saturday, September 12: BRAYTON-HORSLEY FEN PRESERVE/KAUTEN FEN (BremerlFayette Counties; co-sponsored with The Nature Conservancy)

Brayton-Horseley Prairie features high quality wet-mesic prairie and fen communities. Rare plants include dwarf bog birch, tall cottongrass, sage willow, fringed gentian, Riddell's goldenrod and hairy valerian. Kauten Fen is another diverse fen community also home to many rare plant species. Participants will see the effects of two management strategies, passive (no fire-Brayton-Horsley Fen) and active (burning-Kauten Fen) on this field trip.

Leaders: John Pearson, Jerry Selby, Jon Steege

Directions: Meet at Brayton-Horsley Fen. From the junction of Hwy 93 and County Rd V56, go south for 2 miles on V56, then east on a gravel road for 1.7 miles to a point just west of the Little Wapsipinicon River. Kauten Fen is located on "J" Avenue between I00 and II Oth Streets. Travel 4 miles east of Maynard on Hwy 150, then north 1 mile, east 1 mile, and back south 1/4 mile to empty farm site. The fen is southwest of the old farm site.

On the Horizon…(cont.)

October: PRAIRIE RESTORATION (Fremont County)
On privately owned site where biscuit-root is found. More details in next newsletter.

Leader: Tom Rosburg

Saturday, November 7,10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.:
FALL MEETING, Cedar Falls (Black Hawk County)
Morning program on Iowa orchids by Dr. Paul Whitson. Brown bag lunch followed by afternoon activities. More details to be announced in the next newsletter.

Directions: CEEE Building on southern campus of the University of Northern Iowa.

Dutton's Cave and Forest Field Trip

submitted by William Norris

About 25 people attended the field trip at Dutton's Cave near West Union, IA. Leader Jon Steege (Fayette County Roadside Manager) told us Dutton's Cave is a popular place for area residents to get married, among other things! The open picnic area in front of the cave was a virtual flower garden. All the typical spring wildflowers were here as well as squirrel corn *(Dicentra canadensis).*

In the afternoon we travelled to a managed woodland near Wadena, lA, owned by Louis Christian. Northeast Iowa DNR Forester Bruce Blair led this portion of the field trip, and pointed out that this carefully managed forest contained a higher diversity of flowering plants than many state-owned forests. Indeed, we saw such rare plants as shining club moss *(Lycopodium lucidulum)* and leatherwood *(Dirca palustris).*

MONPS *Continued from page 1*

graduate student findings. At the same time, a newsletter (later named *Petal Pusher)* was created. Published bimonthly, it includes such things as the calendar of upcoming events, informal notes from the local chapters or members, items from other native plant Society newsletters which MONPS members might enjoy, and other topics of interest to the broad membership. Both of these publications have been successful in educating not only our own members but a broader audience as well.

In 1985, MONPS developed an awards program expressive of the major goals of the Society. As initially adopted, the Society could present up to four awards annually--one for education, research, plant stewardship, and for outstanding contributions to Missouri botany. In 1996, a fifth award was added for "service" to the Society itself. These awards not only recognize deserving individuals, but also, by the publicity generated, help educate the public as well.

Among other projects the Society has sponsored or participated in are:

- updating the botanical inventory of the State
- establishing a slide "library" of Missouri plants which members can borrow from
- compiling files about floristic information for various locations, recording such information as habitat, species in bloom, abundance, and any other information which would "document" a point in time to aid future researchers in regards to that specific location
- creating a wildflower "badge" program to recognize those who complete a number of projects relating to native plants
- publishing county plant records
- participating in Naturescaping symposiums
- setting up our own Home Page on the Internet
- developing and distributing a number of brochures on native plants, covering such topics as basic information about native plants, responsible buying, and sources for herbaceous plants, grasses, trees and shrubs
- becoming a cooperative member of the Federal Native Plant Conservation Committee, a network of federal agencies and other organizations interested in working to increase the appreciation for the value of native plants and to facilitate their conservation
- getting involved in several environmental issues, such as pushing a bill in the Missouri legislature making it a misdemeanor to dig or remove plants or plant parts from state highway property, and providing a lot of volunteer hours and financial support for the successful campaign to continue the state sales tax for Missouri parks and soils

Today, in its eighteenth year, the Missouri Native Plant Society has approximately 360 members and 6 local chapters scattered around the state. On at least an elemental level, the Society members have met, and continue to meet, their basic goals of promoting the preservation, conservation, and study of the wild plants of Missouri. Just as importantly, the members have a great time together as they conduct field trips in various parts of the state educating themselves about the local flora found there. We look forward to sharing this good time and sense of discovery with you at our joint meeting in June.

Roots and Shoots

SHOOTING STAR SURVEY

Mark J. Leoschke is interested in information on the distribution of native populations of shooting star *(Dodecatheon meadia* and *D. amethystinum)* in Iowa.

Extant populations of shooting star, *D. meadia,* are known from Benton, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Chickasaw, Clinton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Howard, Jackson, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, Winneshiek and Wright Counties. There are old records for *D. meadia* from Clayton, Delaware, Franklin, Grundy, Hamilton, Hardin, Iowa, Marshall, Mitchell, Scott, Story and Washington Counties. Mark is interested in extant populations for counties with old records plus populations from any county not mentioned here. Herbarium specimens that document counties not mentioned would also be of interest.

Jeweled shooting star, *D. amethystinum,* is currently known from Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson and Winneshiek Counties. Any extant population would be of interest, especially counties not already mentioned here. Herbarium specimens that document counties not mentioned would also be of interest.

There are spectacular displays of *D. meadia* at Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County (millions and millions of plants, acres and acres of white, lavender and pink), Clay Prairie State Preserve in Butler County and Rochester Cemetery in Cedar County. *D. amethystinum* can be found at Yellow River State Forest in Allamakee County, Pikes Peak State Park in Clayton County and Mines of Spain State Recreation Area in Dubuque County. Please send information on extant populations or herbarium specimens to: Mark J. Leoschke, 2212 East Rose Avenue #13, Des Moines, Iowa 50320-2613. Thanks for your help!

Dear friends of Sylvan T. Runkel:

We need your ideas!

With the help of Sylvan Runkel's family, friends and associates, we are assembling information on his life and work, for use in a book and magazine articles about this remarkable man.

There's also a proposal to construct an exhibit in his honor at the Prairie Learning Center at Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City. Some materials could be kept on permanent display at the Center.

We're asking interested people to share thoughts about Sylvan and those special traits that make him so memorable. Each of us who met him has a personal impression of why he was such an effective teacher or what made him unique.

Do you have stories, accounts, photos or other information that would help others understand Sylvan's connection to the natural world? Perhaps you recall an anecdote about an experience with him. Is there a tale that reveals his endearing qualities? How and what did you learn from him? What were Sylvan's favorite places, plants and philosophies?

Even brief thoughts/ideas/remembrances will help. As Sylvan would have said, the smallest citizen is also an important member of the community.

This is a joint project. Feel free to contact Larry or Jon. We are using Larry's address. Jon will be in touch during his HawkWatch travels. We welcome your suggestions!

Sincerely,
Larry Stone and Jon Stravers
23312 295th St.
Elkader, IA 52043
(319) 245-1517
lstone@netins.net

Updated "Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern" Plant List Now Available

John Pearson, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and Diana Horton, University of Iowa, have updated the "official" rare plant list and arranged the information in the format of a table that compares the most recent designations in 1994 with those from previous lists.

John revised the list in 1994, but there wasn't funding available to publish it through the DNR as previous lists had been. Diana realized the need for making this information available and set up the table. It is titled "Iowa Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Plant Species 1977-1994 (by family)".

To get your own copy of this resource bye-mail, contact Diana: dhorton@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu, or request the printed version from her at the following address:

Diana G. Horton
Department of Biology
312 CB
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242

INPS Discussion Group Soon to be On-line

Dr. Diana Horton, Professor of Botany and Curator of the Herbarium at the University ofIowa, is setting up an on-line discussion group for INPS and general discussion of native Iowa plant issues. She has the paperwork done, and it is hoped that by mid- to late-May our own list server address wiIl be active. The e-mail address is proposed as: ianativeplants@list.uiowa.edu

The purpose of the list is to share new records, neat finds, species lists for sites around the state, information on appropriate folks to contact for identification of problem plant groups, to post field trip information for INPS and other organizations, or just discuss any native plant-related issues. The on-line discussion group is NOT intended to replace the INPS newsletters, but rather be a new way to generate interest in Iowa's native plants, to provide an easy way for people with these interests to share information or ask questions, and to aIlow rapid dissemination of information about issues or schedule changes that come up between issues of the newsletter. Pertinent information from the discussion group would be included or summarized for upcoming newsletters.

Anyone can subscribe to the list and post new discussion articles or reply to previous posts. Each article wiIl be automaticaIly forwarded to everyone subscribed to the list. Specific information for subscribing wiIl be in the next newsletter. If you want to try to access it before then, the usual format is to send the foIlowing message to Iistserv@list.uiowa.edu with the message subject line left blank:

Subscribe ianativeplants <your name>

Example:

Subscribe ianativeplants John Plantlover

If this "bounces" and you are eager to subscribe, send an e-mail requesting instructions to Diana at:

dhorton@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Early Botanists

Gleaned from the 1927 and 1940 Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science and submitted by Ed Freese

Bruce Fink was born 22 December 1862 in Blackberry, Illinois. He received his training at the University of Illinois, Harvard, University of Chicago and University of Minnesota. Fink developed a lifelong interest in lichens from W.G. Harlow at Harvard, but his dissertation at Minnesota was on the life history of *Rumex*.

Professor Fink taught Zoology at Upper Iowa University from 1892 to 1903, and Geology and Botany at GrinneIl CoIlege from 1903 to 1906. From 1906 until his death 10 July 1927, he was a botanist at Miami University in Ohio.

Fink published many articles on lichens, algae and fungi. One of his contributions from Iowa was a list of spermatophytes for Fayette County published in the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1898.

At the age of 65 in 1918, Robert Cratty (1853-1940) retired from farming and teaching high school and headed for Ames, Iowa, home of Iowa State CoIlege. Cratty arrived with about 800 plant specimens to take over the duties of herbarium curator. He held this post until his second retirement in 1932. L.H. Pammel was head of the Botany Department during this time.

Robert Cratty originaIly moved to the northwest Iowa prairies to be a public school teacher and to farm in 1877. He spent much of his free time during the ensuing years coIlecting specimens ofIowa's original flora.

Cratty published articles on botany beginning in the 1880s. Articles were penned on sedges, alien species, and rare plant notes, as weIl as an Emmet County flora and papers on *Lactuca* and *Rumex*. FinaIly, his years of plant study led to "The Iowa Flora" published in 1933.

Membership/Change of Address Form and Survey:

Your input and support of the Iowa Native Plant Society are important:

Please complete and send with your 1998 dues of $10 to Mary Brown, 330 Windsor Dr., Iowa City, IA 52245.

Name. _

Address:, _

_____

_____

Phone number:( ) email address, web site:, _

Additional information or special interests for member directory entry: _

_____

_____

OMark this box if you DO NOT wish this information published in the INPS member directory. The INPS mail 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 fonn for change of address

INPS fonn: May 1998

Conservation Corner

by Jane Clark

GOOD NEWS ON ENGELDINGER MARSH!

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) notified the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) on Tuesday, March 17th that the DOT will not be allowed to expand Highway 65 through Engeldinger Marsh. Section 4(f) of the Federal Highway Administration code states that:

> The Administration may not approve the use of land from a significant publicly owned public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any significant historic site unless a determination is made that: (I) There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of land from the property..."

Engeldinger Marsh is owned by Polk County Conservation Board. It is considered one of the "last remaining remnants of native Iowa in a part of the state divided by the boundary of a major geological event-it is at the very southern terminus of the most recent incursion into the state by glacial ice, 14,000 years ago," according to Dean Roosa in his Biological Survey of Engeldinger Marsh. Iowa is one of the most altered states in the nation. Each remaining natural area is priceless.

Public hearings will be held this fall to determine a new route.

In a Nutshell... related events of interest to INPS members

TNC:The Nature Conservancy
CIPN:Central Iowa Prairie Network
IPN:Iowa Prairie Network
PSMC:Prairie States Mushroom Club

May 12 (6:30 p.m.): Pohl Memorial Preserve at Ames High School Prairie, Ames, Story County, TNC. (515) 244-5044

May 16 (I :00 p.m.): Retz Memorial Woods, near Elkader, Clayton County, TNC. (515) 244-5044

May 17 (I :00 p.m.): Kaufmann Avenue Prairie, Dubuque, Dubuque County, TNC. (515) 244-5044

May 23 (1 :00 p.m.): Cedar Hills Sand Prairie, Black Hawk County, TNC. (515) 244-5044

June 9 (6:30 p.m.): Pohl Memorial Preserve at Ames High School Prairie, Ames, Story County, TNC. (515) 244-5044

June 27 (10:00 a.m.): Freda Haffner Kettlehole and Silver Lake Fen, Dickinson County, TNe. (515) 244-5044

July 11: Stevens Forest (Whitebreast Unit), near Lucas, PSMC. (515) 446-7358

July 12: Nine Eagles State Park, Decatur County, PSMC. (515) 446-7358

July 26-30: North American Prairie Conference, Kearney, NE.

September 11-13: Iowa Prairie Network Annual Meeting, Wapsi River Environmental Center, Dixon IA.

September 20: White Pine Hollow, near Luxemburg, Dubuque County, PSMC.(515) 446-7358

Iowa Native Plant Society
c/o Deb Lewis
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