



# NEWSLETTER

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November 2007

## Olson Nature Preserve Field Trip

By Wm. Blankenship, MD

At the conclusion of the 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference the Iowa Native Plant Society sponsored a post-conference field trip to the Olson Nature Preserve in Boone County, Nebraska. The Nebraska State Highway Map includes color-coded shading of the major biomes of the state. A quick glance at the map shows that the Nebraska Sand Hills reach their eastern most extent in two places. The first of these is just south of Neligh, and the other is a bit further south at the site of the Olson Preserve. On the morning of July 15, 2007 a number of conference attendees gathered at the preserve for a field trip.

Joining the field trip were several Nebraskans. Mitzi Fox, a local organizer, provided the group with a perspective on the strong local connections between the preserve, the local community, the local school systems, and a unique Nebraska organization known as Prairie Plains Resource Institute (PPRI). All prairie enthusiasts should become familiar with this organization which is one of the most active and successful Nebraska prairie preservation, restoration and reconstruction groups in the state, if not the Midwest. More about this later.

But first about the Preserve itself. Olson contains several ecosystems within its 112 acres. As you enter the preserve, you park in a small lot. There is a picnic shelter nearby. A portable toilet is at the edge of the parking lot. As you enter the preserve proper, you cross on a very substantial bridge crossing Beaver Creek. This is the first ecozone, the riparian area. A small oxbow holds some water as well, and together they harbor broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*), broadfruit burreed (*Sparganium eurycarpum*), green bulrush (*Scirpus atrovirens*), broadleaf arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias*

*incarnata*), scouringrush horsetail (*Equisetum hyemale*), upright burrhead (*Echinodorus berteroi*), calamus (*Acornus calamus*), pale touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*), false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*), cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*), sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), spotted Joepyeweed (*Eupatoriadelphus maculatus*), American mannagrass (*Glyceria grandis*), rice cutgrass (*Leersia oryzoides*), and a number of sedges and other species.

The next zone is a lowland prairie. This lies on a shelf just west and above the level of the river. Some of this zone is partially occupied by invaders and there is a substantial grove of large cottonwoods (*Populus deltoides*). You do find big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), prairie cordgrass (*Spartina pectinata*), native switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), rosinweed (*Silphium integrifolium*), upright prairie coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*), Canadian milkvetch (*Astragalus canadensis*), meadow anemone (*Anemone canadensis*), ironweed (*Vernonia fasciculata*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), along with some aggressive native increasers such as hoary vervain (*Verbena stricta*) and Jerusalem artichoke (*Helianthus tuberosus*). A couple of wet seeping areas contain many of the riparian species listed above.

Climbing further up from the lowland prairie you will enter the oak woods. Past grazing practices have degraded this somewhat, but with time and management, this may become a true savanna. One of the more interesting things about this area is the movement of the sand around the edges exposing the roots, and converting them into bark-covered stems. This creates the appearance of "prop roots" like those found in the mangroves along tropical coastlines. To me the burr oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*) anchor the shore line in the "sea of sand", much as the mangroves anchor the intertidal region. Found in the woods are hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and moonseed (*Menispermum canadense*), among others.

The final ecozone at the top of the hill and occupying most of the western portions of the preserve is true Sand Hill prairie. This is the most interesting part of the preserve and represents the closest location to study the Sand Hills, (Sioux City 2 ½ hours, Omaha 3 hours, Lincoln 2 ¼ hours). The topography is rolling and sandy with several stabilized blowouts.

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## Leaves from the President's Notebook



### Photographic Memory

Earlier this year, I accepted the invitation to speak during Memorial Day weekend at the Michigan Botanical Club's annual Spring Foray. I would serve both as a Saturday field trip leader and Sunday evening's speaker. The foray was centered in Ludington, near the midpoint of Lake Michigan's eastern shore. My participation had been sought, in part, because my Master's research<sup>1</sup> on a then proposed wilderness area had been conducted nearby.

Rather than speak directly about the findings of my thesis, I emphasized a few of the things I learned while working on it. Among these were: prepare for bigger things; get it when you have the chance; customize for each location; help when you can; value wilderness; find ways to broaden your perspective; any roof is good; publication takes effort; pursue excellence (you don't know who will be reading your stuff).

I ended the talk by comparing images of scanned 35mm slides (taken in 1979 and 1985) to digital pictures taken (while prepping my field trip) from the same locations immediately prior to the foray. In 1973 the open dunes at the western end of my thesis area were closed to ORV use. Six years later, the land was purchased by The Nature Conservancy and subsequently transferred to the US Forest Service. The photographs showed stabilization of the dunes and nearly complete healing of scars made by ORV activity.

Although my primary intention for including repeat photography was to demonstrate change, other implications became clear. Botanists, ecologists, and land stewards striving toward habitat preservation or restoration should take copious pictures. Fortunately, widespread use of digital photography has nearly eliminated film and processing costs. Of greater importance, however, is the reminder that our present efforts will likely demonstrate considerable results at least a generation from now.

Brian T. Hazlett

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<sup>1</sup>1981. The history, vegetation and flora of the Nordhouse Dunes, Manistee National Forest, Mason County, Michigan. M.S. Thesis, Michigan State University. 118 pp.

1986. The vegetation and flora of the Nordhouse Dunes, Manistee National Forest, Mason County, Michigan.

I. History and present vegetation. *Michigan Botanist* 25:74-92.

1986. The vegetation and flora of the Nordhouse Dunes, Manistee National Forest, Mason County, Michigan.

II. Catalogue of vascular plants. *Michigan Botanist* 25:125-139.

**Iowa Native Plant Society Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, July 15, 2007**  
**At the 2007 Iowa Prairie Conference,**  
**Sioux City, Iowa.**

The meeting was called to order by INPS chair Brian Hazlett at 7:50 am, while many members were still eating breakfast. Members in attendance are listed at the bottom of the minutes.

Brian welcomed all and asked attendees to introduce themselves and sign in.

Minutes from the 2006 were briefly summarized by INPS vice-president Connie Mutel and passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report was not available. (Note: this was due to a computer mixup. The treasurer's report was submitted by Treasurer Christine Taliga on Monday July 17.)

**RECURRING BUSINESS:**

Newsletter – High quality INPS newsletters continue to be produced by Deb and Sandy, with 3 being printed in 2006, and 2 being produced to date in 2007. Members have been asked if they would prefer to receive their newsletters via email, a switch that would save INPS substantial funds. The switch will be made shortly.

Member Directory – is in progress, with Rosanne Healy taking the lead, and Larry Schlatter helping with production. Connie will check on its status.

Web Site – is badly out of date, since the tragic death of Anna Gardner (who maintained the web site) last summer. Tom Rosburg volunteered to inquire about Parker Lamb becoming INPS's webmaster.

Field Trips and Public Events – Mark Leoschke continues to organize a full slate of diverse, interesting, and educational field trips, with 6 being held in 2007:

- May 12, central Iowa, Deb Lewis leading to Brushy Creek State Preserve.
- June 9, NE Iowa, to Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge and upland savanna restoration.
- July 15, eastern Nebraska, Bill Whitney leading to Olson Nature Preserve (easternmost extension of Sandhills).
- July 21, east-central Iowa, Fern Workshop and tour of surrounding lands, Wapsi River Environmental Education Center, Bob Bryant leading.
- August 25, NE Iowa, Mark Leoschke leading to Wolters Prairie Preserve.
- September 8, SW Iowa, Glenn Pollock leading a tour of his INPS-funded restoration efforts at Vincent Bluffs, in Council Bluffs.

INPS Grants for 2007 included \$500 to Kathryn Yurkonis for her research project, "Prairie Plant Distributions and Their Consequences for Diversity and Exotic Species Invasion," and Craig

Hemsath receiving \$500 for his research project, "Enhancement of a Recovering Native Prairie." In addition, grant recipients for 2006 shared the results of their efforts with INPS members: Glenn Pollock by leading a field trip (see above) and Lars Brudvig by writing an article, "Experimental Restoration of an Oak Savanna," for the March 2007 newsletter.

Connie Mutel suggested changing the grant rotation period to better match the field season, a suggestion approved by all; grant deadlines will be changed as follows: grant applications due by January 15, for funding by April 1, with notification being given by March 15.

Brian Hazlett questioned whether income tax forms and non-profit corporate information forms have been submitted. Chris Taliga (in a later email) reported that we do not need to file tax forms because we earned less than \$25,000; non-profit forms were filed with the State of Iowa on April 9, and will be due again in April 2009.

**NEW AND RECENT BUSINESS:**

INPS has a new logo featuring the white trout lily, produced by Mark Muller. We need to put this on the brochure and all publications. Dianne Blankenship will continue to investigate producing T-shirts and other items that incorporate this logo.

New Poster: Under the guidance of Dianne Blankenship, Carl Kurtz donated his services to produce a beautiful 18X24 poster, "Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers." About 550 copies were printed, at a total cost of \$707 (\$647 printing costs, plus \$60 gift certificate to Carl Kurtz). We want to expand this poster into a series featuring woodland and wetland wildflowers, as a way of raising awareness among the general public and possibly also raising funds. Poster cost has been set at the following: first poster free to members, second sold for \$3, or 2 for \$5. To non-members, first poster sold for \$6, or 2 for \$10. Posters will be mailed by Connie Mutel, at \$4 for postage and mailing tube.

We need to get posters out to schools, nature centers, county conservation boards, and places such as the Neal Smith NWR, Reiman Gardens, and the Des Moines Botanical Gardens. Distribution to such places will require additional discussion and coordination.

We also need to announce this poster and describe how it can be obtained on our INPS listserve and website. Many members do not know about it yet.

Note Cards: Dianne Blankenship has also been working with Bob and Linda Scarth to produce wildflower notecards. These notecards could be next year's product, to entice new memberships and advertise INPS. The need for such Iowa-based products was mentioned. We should consider bringing in the work of other artists and photographers in future projects.

Memorial Gifts: In the past year, INPS has received memorial gifts commemorating Anna Gardner (\$637) and Janet Christensen (\$460). Brian will check on Missouri's policy for memorial gifts, and develop a policy for the reception and use of future memorial gifts.

How are the 2 existing memorials to be used? And have the gifts, and the persons they commemorate, been properly

acknowledged in our newsletter etc? These issues need further discussion.

Iowa Forest Network: INPS never formally joined; Connie will check to see if the organization has gelled. If so, we should reconsider joining and will need to try to find someone to represent INPS.

INPS Support of Iowa Events: In the past year, INPS has contributed to the Iowa Prairie Conference, supported INHF's production of a new version of "The Landowner's Option" booklet, and submitted letters in support of the Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Program for the Little Sioux Watershed, INHF's effort to save a Jasper County fen, sustainable funding for Iowa's natural resources and the DNR.

INPS has been invited to host a display at the Siouxland Garden Show in March, 2008; these events can really help spread our message, and we all should watch for other events to do the same.

#### ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Pauline Drobney explained that the Living Roadway Trust Fund is under threat of shutdown due to negative comments from some Iowans; we all were encouraged to submit letters to the Iowa DOT in support of this program. Brian also will write a support letter from INPS.

Ann Stillman explained the strengths of The Wild Ones gardening group, and asked if INPS had considered affiliating with this or other gardening groups.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45, and attendees dispersed to IPC field trips.

#### Attendees:

Blankenship, Bill and Dianne	Mutel, Connie
Crim, Lloyd	Novak, David and Andrea
Drobney, Pauline	Osheim, Rosemary and David
Dunkle, Warren	Rosburg, Tom
Hazlett, Brian	Schlatter, Larry
Hornstein, Joyce	Skillman, Martha
Horton, Diana	Stillman, Ann
Ice, Jonathan	Viste-Sparkman, Karen
Johnson, Chuck	White, Pam
Johnson, Roslea	Zales, Bill and Dotty
Lewis, Deb	
McCormick, Laura	

*Submitted by Connie Mutel*

## Iowa Native Plant Society Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers

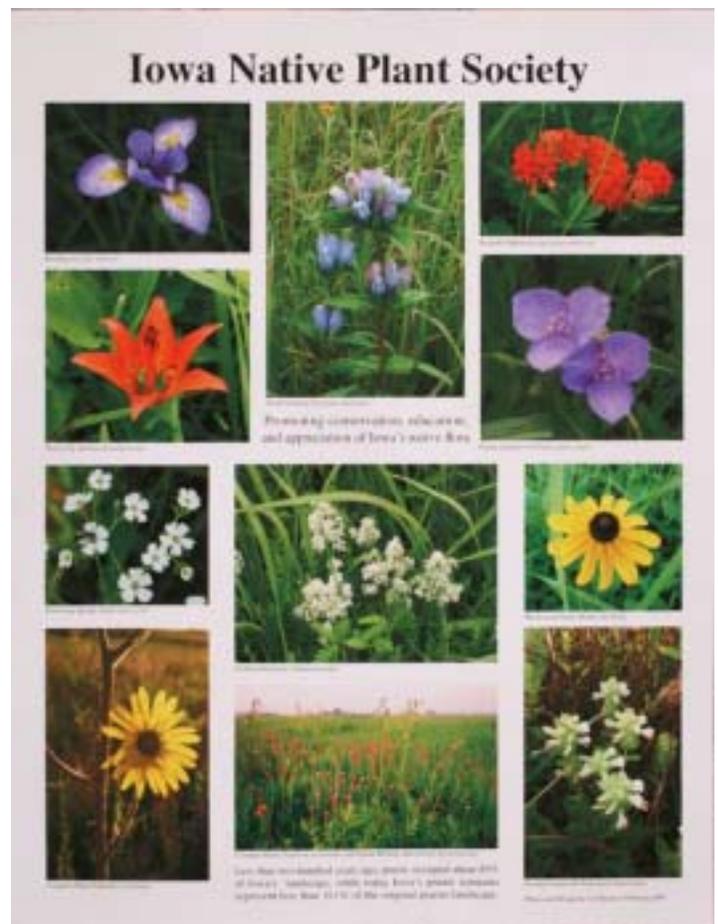
An 18X24-inch color poster produced by Carl Kurtz.

Funds from the sale of posters will support INPS efforts to promote conservation, education, and appreciation of Iowa's native plants. Funds will also aid our small grants program for preservation, restoration, education, and research concerning native plant communities.

INPS members receive a single poster free. Get them at INPS events or through the mail (see below). Additional posters, \$3 each or two for \$5.

Non-members, posters are \$6 each or two for \$10, plus mailing costs.

Mailing instructions: Send mailing address and \$4 postage/handling fee for up to four posters to: Connie Mutel, 2345 Sugar Bottom Rd, Solon IA, 52333. Questions? Email <connie-mutel@uiowa.edu> .



### INPS Website Update!

The INPS website is being updated — check it out at [www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/inpshome.htm](http://www.public.iastate.edu/~herbarium/inps/inpshome.htm). Send your comments or suggestions about the website to Brian Hazlett at <[Brian.Hazlett@briarcliff.edu](mailto:Brian.Hazlett@briarcliff.edu)>.

## Applications due in January for 2008 INPS grants

The Iowa Native Plant Society strives to increase appreciation and enjoyment of Iowa's native flora and to foster programs focusing on education, conservation, and the ethical use of native plants. Small grants are given annually to advance these goals. Grant applications are accepted for:

- Acquisition of land that will significantly contribute to the conservation of Iowa's native flora
- Restoration and management of high-quality native remnants on private or public land
- Research that will contribute to conservation, appreciation and increased knowledge of Iowa's native flora
- Training and education that achieve the same ends.

Because of limited funding, total awards in each category cannot exceed the following:

- Land Acquisition or Restoration/Management grants totaling up to \$1250
- Research grants totaling up to \$500
- Training and Education grants totaling up to \$250

Proposals must be postmarked January 15 for funding effective April 1 of that year. Applicants will be notified by March 15 if their proposals are approved.

More information, including application instructions, can be found on the INPS website.

## Recent INPS Grant Recipients

INPS Grants for 2007 included \$500 each to two graduate students: Kathryn Yurkonis (ISU - Brian Wilsey advisor) for her research project, "Prairie Plant Distributions and Their Consequences for Diversity and Exotic Species Invasion," and Craig Hemsath (UNI - Laura Jackson advisor) for his research project, "Enhancement of a Recovering Native Prairie." Articles describing their projects will be in upcoming newsletters.

In addition, grant recipients for 2006 have shared the results of their efforts with INPS members — Glenn Pollock by leading an INPS field trip to his restoration site, and Lars Brudvig by writing an article, "Experimental Restoration of an Oak Savanna," for the March 2007 newsletter.

## Mark Your Calendar — CIPN Winter Meeting on January 26th

The Iowa Prairie Network's Central Iowa Region will again host its annual Winter Meeting for prairie education and networking. The 2008 Winter Meeting will be at DMACC, Ankeny campus on January 26. Watch for more details to be posted soon on the Iowa-native-plants listserv. The meeting is free and open to the public.

## 2008 Dues Reminder

Since 2008 is approaching quickly, this is a good time to remind everyone to submit their dues soon for membership renewal (INPS membership is on a calendar year basis). Basic membership is \$10 per year. However, if you wish to further support our small grants program and other activities, other membership levels are available: \$25 (Supporter) or \$50 and up (Benefactor) provide additional funds for meeting the Society's goals. If you aren't sure if your dues are current for 2007, check the mailing label on postal copies (the last year paid should be highlighted there) or contact Christine at <chris.taliga@ia.usda.gov> if you receive your newsletter electronically. Send your dues to Christine Taliga, Iowa Valley RC&D, 300 W Welsh St, PO Box 87, Williamsburg, IA 52361.

## FUNDING FOR PRAIRIE RESEARCH offered by Prairie Biotic Research, Inc.

We Are: Prairie Biotic Research (PBR), Inc. is a Wisconsin nonprofit established in 2000 to foster biotic research in prairies. One way we do this is through a Small Grants Program that funds grants up to \$1,000 for the study of any grassland taxon in the USA. We are especially eager to support independent researchers (individuals lacking institutional support), but anyone may apply. Since 2002, we've awarded 46 grants worth \$42,172 to researchers in 17 states to study insects, plants, mammals, reptiles, slime molds, mycorrhizal fungi, spiders, and invasive species. Many of these grants supported graduate student research.

In 2008, we expect to fund at least five grants of up to \$1000 each with the donations we have received, including some restricted by the donor to support research in Illinois, Iowa and, also, in Wisconsin.

To Apply for a Grant: To apply for a grant, contact Michael Anderson at Prairie Biotic Research, Inc., PO Box 5424, Madison, WI 53705, or by email at pbr-grants@tds.net for a 2008 Grant Application Form and instructions. Applications must be postmarked on or before January 3, 2008 to receive consideration. Researchers who received PBR funding in 2007 are not eligible for 2008 funding.

## **Wolters Prairie Preserve Field Trip**

**by Mark J. Leoschke**

Wolters Prairie Preserve is located between Allison and Clarksville in Butler County on the Iowan Surface in northeast Iowa (T92N R16W Section 22 E1/2 NE1/4). It is just west of Quail Avenue and a little north of 195<sup>th</sup> Street. The prairie can be accessed by a small foot bridge over a deep road ditch on the far south side of the site. This 44 acre public area is owned/managed by the Butler County Conservation Board. The previous owners were John and Lena Wolters, brother and sister, who lived nearby on a farmstead. Conversations between John Wolters and CCB staff led to the partial donation/purchase of the prairie in 1985. The Butler County chapter of Pheasants Forever helped pay for the prairie and a west addition (former pasture) in 1990.

The prairie consists of mesic to wet-mesic tallgrass prairie with sedge meadow in the lower portions of the drainageway. It was grazed in the past, the north portion apparently more heavily than the south, as the most diverse prairie occurs in the south. The north portion may have even been plowed years ago.

The prairie probably survived into the 1980's in part because of its drainageway and the associated wet soils which would have required tiling (not cheap) to convert it into crop ground like the surrounding uplands. The soils associated with the drainageway and its adjacent slopes are Clyde silty clay loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (84), a Typic Haplaquoll (poorly drained) and Floyd loam, 1 to 4 percent slopes (198B), an Aquic Haplaquoll (somewhat poorly drained). The wet nature of these and similar soils on the Iowan Surface meant they were more likely to be used for hay or pasture until the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Some wonderful prairies and fens on public, as well as private land, on the Iowan Surface likely exist to this day because their drainageways and adjacent wet soils made them more suitable for hay or pasture. More of these remnants were still extant as recently as the 1970's and 1980's until an increase in intensive row crop agriculture and a decrease in the size/number of dairy herds (less need for prairie hay or pasture) resulted in the conversion of a number of these sites into corn/soybean fields. Some additional examples of good public prairie remnants likely protected in part by their drainageways and associated wet soils are Chipera Prairie in Winneshiek County, Clay Prairie State Preserve in Butler County, Crossman Prairie State Preserve and Hayden Prairie State Preserve in Howard County.

Wolters Prairie Preserve is home to several species of uncommon vascular plants. Hairy valerian (*Valeriana edulis*)

appeared on my first visit to the prairie on August 25, 1986 in the company of Steve Brunsma, the CCB director. It has fruits with long hairs at the tip. Northern adder's tongue fern (*Ophioglossum pusillum*) was a thrilling discovery, a county record that popped up in August 1994 on my way home to the Twin Cities. It has a spoon-shaped green frond with a skinny "tongue" that releases yellow spores. Tall nutrush (*Scleria triglomerata*) was another county record surprise during a July 16, 2000 preconference field trip I led before the start of the North American Prairie Conference at the North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City. This species has hard, white to green BB size fruits, infrequent in southern Iowa prairies, but rare in northeast Iowa. I found Richardson's sedge (*Carex richardsonii*) on May 24, 2003 (after the south portion of the prairie had been burned earlier that spring) in the company of the Borchardt family—Dan, Meredith and little Rachel. Richardson's sedge has pretty purple-red scales below the fruits.

August 25, 2007 turned out to be a perfect day to lead a field trip at Wolters Prairie Preserve. Temperatures were in the 70's and the sky was partly cloudy. Ten people showed up to learn and take photographs. A number of species were in bloom including azure aster (*Aster azureus*), false boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*), sawtooth sunflower (*Helianthus grosseserratus*), rough blazing star (*Liatris aspera*), Great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*) and swamp lousewort (*Pedicularis lanceolata*).

I have been visiting Wolters Prairie Preserve since 1986. Species new to me for the prairie still pop up and this field trip was no exception. Greg Houseal found nodding fescue (*Festuca paradoxa*), a beautiful, tall nodding grass with fruits (unusually late for this species to still have fruits). Nodding fescue is infrequent in Iowa's mesic to wet prairies, sedge meadows and fens. Meredith Borchardt found tall green milkweed (*Asclepias hirtella*), infrequent in southern Iowa prairies and pastures, but rare for northeast Iowa. Tall green milkweed has skinny, hairy leaves, hairy follicles (fruits) and green flowers with some purple that lack the "horns" found on the flowers of many other Iowa milkweeds. The plant we saw only had fruits.

I like Wolters Prairie Preserve best in spring when it puts on quite a show with thousands of pink, white and lavender shooting stars (*Dodecatheon meadia*) plus a number of other colorful species in profusion. The prairie has a number of species of vascular plants in bloom over the course of the year, well worth a visit at any time during the field season.

### **Forest Service's Botany Website**

Forest Service's national botany web site (the site highlights wildflowers, but will continue adding other sections relevant to botany in the agency).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativeplantmaterials/index.shtml>

**Olson Nature Preserve continued from page 1**

Here among the grasses you will find little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), sand bluestem (*Andropogon hallii*), prairie Junegrass (*Koeleria macrantha*), sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*), thin paspalum (*Paspalum setaceum*), sideoats gramma (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), hairy gramma (*Bouteloua hirsuta*), prairie sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), porcupinegrass (*Hesperostipa spartea*), needle and thread (*Hesperostipa comata*), sandhill muhly (*Muhlenbergia pungens*), sixweeks fescue (*Vulpia octoflora*), and the usual bevy of more technical *Carex* species. Some of the more prominent forbs included scaly blazing star (*Liatris squarrosa*), Carolina puccoon (*Lithospermum carolinense*), plains snakecotton (*Froelichia floridana*), prairie spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*), broadbeard beardtongue (*Penstemon angustifolius*), sand milkweed (*Asclepias arenaria*), hairy four o'clock (*Mirabilis hirsuta*), annual buckwheat (*Eriogonum annuum*), fourpoint evening-primrose (*Oenothera rhombipetala*), and stiffstem flax (*Linum rigidum*). Some of the pea family members seen included: leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*), lemon scurfpea (*Psoraleidum lanceolatum*), and silky prairie clover (*Dalea villosa*). Some of the species we more often associate with the sand hills included yucca (*Yucca glauca*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia humifusa* and *O. fragilis*), prairie fameflower (a small succulent, *Phemeranthus rugospermus*), crested pricklypoppy (*Argemone polyanthemus*), and winged pigweed (*Cycloloma atriplicifolium*). Some of the "yellow composites" included flat-top goldenrod (*Euthamia graminifolia*), Missouri goldenrod (*Solidago missouriensis*), hairy false goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), and stiff sunflower (*Helianthus rigidus*).

Up in the sand hill region of the preserve the wind blows more vigorously and the vistas are spectacular. There is a grove of planted ponderosa pines (*Pinus ponderosa*). A deep eroded ravine reminds us of the capacity of this land for damage. However one of the characteristics of the sand hill prairie portion of the preserve, according to Bill Whitney, is its ability to tolerate short term climatic changes. It is a tough landscape. Bill founded Prairie Plains Resource Institute in 1980, is its director, and he and his wife Jan deserve credit for tremendous success at prairie restoration in Nebraska. We were very fortunate to have him accompany our group on the field trip. He outlined for us the important connection that the Olson Nature

Preserve has with nearby schools. Study at the preserve by students is a regular occurrence. We briefly met one of the local alumni, Kate Kusek, who showed us the poster of her turtle telemetry study, which tracked the location of the turtles at Olson using GPS devices.

This is a natural area not to be missed. For those of us from Iowa, this location may become a botanical "first stop" on the way to the Sand Hills proper and to more western regions.

[Editor's note: I'd like to express a huge "Thank you!" to Bill and Dianne Blankenship and Brian Hazlett for the VERY successful Iowa Prairie Conference, INPS annual meeting, arrangements for Connie and me to take charge of the INPS display space (Dianne had already assembled a wonderful display of Olson Preserve photos), and organizing the INPS field trip to the Preserve. For me, the field trip to Olson Nature Preserve coming on the heels of having just looked pretty intensively at the Loess Hills provided a great opportunity for comparing the flora of the two landforms.]



### **Prairie Workshops for Teachers and Naturalists**

Learn how to help your students explore and improve Iowa's Prairies! For primary through Community College teachers and naturalists.

Two groups:

- 1) Carroll, Iowa - Nov. 9-11, 2007 & Mar. 7-8, 2008
- 2) Pleasant Hill, Iowa - Jan. 18-20 & Apr. 4-5, 2008

Two graduate credits, materials, meals, housing for only \$180 due to grants!! Details and registration can be found on eii's website: [www.uni.edu/ceee/ei](http://www.uni.edu/ceee/ei) or request a paper brochure at [bollwinkel@uni.edu](mailto:bollwinkel@uni.edu) or 319-273-2783

### **In Memoriam**

**Paul Christiansen**, Cedar Rapids (formerly of Mount Vernon) Dr. Paul Christiansen, 75, died on Tuesday, October 2, 2007, at his home in Cedar Rapids following a lengthy illness. Having received his Ph.D. in Botany at Iowa State University in 1967, he joined the faculty of Cornell College in Mount Vernon as a Professor of Biology, where his career spanned nearly four decades. Dr. Christiansen will be remembered for his research in prairie ecology and his work in the classroom, the field, and in the laboratory. He was a charter member of the Iowa Native Plant Society, and he led one of our first field trips — a survey of Rochester Cemetery Prairie in 1995.

## INPS MEMBERSHIP/CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM AND SURVEY

Send with your dues of \$10.00 to

Christine Taliga, IA Valley RC&D,  
300 W. Welsh St., P.O. Box 87, Williamsburg, IA 52361

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

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

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

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

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