



NEWSLETTER

IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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THE LANDSCAPES OF EARLY IOWA\*

BY PROF. T. H. McBride

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Iowa is a land of beauty. No traveler makes his summer outing by her prairie highways, north, south, east, or west, but returns to tell of wondrous fields, sunny pastures, groves, farm houses and villages hardly elsewhere to be matched. So completely has the whole State passed beneath the plow, so quickly assumed the appearance of one vast farm, that one who thus studies the Iowa of today realizes with difficulty the strange picturesque wildness of fifty or sixty years ago when of farms, villages, cities, over the vastly greater part of this area there were none. For the benefit of those whose later experience make them familiar with the present status only, it has been thought worth while to describe briefly the Iowa of that earlier day. For older men this is less needed; such have but to shut their eyes a moment till memory, all too willing, lifts up again the vision of past scenes and years.

It might perhaps be thought that the signs of human occupation form the chief distinguishing characteristic of the new physiognomy; but this is only partly true.

Our human sympathy leads us to dwell on such features and to find in them a certain charm. But even were all the houses suddenly to disappear, even though the netted highways with right-angled meshes should dissolve and blend again unmarked into the adjoining fields, even then the prehistoric landscape would lack much of restoration. Hill, valley, rock and stream are always of course the same, but these form only the background, the skeleton; the charm, as the character, lies in the details with which the larger features are evermore clothed and covered. In detail the modern landscape is very different from the old. Apart from inequality of surface diversity in the appearance of a country is due largely to the distribution of forest and meadow. This distribution ever picturesque, at least in eastern Iowa, remains today so far unchanged as to indicate the original conditions. True, very much of our Iowa woodland has been reduced to so-called farms or pasture-fields, but enough still remains to suggest the principal outlines of those landscapes which must have met the eye of the earliest civilized inhabitant. The differences lie deeper and affect alike the forest and the prairie. Of course planted groves of all sorts must be forgotten. The primeval woods were confined to two very dissimilar locations; to ridges of clay, sand, or rock and to floodplains of streams, flats more or less wide, subject to overflow; all the richest most fertile areas of the state were prairie. Sometimes the two poorer regions mentioned blent, or came close together, especially since Iowa streams have a fashion of cutting through ridges and rocks; but not infrequently the streams were found shaded with

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Iowa Native Plant Society



## Leaves from **the President's Notebook**

An interest in native plants has been part of my life since my earliest memories. In the spring of 1945 as World War II was coming to an end in Germany my family and I lived above the stables of an estate near the Chiemsee in southwestern Germany. We had fled Vienna, Austria just before the city was occupied by the Russian army. I well remember sleeping on straw, the Persian rug that hung from the ceiling as a room divider and mother boiling water in her Russian samovar. Food was very scarce and we gathered wild greens, mushrooms and strawberries to supplement our meager rations.

In 1950 we moved to Cedar Rapids and settled into an old farmhouse at the edge of the city. Our property was bounded by Indian Creek on one side and a meadow profuse with wildflowers on the other. Wild watercress and asparagus grew near the creek. The woodland beyond the meadow was carpeted with spring ephemerals, ladyslippers, trillium and other woodland natives.

Mother had given my sister and me a book on wildflowers, and we spent many hours identifying the species in the woodland and meadow. We transplanted wild ginger, jack in the pulpit, trillium, and maidenhair fern to the shade garden outside Father's study. As the area around our home was developed we made a project of rescuing wildflowers from the bulldozers. When my husband and I moved into our first house in Des Moines I brought some of the transplanted trillium with me.

But it was not enough to have some wildflowers in a city garden. After our children graduated from college. Bill and I sold our house in Des Moines and moved to Decatur County. Instead of a wildflower garden I now indulge my passion for wildflowers with a one hundred sixty acre oak savanna restoration. And every day I wake up here I am grateful Bill and I are lucky enough to live here.

*Sibylla Brown*



*INPS  
would like to thank  
Tom Rosburg  
for serving as  
President during  
2001 and 2002*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

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### Iowa Prairie Network, Central Iowa Chapter Winter Meeting

Escape the "winter-doldrums" for an afternoon by attending the Central Iowa Prairie Network's annual winter meeting. This year's meeting will be held on February 1st at the Des Moines Area Community College, Building 7, in Ankeny. The meeting is free, and will be chock-full of information, plans, networking, and dreaming about the "prairie season." The program will begin at 1 pm, but plan to arrive a few minutes early to look over the large selection of silent auction items. The proceeds from the silent auction will support the purchase of a central Iowa prairie (details will be available at the meeting). For more information, contact Trish Patrick (515-294-4504; tpatrick@iastate.edu).

### Ninth Iowa Prairie Conference

Mark your calendar for the Iowa Prairie Conference, which will be held July 11th to 13th. This year, for the first time, the conference will be held at the Scheman Building at Iowa State University in Ames. Details will be provided in future newsletters, but the primary day for presentations and field trips will be Saturday, the 12th. This conference is held on alternate years with the North American Prairie Conference.

### Adult Nature Weekend

Also mark your calendars now for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Adult Nature Weekend August 15-17, 2003, at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on beautiful West Lake Okoboji. This is a great opportunity for adults to learn about Iowa's natural history from some of the state's leading naturalists in a relaxed and congenial setting. For more information, contact Iowa Lakeside Laboratory at 515-294-2488 or lakeside@iastate.edu

## Engeldinger Marsh and Turtlehead Fen Update

The largest portion of the highway through Engeldinger Marsh has been removed, and the project is scheduled to finish in early November. All four lanes of the new highway are scheduled to be open the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. Thousands of cubic yards of silt and Reed's canary grass were removed from the marsh, and volunteers are seeding the area with seed collected elsewhere in the marsh.

The IA DOT and the Polk County Conservation Board have been working together on the restoration work at Engeldinger and Turtlehead Fen. Jacobs and Associates discovered Turtlehead Fen during the design stage of the new highway as they investigated alternate routes for the highway. They discovered an area of groundwater discharge with a relatively intact fen including a full complement of conservative wetland species.

The ecological services division of the DOT in conjunction with PCCB staff have been working on the design for restoration of the fen and for a wetland mitigation site immediately down slope from the fen.

Preliminary work to restore the altered hydrology of the fen has already been accomplished. This fall PCCB staff directed a contractor (paid for by the DOT) in the removal of 5,808 feet of drainage tile from the site. The resulting changes were immediate. Water is now at the surface or flowing over the surface on several areas of former cropland. The peat mound appears to be rehydrating to the extent that it has become waterlogged.

Additional work is planned to repair damage to the fen. Understanding past attempts to drain the site is the key to restoration. Removing the tile drains was a first step. Future work will remove diversion terraces and block ditches that adversely affect the fen. Design of the repair work and mitigation site is beginning now and should be completed this winter.

The willingness of the Ecological Services Division of the DOT to work with the PCCB to develop quality restorations at Engeldinger and Turtlehead Fen is to be commended. Their approach has been very professional, and they have gone well beyond the legal requirements and insisted on a *quality* restoration.

There was once a possibility that a unique natural area would be lost during the expansion of highway 65/330. Thankfully that did not occur. Rather than lose a quality natural area the public has gained a new one. Once the fen restoration and wetland mitigation site are completed the area will be owned and managed by the PCCB.

## PLEASE HELP US EXPAND THE CAYLER PRAIRIE COMPLEX!

by Cindy Hildebrand -- Reprinted from the *IPNNews*

The Iowa Prairie Network wants to help one of Iowa's best prairies, and we need your help to do it. The IPN is offering a challenge grant to help purchase an addition to the Cayler Prairie complex. This addition gives Iowans a rare opportunity to expand and buffer a high-quality prairie preserve.

Cayler Prairie State Preserve is a 160-acre native prairie located in Dickinson County near the western edge of the Des Moines Lobe. It is used every summer for research by Iowa Lakeside Laboratory students. The prairie has more than 200 species of plants and a variety of animals, including white-tailed jackrabbits, northern harriers, and regal fritillaries. An additional 385 acres of former pasture and cropland adjacent to the prairie were purchased by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in 1998, with initial help from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation.

The tract of land we want to help buy is next to the Cayler Prairie complex. The Nature Conservancy of Iowa is assisting the Wildlife Bureau of the Iowa DNR with the purchase of this tract. The federally threatened prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) was found on the tract by Paul Christiansen in 1965, and is also found on the Cayler Prairie State Preserve and the 1998 addition. For this reason, the Iowa DNR has received an Endangered Species Recovery grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which will pay for 90% of the purchase. The remaining 10% of the funding (\$12,100) is being raised by the Conservancy from private sources, and the Iowa Prairie Network wants to help.

The new tract, which will be owned and managed by the Wildlife Bureau, contains eighty acres. About half of those acres are prairie pasture, which means that good management will help the remnant populations of prairie species already present. The rest of the land is cropland, most or all of which will become a prairie reconstruction.

The new tract has exciting features, including a natural prairie pothole in the cropland and lots of bobolinks and upland sandpipers on the prairie pasture. The Wildlife Bureau intends to use prairie seed from Cayler Prairie, possibly augmented by seed from other nearby prairie remnants, to plant the cropland. That makes this an opportunity to support the creation of a high-quality, focal-ecotype prairie reconstruction.

The Iowa Prairie Network will match donations on a two-for-one basis, up to \$2,000. That means that if IPN members and supporters come up with \$2,000 in donations for this Cayler addition, we will donate \$4,000 in matching money from our treasury. In that way, we will collectively donate \$6,000 to the Cayler tract.

If you want to help, please send your check to: IPN, P.O. Box 572, Nevada, Iowa 50201

Please write the check to the IPN, and be sure to write Cayler Prairie in the memo line. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization so your donation is tax-deductible. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 31, 2002.

Thank you for helping the Cayler Prairie complex, and thank you for helping to provide and protect eighty new public acres of remnant and focal-ecotype reconstructed prairie for future Iowans to enjoy!

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### DNR Non-Game Support Certificates

by Doug Harr

DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program announces its 2003 Nongame Support Certificate will be available by late December. This year's subject is a female bobcat and her kittens, chosen to coincide with a new DNR research project on bobcats, a threatened Iowa species. Also available until March 2003 is the 2002 Nongame Support Certificate, depicting an osprey. Both bobcat and osprey photos are by noted Iowa wildlife photographer Ty Smedes. Cost is \$5 each, with proceeds going to support the Wildlife Diversity Program. You may purchase copies at the DNR's main office in Des Moines or at the Boone Research Station south of Ledges State Park. You may also purchase copies via mail. Make out a check to the "Iowa DNR" and put "non-game certificate" in the memo line. Send your request to:

License Bureau--DNR  
Wallace State Office Building  
502 East Ninth Street  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034

Thanks for your support!

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*Continued from page 1*

only a fringe of their characteristic species while groves of forest trees covered isolated hill tops far away. The primeval forests in these diverse localities were very different in character. The species were different. Down by the streams the wild plum, wild cherry, box-elder, soft maple and elm made with the grape and Virginia-creeper thickets almost or wholly impassable, with shade so dense that the ground beneath was absolutely bare. Where by the junction of two streams the flood-plain was widened with richer alluvial soil, walnuts, hackberries and cottonwoods with an occasional **bur-oak**, gave to the woodland more the appearance of an eastern forest, and here and there on rocky banks were groves of hard maple rivalling those of Pennsylvania and Vermont. But on the clay ridges the white oak flourished sometimes to the exclusion of all else; while the most striking peculiarity of the Iowa upland forest was its openness. One could drive through it anywhere. To one following some long clay ridge the trees opened on every hand as in a royal park, and out past their clean white weathered boles on a summer day the emerald prairie gleamed and shone to the horizon's edge. Even in the midst of these wooded hills there was many an open mead, an area perfectly bare of trees, an acre, ten acres, or a section, it might be where no tree had ever stood. Here the ground received the drainage of the surrounding region, was therefore more moist and covered with denser grass. Around the margin of such a little meadow sometimes the hazel flourished with the blackberry, the plum and thorn. Instead of grass-grown mead, sometimes occurred a lake of greater or less extent; sometimes a lake filled full of aquatic or marsh-loving vegetation, a morass in which incautious quadrupeds were lost continually. Such morasses were not infrequent in the woods on the hilltops forty or fifty feet above the surrounding prairie lowlands. Everywhere, however grew the grass, rankest where the soil was strongest except, as noted, immediately along the banks of thicket-bordered streams. In many cases even the thicket was lacking by the stream and the grass grew down to the water's edge. The Cedar river in its upper courses, used to flow along mile after mile through open prairie with scarcely a bush to darken its pellucid waters while any forest to which the stream might rightfully lay claim shaded the sandy hill-tops sometimes miles away! The woods of today are all thickets where time has not sufficed in the struggle for place to give the stronger individuals such preeminence as effectively shuts out all smaller growth. To the old regime or status contributed likewise the annual fires which swept all grass-grown regions, forest and prairie alike, keeping down the natural increase of the forest so that only the hardiest individual under exceptional conditions managed to thrive at all. Occasionally where some "old settler" still preserves them may yet be seen some of the old oaks of Iowa's primeval woods. Such trees are now, owing to the absence of forest fires, wholly surrounded by "second growth" and do not show to the casual observer for what they really are; but if one be privileged to walk through such a surviving bit of woodland and can for the once imagine the smaller trees removed, and the ground beneath the remaining lofty white oaks carpeted with grass, he may even yet at least in imagination see the woods of Iowa when through the shades the Sac and Foxes" pursued the panting deer. "

But if the woodlands have thus undergone notable alteration hardly less remarkable to the eye of the careful observer are the changes to which the simple prairie has likewise been subjected. Here the modifications are of two sorts: in the relative moisture and in the flora entire. I am aware that it is rather hazardous to indulge in any positive assertions in reference to matters meteorological; still I believe it will be readily conceded that the prairies of Iowa are everywhere appreciably drier than they were prior to their cultivation. This we may attribute not to any special change in climate, but to the simple fact of universal drainage consequent upon the processes of agriculture. The prairies were wet, and in all low places staid wet. Very rarely did the surplus water pass off by anything like a ditch as now, but every valley was a bog, utterly impassable to man or beast. The waters did not seem to run at all, but gradually evaporated or sank to lower and lower strata. Our pioneers were great readers of the Pilgrim's Progress and thoroughly did they appreciate Bunyan's famous slough. They pronounced it slew and no one needed to go far to ascertain exactly the force of the dreaming tinker's figure. Over the oozy sloughs the sedges waved head-high, and into their treacherous depths horses, oxen or even men ventured at peril of their lives.

To fitly describe the changes in the prairie flora would require a special article. We must content ourselves with mention of one or two facts which are sufficiently suggestive. In a state of nature every region has a flora of its own, every species holds in check another and all persist from year to year, *continued page 6*

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from century to century, in state of trembling equilibrium. The slightest interruption produces an immediate effect, starts a readjustment. What then must have been the effect when the ploughshare overturned thousands of acres in a single day. The whole flora of the prairie went down to rise no more, to give place to plants of man's selecting and to weeds. The original prairie flora included species comparatively few; only such as could endure an annual conflagration found a place. Plants suited for such conditions are either those having perennial subterranean stems and roots, or annuals whose seeds are in some way protected from the action of the fire. Most prairie plants were of the class first named. In the lowlands, under the general name of slough-grass, sedges covered thousands of acres with a mantle of deepest green, whose lustrous sheen went waving in the breath of summer like the rolling of the tropic sea; on the highlands "upland prairie grass" offered in softer tints an equally attractive picture. Here too flourished the red-root (*Amorpha canescens*) with leaden foliage and purple flowers, pest of the ploughman, and the wild rose blushed all unseen. In moister meadows the *Habenaria*, the green fringed orchid, waved its creamy spikes and the wild lilies tossed their fiery cups. Everywhere *Lobelias* sprang and in the swamps wild parsnip stood in forests and hemlock filled the air with odors rank. Later in the year the composites took the field completely. The sunflowers spread their cloth of gold, the torches of *Liatris* flared, the compass plant marked with edge-set leaves the meridian of the prairie and lifted its tall stems distilling resin. In fact one can hardly imagine any thing more richly beautiful than an Iowa prairie in full bloom under the summer sun. Only the fertile pastures of the Alps can show such a wealth of color and these by their scant dimension hardly offer a comparison. Against the invasion of foreign plants the native species formed efficient barrier, but once disturbed, the charm was broken and hosts of alien species occupied the ground. For instance blue-grass, now so common, seems at the outset to have been wholly lacking. It can endure the plough; not so our native grasses. It will even drive out most other weeds and as we know has overrun the State. The plantain came with the pioneers and dandelion followed shortly after; although as late as 1854 there were no dandelions in some of our eastern counties, and surely none farther west. In the year mentioned people sent from Iowa to Pennsylvania for dandelion seed! The cockle bur was unknown and ragweeds confined to narrow limits. The flora of the prairies has been wholly changed.

Since the characteristic animals of a region also lend character to its landscapes, a word or two as to faunal changes may not perhaps be out of place. Changes in the animal world are of course even more radical than those seen in the world of plants. Deer that were once abundant are entirely gone and even many a smaller species quite extinct. Even the avian fauna, if students tell us rightly, has been more or less modified by the inrush of civilized man. The prairie-hens were a most common bird over the whole prairie. All day long you could hear the rustling of their wings, and in the winter mornings their trumpeting filled the State with strains of more than martial music. Mating took place in early spring and every old resident must remember the abundant eggs with which the prairies were once strewn. The prairie fires which should have taken place in autumn sometimes were delayed and did not come until the grass was dry enough again to burn in the following spring. Often before the fires would come the prairie-hens had made their nests. The birds all flew before the fiery storm and after the blaze had passed many a nest lay white with ruined eggs, conspicuous upon the blackened plain.

Even parrots once enlivened the groves and meadows of our southern counties. Great flocks settled in spring on leafless trees and lit them up with the colors of the rainbow, easy mark, alas! for every idle vagabond with wit enough to carry a gun.

Twice in the year were the landscapes of Iowa glorious with a beauty they can show no more: in summer, when as described the whole earth was one parterre in which nature displayed her maximum variety of vegetation, the attainment of unnumbered ages; in autumn, when that same vegetation the frost-cured harvest of the year went down in general conflagration. After a few killing frosts came then as now the delightful sunny weather that passes on to Indian summer, and the prairies became perfectly dry. Then came the fires. Where they started or to what end no one seemed to know. Various were the explanations offered. It was said the Indians lit the fires to set the great game in motion. Some thought the fires were started by the careless habit of the passing hunter. A better explanation lay in the fact that fire was needed to make clean the way for next year's crop of grass. At any rate no one seemed

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to care much whether the prairie burned or not and everywhere precautions, backfiring, ploughing, were taken to protect the pioneer's scanty stack-yards. Fires were expected and people were on the look-out for them every night. Sometimes their coming was announced by smoke which filled the air by day with filmy haze, and at evening rolled in cloudy masses down the low watersheds of the plain. More frequently by night a pale red tint appeared along the horizon's edge, a light reflected, as from the sky to-day comes to the traveller the glare of a distant electric-lighted city. If there were no wind the phenomena were repeated sometimes for days together before ever we saw the flames at all. We learned the first approach by the ever increasing smoke until at length along the sky-line of our landscape we saw the painted flames, like distant choppy waves on a sunrise-tinted sea; so slowly they came on, the very poetry of combustion, as tuft after tuft of tall blue-stem went up in lambent blaze. By morning everything had passed; the blackened prairie spread for miles, far as the eye could reach, the image and reality of desolation. But if once upon a prairie-fire the wind should rise, then came the storm, a fiery blizzard of destruction. The flames sped along the ground with marvellous rapidity, the air was burdened with ashes and flying sparks, and great smoke wreaths were rolled along in ever increasing volume, darkening the sun. Whole hill-sides burned as by a single blaze, and down in the valleys where the grass was high the flames were higher still and the roar terrific. No living creature could stand before the storm. Everything ran for life. Deer, led by wonderful instinct, sought the streams and pools; wolves dashed in terror past the settler's cabin, and the wild fox found his covert in the bank. Domestic animals shared the excitement of their wilder kin. Horses neighed, cattle bawled and all ran to and fro striving to escape the rude confine which alone insured their safety. Of course, such a storm was but a moment in its passing, but grand in its on-come and retreat, while in its wake was left the same blackened prairie as before, only that everywhere the fires continued in unburned tufts and smouldering heaps, smoking by day and blazing up at night like fitful embers.

There are yet many among us to whom the whole history of our State is but life's memory. In the hearts of such, amid all the refinements of modern life there rises often doubtless a longing unconfessed, a keen desire for the old-time freedom and the wild beauty of that earlier day when the State was new. That may not be; no more for them nor for the generations following. Let such rather congratulate themselves on the experience which is theirs. Once only in recorded time has nature turned over to the hands of civilized man a world in newness, freshness, absolute. Has destiny made us in any sense partakers of the gift unique, ours be the joy, ours too the peculiar responsibility of use.

·This essay was retyped from a xerographic copy of the original essay. Spelling and punctuation have been maintained as in the original.

- Eileen Robb, Johnston, Iowa] 0/29/02

## Backyard Botany -- A Closer Look at Ginkgo Leaves

Ralph Uster of Indianola noticed in early November that his ginkgo leaves had not only all fallen in less than 36 hours (as is typical), but that they had fallen green and had not blown away. He saw this as an opportunity for a little experimentation. He found that his approx. 55' tall, 62" circumference, 35 year old male ginkgo tree produced the following:

- \* Net weight of leaves (inc!. their petioles and slight moisture from overnight frost) = 344 pounds
- \* Estimated number of leaves per pound = 900 to 1000
- \* Using an average of 950 leaves per pound, the tree had around 325,000 leaves
- \* Estimate of leaf surface area (one side only) varied from less than 3 square inches to nearly 5 square inches
- \* Using a conservative average of 3.5 square inches per leaf, there was approximate 1.14 million square inches of leaf surface (or 7900 square feet) .- this surface area would cover the width of a football field from the goal-line to just beyond the 16-yard line

Of course these numbers are approximations, but still pretty amazing! [If you're curious about how Mr. Uster arrived at these numbers, contact Deb Lewis (dlew@iastate.edu) who has a more complete description of his calculations]

## Breen Prairie|Indian Bluffs Field Trip

By Mark J. Leoschke

May 11<sup>th</sup> was a miserable day for a field trip in Jones County-- windy, rainy and cold. Despite these conditions, a small group showed up at the Breen Prairie north of Monticello in Jones County. It is part of a former farm owned and managed by the Iowa Natural Heritage. Our field trip leaders were INHF staff Marlene Ehresman and Joe McGovern.

The prairie consists of several small units of limestone prairie (thin soil over bedrock--some people may call these glades). Some shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadia*) was in bloom, as were hoary puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium campestre*) and other prairie species.

After lunch in Monticello, we headed east to the Indian Bluffs Wildlife Management Area, owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. A portion of this WMA is in the Jordan Creek valley and much of it is dominated by forest. One can look west from a limestone bluff called Chimney Rock and see nothing but forest.

Mark J. Leoschke, botanist for the DNR's Wildlife Bureau, led this portion of the field trip. He showed us the only site in this part of the state for low sweet blueberry, *Vaccinium angustifolium*. The plants had light green/white flowers. We also saw a wonderful forest slope with lots of wildflowers including a large population of squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*- already well past peak bloom). Plantain-leaved wood sedge, *Carex p/antaginea*, is locally abundant here with its large fruits (up to 5 millimeters) and purple-red sheaths. This slope also has a nice population of the beautiful narrow-leaved spleenwort, *Allyrium pycnocarpon*.

In addition to the plants, Bruce Ehresman, non-game biologist for the DNR, was impressed with the number of species of birds he heard while at the Indian Bluffs WMA.

Iowa Native Plant Society  
Annual Meeting  
20 September 2002  
Iowa Lakeside Laboratory on Lake Okoboji

President Tom Rosburg called the meeting to order at 6: 15 p.m. The minutes of the 2001 meeting were distributed, read and approved. Deb Lewis made the motion for approve and Connie Mutel seconded it. The Treasurer's report was read by the President and approved. Income for the year was \$2598.65.

Reports: Deb Lewis commented on the newsletter and requested articles from the membership. Linda Scarth said that we now have several displays to be distributed to willing people for use at meetings and functions. Mark Leoschke reported on the 2002 field trips and *Carex* workshop. He requested field trip ideas, especially those to private lands.

Old Business: The new dues structure was reviewed and donations are encouraged. Donations will enable the society to invest more in environmental activities. The INPS website was discussed briefly and contributions requested.

New Business: It was suggested that INPS become a member of REAP Alliance which needs more supporters. REAP uses its funds to buy land, protect water and for DNR projects. The REAP Alliance representatives meet in Ames at the State Forest Nursery. REAP also sponsors REAP Assemblies around the state each year. Linda Scarth moved that INPS become a member of the REAP Alliance and Jim Monahan seconded. Passed.

Deb Lewis reported that INPS is invited to become a co-sponsor of the 2003 Prairie Conference to be held in Ames. The Iowa Prairie Network is to take the lead in planning and conducting the conference. Inger Lamb said that the first day is to be aimed at environmental professionals and the second day to be more general.

The slate of officers for 2003 was presented and Carl Kurtz made the motion for acceptance with Connie Mutel seconding. They are: President - Sibylla Brown, Vice President - Connie Mutel, Treasurer - Diana Horton, Secretary - Linda Scarth, Newsletter - Deb Lewis, Directory - Rosanne Healy, Board member - MJ Hatfield.

The meeting was adjourned after Carl Kurtz so moved and Linda Searth seconded.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Scarth, Secretary

# IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY-2003 DUES NOTICE

Please! send your dues by DECEMBER 31st

Why are dues important? Our major expenditure is in copying/ mailing the Newsletter. In addition to being sent to all members, complimentary copies are also sent to County Conservation Board offices, nature centers, and other locations where we hope they will be seen by more Iowans. As our account grows, though, we can also start to think creatively about other possibilities that either directly help our native landscapes and plants (contributions for land purchase, site management, etc.) or help us and others learn more about Iowa's plants and habitats (workshops, conferences, brochures, maybe even somewhere down the road a published "journal"). So don't forget that your dues are important! Also don't forget that we now have a **multi-tiered** dues structure to encourage stronger support for the Iowa Native Plant Society.

2003 Membership Rates:

Member \$ 10.00

Supporter \$ 25.00\*

Benefactor \$ 50.00 and up\*

\*Annual contributions over \$10 are tax deductible

The Iowa Native Plant Society (INPS) is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As such, all contributions to the organization are deductible as a charitable contribution to the extent that the amount contributed exceeds the fair market value of goods and services provided to the contributor. The fair market value of goods and services provided to members annually is \$10.

METHOD OF PAYMENT: Personal check

PAYABLE TO: Iowa Native Plant Society

REMIT TO: Diana Horton

Treasurer, INPS

720 Sandusky Drive

Iowa City, IA 52240-4476

## INPS Membership/Change of Address Form and Survey

Send with your 2003 dues of \$10.00 to Diana Horton, 720 Sandusky Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240.

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

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

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

Additional information or special interests for member directory entry \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **Garlic Mustard Control in Des Moines City Parks by Cathy Mabry**

Most of us are aware of the potential for garlic mustard to alter the understorey of Iowa's forests by eliminating or dramatically reducing populations of native plants. Garlic mustard is found throughout the extensive urban woodlands found in Des Moines' Waterworks Park, and the adjacent Greenwood and Ashworth Parks. I have seen it growing in flower beds, along roadsides and in small woodland remnants throughout the adjoining residential areas. The problem is severe. For the past three years, Jo Hudson, Iowa Sierra Club and INPS member, has organized a volunteer effort to pull garlic mustard in a relatively **small**, but beautiful and botanically rich area in Ashworth Park. She has been successful in preventing the garlic mustard from spreading to new areas. However, it has become clear that a more comprehensive and coordinated effort is needed, and that some areas will only be controlled by a timely and active spraying program, activities that are beyond the means of the cash-strapped city of Des Moines.

As a result, Jo has initiated a fund-raising effort and has been successful in raising \$1500. This money will be used by Tre Wilson and me to write a management plan for the City of Des Moines, and to spray two to three of the most heavily infested areas next spring. We hope this initial funding and work will help jump-start a larger effort to control garlic mustard in the extensive remnant woodlands on the west side of Des Moines. These broader goals are to prevent the spread of garlic mustard into nearby high quality woods, including Walnut Woods State Park and Brown's Woods, to educate city officials and residents about the value of our native lands and to involve volunteers in managing and protecting our parks. If you would like to make a donation, please send checks to:

Diana Horton, INPS Treasurer, 720 Sandusky Drive, Iowa City, IA 52240. Please include a notation on your check (or a separate note) specifying that it is for garlic mustard control. These donations are tax-deductible.

There is an enormous need to control garlic mustard in all parts of the state, and this proposal for the Des Moines city parks can serve as a model for similar projects statewide. Perhaps as an organization, INPS can similarly help coordinate and promote garlic mustard control activities initiated or on-going at other sites in Iowa.

## **Newsletter**

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