



Operation Wildflower Workshop 2004

Saturday July 24, 2004



IOWA'S TALLGRASS PRAIRIES

Past, Present, & Future

Location- Ames Izaak Walton League
2066 Stagecoach Road, Ames, IA

Registration Fee \$20.00 - Deadline July 10, 2004 - Late Fee \$25.00 - Limited to 100 participants

FGCI Wildflower Workshop for 2004 and 2005 will concentrate on Iowa's Tallgrass Prairies. Join us as we explore the Past, Present and Future of our native prairie plants.

"A prairie is a community of grasses, forbs (wildflowers), shrubs, animals, and microorganisms. Prairie can be found as far east as Indiana and as far west as the Rocky Mountains. Its northern reaches extend into Canada and can be found as far south as Texas. Historically there were over 30 million acres of prairie in Iowa, but agricultural and urban developments have drastically reduced this amount. In Iowa, 150 years ago, nearly 85% of the state was tall grass prairie. Today less than 0.1% of this prairie remains." (INHF-M. Ehresman & C. Kurtz)

Some of Iowa's native prairie is protected in preserves and parks, but many small parcels, or remnants, are not. They are found along railroad tracts, road ditches, and even portions of farms. These remnants need saving. And all prairies need continued long term maintenance.

Field Trip sites: DOOLITTLE PRAIRIE STATE PRESERVE is a 25-acre prairie-wetland complex owned by the Iowa DNR and managed by the Story County Conservation Board. It includes several potholes, and more than 223 native plant species have been documented. It is one of the best prairie remnants in central Iowa in terms of quality and diversity.

MEETZ PRAIRIE WINDS RECONSTRUCTION is a privately-owned 34-acre former row cropped tract that is now a five-year-old reconstructed prairie pothole complex. The complex includes small prairie remanent, and was

SCHEDULE - July 24, 2004

- 8 - 8:30 a.m. Registration, Coffee Rolls
- 8:30 a.m. Welcome & Introductions by MJ Hatfield
- 8:45 a.m. Past, Present & Future of Prairies
Presenter Carl Kurtz
- 9:20 a.m. Prairie Insects-Butterflies, Bugs & Dragonflies
Presenter Harlan Ratcliff
- 9:55-10:05 a.m. Break—view displays etc.
- 10:05 a.m. What is a Herbarium? Ada Hayden Herbarium
Presenter Deb Lewis, Curator (ISU)
- 10:40 a.m. Grassland/Prairie Birds & Ecology
Presenter Marlene Ehresman
- 11:15 a.m. Invasive Aliens Presenter Laura Jesse
- 11:45 Summary: What can you do individually, as a club, ethics of wild plants.
Presenter MJ Hatfield
- 12-1:00 p.m. Lunch - Door Prizes - View Displays
- 1:30 Board Bus for Field Trips - *Doolittle Prairie State Preserve (native prairie), via I-35 IDOT Plantings, and M. Meetz private reconstructed prairie and wetlands.

Return approximately 4:30-5:00

*1 tour leader per 10 participants

** This program has been approved for Master Gardener CEU's

Questions about the workshop can be sent to MJ Hatfield, Chairman, 2505 Tullamore Lane, Ames, IA 50010, email mjhatfield@oneota.org

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/
email _____

Garden Club _____

Registration Fee \$20.00

Deadline July 20, 2004 Late fee \$25.00

Limited to 100 participants

Registration includes Lunch, Breaks & Field Trip/Bus

_____ Yes I will be arriving early on July 23 and would like to attend the optional field trip. (Starting 1:00 p.m.)

Make check payable to: **FGCI Operation Wildflower 2004**

Send to: **Marianne Klinsky**

2207 Hayes

Ames, IA 50010

phone (515)232-6091 email: klinskyjm@midiowa.net



Directions: *From outside Ames take I-35 to the 13th Street exit, go west to Stagecoach Rd. just before the Skunk River Bridge – go north about ¾ mile, Izaak Walton League is on the right.

*From Ames – go east on 13th St. to the Skunk River, Stagecoach Rd is just after the bridge. Izaak Walton League is ¾ mile north of 13th Street on the right side of the road.

ACCOMMODATIONS: There are many nice motel/hotels in the Ames area, for your convenience we would like to recommend the following:

Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Village
2601 E-13th Street, (just off I-35)
(515)232-9260 (800)903-0009 ext.

Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Inn
2600 E-13 St. (just off I-35)
(515)232-2300 (800)465-4329

planted with local-ecotype seed. Animals include digger crawfish, woodducks, sedge wrens, and bobolinks. (M. Meetz) **I-35 PRAIRIE PLANTING**—In 1995 the Iowa Department of Transportation began a program of prairie reconstruction along I-35 from Story City to Ames. The DOT has planted 204 acres to native Iowa species that thrive in Iowa’s roadsides and provide travelers with a chance to discover the beauty of Iowa’s prairie heritage.

This is Iowa in July, dress accordingly. The morning facility is not fully air conditioned but has old fashioned, energy efficient windows that open; ceiling fans and floor fans. Dress coolly. We will be taking buses to the field trip sites. The buses are air-conditioned with restrooms but bring/wear long pants and sturdy shoes for walking in the prairie. Be prepared for inclement weather (rain gear). **Bring camera, binoculars, enthusiasm and your questions.**

OPTIONAL FIELD TRIP FOR THOSE ARRIVING EARLY—JULY 23



Optional pre-workshop field trip. For those planning to come to Ames early we have arranged an optional field trip (car pool) and get acquainted event. (You must be registered for the workshop to participate in optional field trip.)

1:00 p.m. July 23 - Meet in the parking lot of the Quality Inn & Suites (just off I-35 -Exit 113) 2601 E. 13th Street, Ames.

Tours: Tullamore Community Park, Ames High Prairie (a Nature Conservancy site), Andy Swanson’s prairie seed plots, and if time a few private gardens in Ames. Dutch-treat dinner at a local restaurant.

POHL STATE PRESERVE/Ames High Prairie is a 22-acre urban tract with about eight acres of high-quality prairie remnants that include uncommon species. The prairies are expanding under Nature Conservancy management that includes brush removal and controlled burns, aided by many volunteers.

TULLAMORE COMMUNITY PARK is a reconstructed prairie and woodland; purchased, planted on former corn field and maintained by the Tullamore Glen Neighbors.

SWANSON FARM Andy Swanson’s farm is a traditional corn and soybean farm that is diversifying to providing quality seed for prairie reconstructions. Depending on the bloom time you will see seed plots dedicated to just one variety of prairie plants.

5:30 Return to Quality Inn

6:30 Dinner (dutch-treat) at local restaurant or on your own