



## IOWA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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September 2002

## JOURNAL OF A RESTORATION

by Sibylla Brown

Eight years ago my husband, Bill, and I began restoring the oak savanna on our farm in Decatur County. Living in the center of our restoration, we've become accustomed to watching bluebirds nest outside our window, listening to the summer tanager's morning song and picking chanterelle mushrooms in the east savanna. Each year has been one of discovery as plants such as the Large Twayblade (*Liparis liliifolia*) and Yellow False Foxglove (*Aureolaria grandiflora*) colonized new sites.

All that we lacked was the forty acres west of our pond. It has never been plowed and contains a degraded savanna and remnant prairies with a diverse assortment of forbs. Each year I watched the diversity of forbs decline further as the Eastern red cedar, shingle oak, ironwood, hazelbrush and gray dogwood closed in. In 2001 the owner finally accepted our offer, and the property became ours.

This acquisition, which we call the West 40, begins in a hickory grove west of the pond. From there it drops 100 feet to a ravine that drains into White Oak Creek on the west boundary. The ravine separates the north and south sections of the property. The natural springs in the ravine provide enough moisture that clumps of river birch have become established there.

South of the ravine is a remnant white oak and bur oak savanna with an understory of pole- and sapling-sized trees. The ground layer is primarily shade-adapted spring ephemerals with none of the plants such as Cream False Indigo (*Baptisia bracteata* var. *leucophaea*), Leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) and Scaly Blazing Star (*Liatris squarrosa*) that are common in our restored savanna.

The rest of the property is dominated by pole-sized oaks and hickories and weed trees. Despite this woody invasion one can still find remnants of the original vegetation. In Maya trail of *Delphinium trkorne* winds through the hickory grove and prairie remnants below it. Purple Prairie Clover (*Dalea purpurea*) and Rattlesnake Master (*Eryngium yuccifolium*) are abundant in the summer prairie. Fall brings clusters of *Gentiana jlavida* and *Gentiana andrewsii*. Even Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea paUida*) and Hoary Puccoon (*Lithospermum canescens*) bloom in the shade of the Eastern Red Cedar and Ironwood along the north fenceline.

Anxious as we were to begin releasing these plants from the encroaching woody vegetation, we did not begin right away. Instead I spent the first year getting to know the property and researching its history.

I found the original survey notes made between November 2-10, 1847 at the Decatur County Engineer's office. The surveyor, A.C. Dodge, had walked south along the east boundary of the West 40. On the northeast corner of the West 40 he set the quarter section post on a white oak. He continued to walk through timber until he reached the southeast corner of the property.

This was confirmed by my neighbor whose great uncle, L.C. Hinkst, had settled there in 1857. He told me that when Mr. Hinkst arrived the land was dotted with large white oaks and bur oaks. Underneath were prairie grasses and forbs. There was no brush. Fire set by lightning or Indians burned this oak savanna each year.

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## Leaves from the President's Notebook

President: Tom Rosburg  
P.O. Box 234  
Colo, IA 50056  
515-377-2930  
thomas.rosburg  
@drake.edu

Vice President:  
Connie Mutel  
2345 Sugar Bottom Rd  
Solon, IA 52333  
connle-mutel@uiowa.edu

Secretary: Linda Scarth  
1630 Wildwood Dr. NE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
lscarth@  
mmc.mtmercy.edu

Treasurer: Diana Horton  
720 Sandusky Drive  
Iowa City, IA 52240  
319-337-5430  
diana-horton@uiowa.edu

Issues/Action Committee:  
Jane Clark  
9871 Lincoln Ave  
Clive, IA 50325  
515-232-5047  
jrciark@radiks.net

Program Committee:  
Chairman: Mark Leoschke  
2212 East Rose Ave #13  
Des Moines, IA 50320-2613  
mark.leoschke@  
dnr.state.ia.us

Mary Brown  
330 Windsor Dr.  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
319-338-3875  
mlbrown@  
blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Judy Felder  
335 Beldon Ave  
Iowa City, IA 52246  
319-351-7718  
rfelder@  
blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Tom Rosburg (see above)

William C. Watson  
P.O. Box 281  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Historian:  
Deborah Q. Lewis  
Dept. of Botany, ISU  
Ames, IA 50011-1020  
515-294-9499



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This will be my farewell "Leaves" as my two year term as president of INPS comes to an end at next month's annual meeting (be sure to check out the details elsewhere in the newsletter). So if you are interested in becoming a little more involved in INPS, or if you wish to nominate someone for president, please contact me.

One of the several projects I have this summer is a floristic study of the site for the Destination State Park the Iowa DNR is proposing for southern Iowa. The 600-acre site lies on the north side of Lake Rathbun and includes both State DNR and Army Corps land. Aside from the numerous ticks, heat and thorns that have provided a challenge, the mixture of a variety of grassland habitats has yielded a surprising number of priority species (i.e., endangered, threatened, or special concern status). This may not be the kind of news the DNR is going to appreciate (although obviously they should). From what I've seen (numerous design plans for the park) it looks like that despite the fact that the biological survey is not yet complete, the project has a green light.

So far at least six priority plants have been observed, and I still have many specimens to verify and check before the plant list is complete. Most of these species are associated with the many prairie remnants that lie on broad ridges including for example: *Spiranthes lacera* (slender ladies' tresses), *Spiranthes magnicamporum* (Great Plains ladies' tresses), *Carex bushii*, *Andropogon virginicus* (broomsedge), and *Setaria geniculata* (knotweed bristlegrass). In addition, *Geum vernum* (spring avens) occurs in many of the intervening wooded draws that separate the ridges. There are also three priority animals: the byssus skipper, Henslow's sparrow, and slender glass lizard.

It will be interesting to see how much importance the DNR will put on the biological conservation value of the site. After spending a year exploring every nook and cranny on the area, I am becoming convinced that portions of the site merit discussion of state preserve status. It will be impossible to maintain the biological integrity of the site and develop a Destination State Park complete with golf course, cabins, campgrounds, lodge and convention center, and numerous roads, trails and parking lots. There are no prairies in the preserve system that represent the southern two tiers of counties. The southern Iowa landscape presents an environment that is characterized by exposed paleosols and thin, relatively infertile soils on slopes, which provides favorable conditions for an assemblage of species that are good stress-tolerators, species that are unable to compete well with typical black soil prairie species. Then there is also a group of species with a southern biogeography and which don't naturally extend very far north into Iowa. These factors impart a unique recipe to the southern Iowa prairies and justify the need for protected examples.

In a state where 99.9% of the prairies are gone, it shouldn't be a hard to make the right decision. Protection of remnants is the first priority (I'd rather visit a remnant than a restoration nine times out of ten, wouldn't you?). Here is a chance to finally put a fairly good example of southern Iowa prairie into protection and management. There must be other nearby areas where the Destination State Park can go. The present plan would be a mistake and yet another tragedy for Iowa prairie.

*Tom Rosburg*

## PRISON PRAIRIES,

by Joe Wilkinson, DNR Information Specialist

Their eyes trained on scattered weeds, three workers move down the green rows. Two wield hoes. One pulls by hand. Row after row of prairie forbs, or flowers, stretch out on either side. Their names; mountain mint, purple prairie clover, compass plant, partridge pea, are as colorful as the splashes of yellows, lavenders and whites they add to native prairies.

The setting near Montrose, in Lee County, is a nursery of sorts. Forb seedlings are set out here. As they mature, the seed is directed to state prairie areas. The rural setting looks much like the farm next to it and the one further down the road. As the name implies, though, State Prison Farm 3 is first and foremost a confinement setting.

One hundred miles away, tiny seedlings spill out of germination trays in the greenhouse at Oakdale, in rural Johnson County. This lead plant stock will be transplanted soon, to Montrose and **other** nursery areas in Iowa. Mike Millspaugh goes through his notes, checking planting depth and germination rates for a couple dozen different forbs. A few yards beyond the greenhouse, tall barbed wire topped fences enclose the greenhouse and other facilities at the state Medical and Classification Center.

The prison settings hardly evoke a picture of wide, open spaces. However, their role in cultivating valuable prairie forbs is vital. "We utilize corrections crews to help germinate the seed and then utilize (them) to help maintain three different production plots of prairie forb seed," explains Bill Johnson, coordinator of the Prairie Seed Harvest Program. The Department of Natural Resources biologist works with Department of Corrections officials, inmates and with staff at county and state wildlife areas to harvest seed, then grow the next generation of forbs for Iowa prairies.

Less than one tenth of one percent of Iowa's prairies remain. The same rich soil that supported those rolling fields of native grasses and forbs is feeding the world these days. There are efforts to reclaim small parcels of Iowa's past, though. And while harvesting seed from those predominant grasses is hard enough, recouping scattered forb seeds is trickier. Seed must be harvested by hand, and at different times of the year. That is why the 'corrections connection' is so valuable.

"Establishing production plots and harvesting seed is very labor intensive," emphasizes Johnson. "We try to utilize the corrections system to decrease labor costs. The cost of this seed would be anywhere from \$60 to \$300 a pound, depending on the species." That cost simply could not be met otherwise. The seed stays on state wildlife areas, to avoid competition with 'for-profit' prairie seed ventures.

A healthy prairie area might have 150 to 200 species of grasses and forbs. The greenhouse to prairie program aims at 50 to 60 species, for now. "The greater number of species you have, the better it fills the niche in the land," stresses Johnson. "Certain species grow better on drier land. Other species are more suited to wetland or marsh edges. We try to diversify our seedlings, to fill those niches and to out compete unwanted exotic species on our state areas."

The harvest program keeps track of where the seed originates, too. Seed strains from northern Iowa prairies go back to northern Iowa. Central and southern seed stock is identified, as well. Weather, soil type and other factors are considered.

Millspaugh, an inmate with a Master Gardeners certificate, is meticulous with his records. He shows me records for specific prairies. They track experiments, and sometimes solutions to problems, such as germination problems with prairie blazing star seed. "When I sowed them on top in these trays, the feathery tail (similar to dandelion seeds) would hold the seed up in the air, and it was getting poor germination. So, I planted them 1/8 inch under the surface, where the topsoil would hold the seed down in there. We got about 70-80 percent germination. It helped save seed and cut down on soil loss."

Other notes remind him, and the handful of other Oakdale residents in the greenhouse program, what works. Culver's root needs more light. Lead plant needs to be scarified for 10 seconds, to open more easily. Swamp milkweed should be planted 1/4 inch deep, in the 'big six pack' trays. He describes the amount of seed sown in each tray, how the tiny plants are monitored and eventually transplanted.

Just a year or so into the program, some positive results are showing through. Johnson notes the inmate

*continued on page 4*

*Journal of Restoration continued from page 1*

"My great uncle used to say, 'The old timers when they came in, they never took care of the land. They'd come down these side hills, clean it all off, but the big trees next to the gullies,'" he told me.

By 1890 the big trees had been logged off and the land converted to pasture. After the fence law was passed Mr. Rinkst became very concerned about the decline of the native prairie grasses.

"My uncle told my Dad, 'We just as well move on west because they've ruined our cattle grazing.' But the blue grass followed. In three years the blue grass was there. Then we had more pasture than we ever had in our lives." (L.H. Pammel, in "Our Vanishing Wild Flowers" published in The Plant World, vol. V, pp. 172-175, notes that some wildflowers "still flourish in woods where... blue grass has not crowded them out.")

L.C. Hinkst grazed sheep and cattle on the West 40. "Prairie hay" was grown in what is now a hickory grove. The cattle were kept off this piece until August after the pasture had been cut for horse hay.

After the Weldon River was straightened in 1948 the creek channel cut deeper to the level of the river channel below. It became too deep for the cattle to cross and the property was no longer grazed. Gradually the pole-timber and weed trees became established in the pastures.

I found the work of botanists T.J. and M.F.L. Fitzpatrick and J.P. Anderson very helpful. Between 1897-1904 they documented the flora of southern Iowa in papers presented to the Iowa Academy of Science. I found "The Flora of Southern Iowa" in volume V (1897) of the Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science. The following year, "The Flora of Southern Iowa, II" was published (volume VI, 1898). "Plants New to the Flora of Decatur County, Iowa" followed in volume XII.

The year before we purchased the property the previous owner had cut one of the remaining savanna oaks. We made a fresh cut in the large bur oak stump in order to determine the age of the tree. There were 135 rings on the tree, which meant it was 142 years old when it was cut (the tree was seven years old before it formed the first ring). The first 25 years the tree must have been shaded by a larger tree because one side grew much larger. A scar marked the cut where something hit this bur oak when it was 25 years old. This would have been in 1883 during the time that the land was logged off. One of the cut trees must have fallen against this bur oak, injuring it.

In planning our restoration we worked with our district forester, Randy Goerndt. Our goal is to restore the savanna by thinning the oak and hickory woodlands and implementing a savanna management regime of periodic controlled burning. To restore the native understory vegetation in the degraded savanna area we decided to cut down or kill all other trees under the scattered mature oaks. We plan to thin the pole-sized oaks and hickories to about forty foot spacing in the rest of the stand. All the cut tree trunks would be broken down enough to allow good ground contact for rapid decomposition. At this time we do not plan to do any seeding. First, we want to see what comes up on its own.

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*Prison Prairies continued from page 3*

benefits, with positive work experience. The prairie seed effort complements Oakdale's garden program, which ranges from produce consumed in the prison system to Christmas poinsettias for the Terrace Hill governor's mansion.

But it's the ecosystem boost that underscores the effort. "We are trying to diversify the seeding on state ground. The greater number of species you have, the better it fills the niche on that ground."

**Sidebar: Forbs Complete Habitat Mix**

As prison-raised prairie forbs, or flowers, are added to native prairie restoration, the results are quick to show. "We never thought we would ever be able to put much of a forb component into our restoration," admits DNR wildlife supervisor Ken Herring. "Our upland game biologist has been preaching to us the value of forbs and the insects (they attract) for wildlife. We have people telling us about pheasant broods in those forbs, where there weren't any in previous years."

Herring says the hand-harvested and prison-germinated seed stock makes for a pretty interesting picture of 'what could be', down the road. "We can possibly do what our biologists have wanted us to do. We never had the budget. Now, we can look ahead a couple years (ahead) at high quality, diverse forb seedings." Herring says it's plausible that state parks, county conservation boards, even roadsides might someday benefit from the prison prairies push.

## IOWA ECOTYPE PROJECT - SeED COLLECTION FORMS

1. Please provide information as indicated for each area and species. (Shaded boxes for office use only)  
 In box labeled 'OTR/OTR SECTION' please indicate as "NE1/4 of SE1/4" for example.  
 When marking location on 'Section Diagram', indicate one or two landmarks (e.g. town, road, etc.)
2. Place label in bag with associated seed.

COLLECTOR'	ADDRESS'	PH		
ZONE   COUNTY	(SPECIES   ICODE   TNSHIP   RANGE)	E/W? SECT#   QTR SECTION		
PROPERTY OWNER:		DATE:		
Site Notes: (e.g. slope, aspect, soil type, associated species, management, etc.)		Mark location below:		
		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 40px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>		

SECTION DIAGRAM

SPECIES - New 2002 species are in bold type.		Northern Iowa	Central Iowa	Southern Iowa
Common Name	Scientific Name	ZOne 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
Yellow coneflower	<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>	X	X	X
Thimbleweed	<i>Anemone cylindrica</i>	X	X	X
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	X	X	X
Canada milkvetch	<i>Astragalus canadensis</i>	X	X	X
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	X	X	X
Spiderwort	<i>Tradescantia bracteata</i>	X	X	X
Bottle gentian	<i>Gentiana andrewsii</i>			X
Canada anemone	<i>Anemone canadensis</i>			X

**MAIL TO:            UNI Native Roadside Vegetation Center**  
**2412 W 27th Street**  
**Cedar Falls, IA 50614-0293**  
**Attn: Iowa Ecotype Project**

\*Iowa Ecotype Project: from remnants to roadsides: The Iowa Ecotype Project was designed to provide a more ecologically sensitive and economically feasible alternative to the wide-spread planting of non local seed and/or cultivated varieties of native species on Iowa's roadsides. There is an overwhelming need for native seed not only for state and county road projects, but also for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), etc. The high price of Iowa-origin seed means that many of those acres are being planted to seed originating from well beyond Iowa's borders, native or non-native. Tallgrass prairie has been here for the last several thousand years, covering as much as 80% of Iowa. Now, small, scattered remnants of prairie are threatened with loss of both species and genetic diversity. By planting Iowa-origin seed and retaining as much genetic diversity as possible, we may enhance the long-term success of prairie roadside plantings and reconstruction in Iowa, as well as helping to assure the continued existence and vitality of remnant communities.

You can contribute seed from remnant populations. Collect only a small portion of the seed from many individual plants within the population. For more information contact UNI Roadside Program., Greg Houseal. See INPS Newsletter June 1999 article by Greg Houseal for additional information.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### DNR-Seed Production Fields

Are you interested in Iowa DNR and the seed production fields that we have established. Learn about species we have planted, the issues of weed control, watering, and problems encountered in establishing the plot. We have approximately 15 species that will be harvested this year as well as 20-25 other species being established.

Where: Dallas County Farm 2 miles north of Adel

**When:** Sept 5th from 4-7 PM

Directions: From Adel, go 2 miles north on Highway 169 to county gravel road 260th Court turn west and go 1/2 mile and the plot will be on the north side of the road. 260th Court separates the Dallas County farm and the Golf Course at Adel.

William.lohnson@dnr.state.ia.us

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### Sierra Club Iowa Chapter Annual Dinner

Date: Saturday, October 12th

Place: Wesley Center Foundation,  
120 N. Dubuque St., (near downtown), Iowa City

Time: Festivities begin at 6 pm. - ticket ordering and silent auction information is below.

This year's dinner will feature an excellent menu of locally grown and organic food prepared by chefs from three outstanding Iowa City restaurants; The Red Avocado, Devotay and Adagio. Ronnie Cummins, National Director of the Organic Consumers Association - <http://www.organicconsumers.org>, editor of the electronic newsletter BioDemocracy News and author of "Genetically Engineered Food: A Self-Defense Guide for Consumers" will be our lively and charismatic guest speaker. His book will be available for purchase and signing to benefit our State Sierra Chapter.

A large and interesting variety of donated Silent Auction items will be displayed for your perusal and bidding before and during the event, along with displays and educational materials featuring our local Iowan food farmers, growers and producers. For more information on our Silent Auction-if you'd like to donate or bid on items- please visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ia/> for updates.

Dinner tickets are \$30 per person - please order yours now by sending a check to:

Sierra Club Iowa Chapter, c/o The Leopold Group  
Att.: Jack Eastman, Annual Dinner Co-Chair  
P.O. Box 1192, Fairfield, IA 52556

### 2002 Annual Fen Walk - Becky's Fen/Schneider-Kleve Fen

Visit Becky's Fen and the Schneider-Kleve Fen, two prominent northeast Iowa landforms.

Saturday, September 7, 2002

10:00 am - Meet at the Kauten farm for directions and a brief presentation.

9573 11 Oth Street; rural Fayette, Iowa

Contact: Rebecca Kauten (641) 424-3217

[rkauten@earthlink.net](mailto:rkauten@earthlink.net)

or the Fayette CCB (563) 422-5146 for more information.

The Fayette CCB has recently been working with The Nature Conservancy on several projects on the Kauten side, as well as the Mihall side of Becky's Fen. Come and see the progress!

Please bring a brown bag lunch and join us in the yard after our walk through the fen.

1:30 pm - Plans then include a ride to the Schneider-Kleve Fen in rural Postville.

People only attending the Schneider-Kleve portion of the trip: Contact: Tim Englehardt at the Clayton CCB (563) 245-1516 for more information.

#### DIRECTIONS TO BECKY'S FEN:

From the town of Maynard in Fayette County: Drive east on Highway 150 for 3 miles to intersection with Highway 187. Turn north (left) and continue on Highway 150 for 1 mile to intersection with 11 Oth Street (a gravel road). Turn east (right) and drive just over 1 mile (slightly past I Avenue) to the Kauten farmstead on the south (right) side. The entrance to the fen is located 1/2 mile south of the intersection of 11 Oth Street and I Avenue on the west side of the road.

#### DIRECTIONS TO KLEVE-SCHNEIDER FEN:

From the intersection of Highway 18 and County Road B60 in Clermont in Fayette County: Drive east on County Road B60 (Apple Road) for 3 miles (crossing into Clayton County) to T-intersection with Apricot Road. Turn north (left) and drive 2 miles on this curving road to a T-intersection with Aspen Avenue. Turn north (left) and drive about 0.7 mile to entrance to Kleve Fen. Park on roadside.

## Growing Natives in the Home Garden/Landscape

The following booklist was suggested by MJ Hatfield during an information exchange on the Iowa Native Plant Society server list.

"A Garden of Wildflowers. 101 Native Species and How to Grow Them" by Henry W. Art

"The Wildflower Gardener's Guide: Midwest, Great Plains and Canadian Prairies Edition" by Henry W. Art

"Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers" by Harry R. Phillips

"The Wildflower Book: East of the Rockies" by Donald and Lillian Stokes

"Native Plants for Northern Gardens" by Dr. Leon C. Snyder

"The Home Gardener's Book of Ferns" by John Mickel

"Ferns for American Gardens" by John Mickel

"Moss Gardening: Including Lichens, Liverworts and Other Miniatures" by George Schenk

The following two books deal exclusively with plants rather than seeds.

"The Root Book: How to Plant Wildflowers" by Norma Phillips

"Adventures of a 'Wild' Plants Woman: In Pursuit of Native Plant Preservation" by Norma Phillips

The following books are NOT very helpful.

"Plant Propagation made Easy" by Alan Toogood

"Wildflowers in Your Garden: A Gardener's Guide" by Viki Ferreniea

With the exception of ferns (except *Botrychium virginianum*, Rattlesnake fern, which grows and spreads easily in the woods from spores), I've found the easiest way to propagate woodland plants is to gather the seed and then either scatter it about or push it slightly into the ground. Although I can grow most plants in pots, I don't have good luck with natives. They do best (for me) planted directly in the ground.

Code of Conduct for the Gardening Public  
<http://www.mobot.org/iss/gardeningcode2.htm>

Voluntary Codes of Conduct for the Gardening Public

- 1) Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Plant only environmentally safe species in your gardens. Work towards and promote new landscape design that is friendly to regional ecosystems.
- 2) Seek information on which species are invasive in your area. Sources could include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies.
- 3) Remove invasive species from your land and replace them with non-invasive species suited to your site and needs.
- 4) Do not trade plants with other gardeners if you know they are species with invasive characteristics.
- 5) Request that botanical gardens and nurseries promote, display and sell only non-invasive species.
- 6) Help educate your community and other gardeners in your area through personal contact, and in such settings as garden clubs and other civic groups.
- 7) Ask garden writers and other media to emphasize the problem of invasive species and provide information. Request that garden writers promote only non-invasive species.
- 8) Invite speakers knowledgeable on the invasive species issue to speak to garden clubs, master gardeners, schools and other community groups.
- 9) Seek the best information on control of invasive plant species and organize neighborhood work groups to remove invasive plant species under the guidance of knowledgeable professionals.
- 10) Volunteer at botanical gardens and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.
- 11) Participate in early warning systems by reporting invasive species you observe in your area. Determine which group or agency should be responsible for reports emanating from your area. If no 800 number exists for such reporting, request that one be established, citing the need for a clearinghouse with an 800 number and website links to information about invasive plant species.
- 12) Assist garden clubs to create policies regarding the use of invasive species not only in horticulture, but in activities such as flower shows. Urge florists and others to eliminate the use of invasive plant material.

## Taxonomic Research in the Century of the Environment

by W. John Kress\*

Answers to the fundamental research questions at the heart of modern plant systematics have direct applications to understanding and even solving some of the most critical environmental crises of today's world. What are the Earth's species? How are they related to each other and how are they distributed geographically? How have species evolved? And how can we best translate the tree of life into a useful and predictive classification of taxa? Never before have the results of natural history science been more applicable to the needs of society than in the first decades of the new century. Since the 1800s the great natural history museums and botanical gardens of the world have sent explorers around the globe on scientific missions to discover and document the wonders of the biological world. Sometimes these scientific voyages of discovery also had direct economic benefits, as exemplified in the spice wars and the horticultural obsession of the Victorian Age when plant products of great monetary value, such as orchids, were brought back to Europe from Asia and South America. Today the results of our taxonomic research are more in demand for practical applications to society and economies than ever before. For example, not a week goes by without some reference in national newspapers and magazines to the economics and politics of biodiversity prospecting.

Systematics can be broadly defined as the study of the origin, evolution, diversity, and distribution of life on the planet. It includes not only investigations of the evolutionary processes that have led to the origin of this diversity, but also the explicit description of biotic diversity itself. If we have no understanding of the biological entities that make up our present day ecosystems (be they species, genera, families or higher order clades), we cannot hope to understand how they interact with each other nor how they interact and respond to the environment. In today's world of radical habitat change and environmental degradation, unless we know what are the species that inhabit particular ecosystems we have no hope to successfully manage them in a thoughtful and effective manner.

It has been pointed out that museums are a unique, and perhaps threatened, research environment themselves. With their extensive and outstanding holdings of biological collections, clearly they are the best venue for investigating and describing the diversity of life. Curiously universities have begun to divest their biological collections and programs in systematics just

when the value of these activities is once again on the rise. The responsibility, therefore, falls on the world's museums and botanical gardens to vigorously pursue taxonomic activities in order to provide the data necessary for managing the earth's environments. The current explosive rise of bioinformatics will finally allow biological data on the distribution and diversity of organisms resulting from the study of museum collections to be used in effective ways for monitoring environmental change and identifying centers of biotic diversity. As a result governments as well as NGOs, who are dependent on these data, will be able to make responsible decisions with a new confidence on the conservation of species and habitats.

Plant systematists are ready and willing to make available the results of their scientific studies for the purpose of understanding and conserving the environment. Although they may not choose to engage in the management activities themselves, they are committed and dedicated to preserving the entities they study. Systematists at natural history museums and botanical gardens should be recognized and appreciated for their efforts to address today's societal challenges as well as their contributions to the basic scientific knowledge about living things. More than ever our research has become fundamental to the conservation of life on the planet.

\*Reprinted from Department of Botany and the U.S. National Herbarium-The Plant Press-Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Oct-Dec 2000 issue.

### *Burmeistera knaphusii* -- In Memory of "Dr. K"

Dr. Tom Lammers, INPS member and assistant professor of biology at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, studies tropical members of the Campanulaceae (bellflower/lobelia family). As he was examining herbarium specimens collected in South America, he discovered a number of new (i.e., unnamed and undescribed) species. He chose to name one in honor of his first undergraduate botany professor at Iowa State University, Dr. George Knaphus. In the published description of the new species, Tom writes, "This species is respectfully dedicated to the memory of George Knaphus (1924-2000), botanist and educator extraordinaire... In the classroom, laboratory, and field, he opened the eyes of thousands of undergraduate students to the marvels of the plant and fungal kingdoms..." Any of us fortunate enough to have known "Dr. K" would agree -- as he opened our eyes, as well.

## Confessions of a Tardy Dues Payer...

by Deb Lewis

The thought flashed through my head a couple of weeks ago, "Have I paid my INPS dues for this year?" I couldn't remember having written the check, although sometimes Terry does. A quick look at Terry's "List of Organizations/Payments -- by year" (hey, he's an accountant, need I say more...) didn't show that we'd paid. Finally, our treasurer, Diana Horton confirmed it -- I had indeed forgotten. So now I'm formally back in the organization's "good graces", having belatedly written my check for 2002. Have you also forgotten? If you're not sure, Diana will be glad to check on your dues status, and she can be reached by e-mail at [diana-horton@uiowa.edu](mailto:diana-horton@uiowa.edu) or by phone at 319-337-5430. A word of warning -- it is about that time of year for us to update the mailing list and drop those who aren't current.

## Subscribe to the Iowa Native Plant Society Internet List

Do you have access to the internet/email? Do you subscribe to the INPS server list? If not consider subscribing. You will receive reminder notices of upcoming events, follow and join in discussions about various subjects, recently members exchanged information as per the pros and cons of burning prairies and how it affects the insect population.

### TO SUBSCRIBE:

Address: [iowa-native-plants-request@list.uiowa.edu](mailto:iowa-native-plants-request@list.uiowa.edu)

Subject: no subject

Message: subscribe (your e-mail address)

### NEW WEB PAGES

INPS: <http://www.public.iastate.edu/-herbarium/inps/inps/home.htm>

U of IA Herbarium: <http://www.cgrer.uiowa.edu/herbarium/>

## INPS Membership/Change of Address Form and Survey

Send with your 2002 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.

## **Annual Meeting - Sept. 20-22: Let's All Head to Lake Okoboji!**

The planning committee for the joint annual meeting of the Iowa Native Plant Society, the Iowa Prairie Network and the Iowa chapter of The Nature Conservancy is organizing a plant filled weekend at **Lakeside Lab on Lake Okoboji for Sept 20-22.**

For those arriving Friday evening there will be the choice of a twilight trip to Freda Haffner Preserve or a trip on the lake. The silent auction display will be up for bids and several INPS and other photographers will have work exhibited.

The highlight for INPS members on Saturday will be our annual business meeting over dinner after a day of speakers and field trips. The other two groups will have their annual meetings over breakfast and lunch so members of more than one group can attend any and all. The keynote speaker Saturday morning will be Steve McCormick, national president of The Nature Conservancy. There also will be presentations by a number of Iowa experts, dare we say grassroots native plant people. Old favorites and new places are on the field trip list so making choices will be difficult. Several INPS members will be among the trip leaders. Pre-registration for trips will be on the registration forms.

Sunday morning has a working title of "Prairie Chat and Chew" for a leisurely breakfast and discussion of Saturday's presentations and other issues. As people leave later in the morning they will want to pick up directions and descriptions for a field trip on the way home. The handouts will be provided by INPS. Good stops for those heading east, southeast, south or west from Lakeside Lab will be included. It's another chance to visit an old friend or see a new site.

### **Newsletter**

Iowa Native Plant Society  
c/o Deb Lewis  
Department of Botany  
Iowa State University  
Ames, IA 50011-1020

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