

Iowa Prairie Network

Winter Meetings Announcement

Both IPN Regions 5 and 6 have annual events scheduled to help keep our prairie enthusiasm going during the off-season!

These meetings are free and open to the public



On **Saturday, February 18** Region 5 will have our annual central Iowa Winter Workshop and silent auction fundraiser at the Ankeny campus of the Des Moines Area Community College. **Doors open at noon, program begins at 1 PM.** Our program will include:

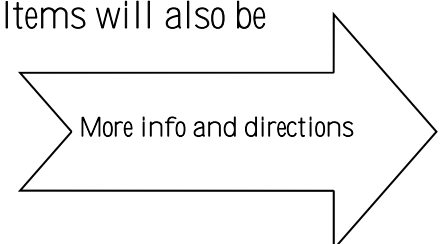
- Tom Rosburg (Drake University) reviewing the **prairie restoration projects** he's done with his students, who are paid from proceeds of our 2004 silent auction. Kelly Smith (Iowa DNR) will explain how she has helped Tom stretch the IPN money significantly by using Iowa DNR "**Landowner Incentive Program**" funds to match the IPN money.
- **Grassland bird identification and management tips** by Bruce Ehresman (Iowa DNR)
- A "**Prairie Management Tools & Equipment**" panel discussion/question & answer session led by Loren Lown (Polk Co. Conservation Board) and Carl Kurtz
- A photo slide show titled "**Things Worth Saving**", presented by Ty Smedes (Ty Smedes Nature Photography)

This year our silent auction proceeds will go toward the purchase and preservation of the **Kothenbeutel Heritage Prairie**, a 32 acre remnant prairie in Franklin County. This site was recently acquired by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation from Daryl Kothenbeutel. It has diverse topography with wet and dry areas; more than 250 plant species have been documented there including rough blazing-star, *Spiranthes* orchids and stiff gentian. It is located near Sheffield just 1/4 mile from the West Branch of the Cedar River. It has interesting historical connections: the tracks of a popular stage-coach route are still visible after prairie burns, and it contains a variety of fossils similar to those found at the Rockford Fossil and Prairie site in Floyd County. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation will continue the restoration efforts on the site.

If you have items you wish to donate to the silent auction.....thanks!

If possible, please contact Inger Lamb (515.250.1693, ingerlamb3@mchsi.com) or Lloyd Crim (lcrim@opencominc.com) with details of your donation. Items will also be happily accepted on the on the day of the event.

More information: Trish Patrick (515.382.2802, tpatrick@iastate.edu) or Inger Lamb (above)

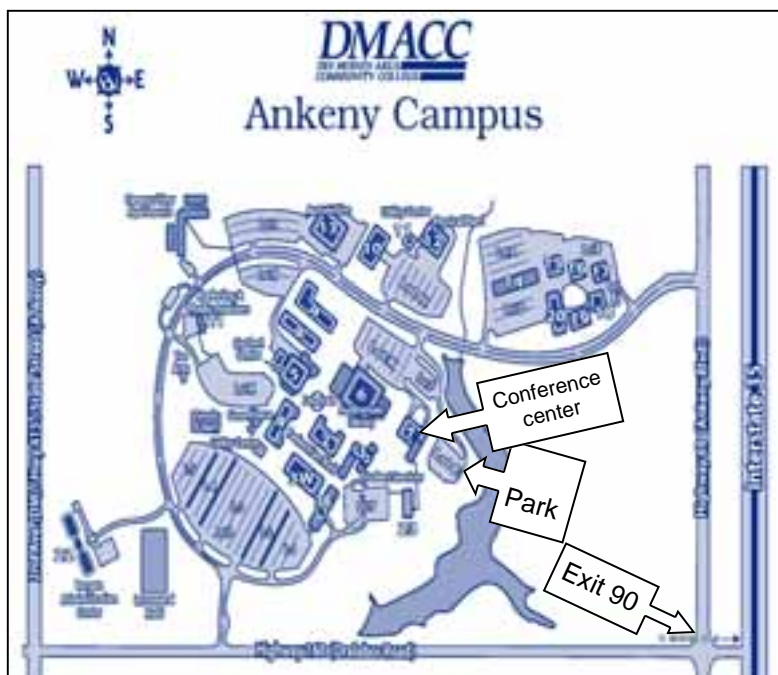


After the program and silent auction are finished we will relax over a casual meal. Workshop attendees wishing to join us for dinner will have the opportunity to be included in the pizza order.

So, to review:

- February 18, 2006
- Ankeny DMACC campus, bldg 7
- Doors open at noon, presentations begin at 1 PM
- Free and open to the public
- Silent auction to benefit the purchase of Kothenbeutel Heritage Prairie
- Prairie presentations and slide show
- Casual dinner after the event
- The IPN is an all volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
- [Www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org)

Hope to see you there!



Potluck & Orchids

On **Saturday March 4, 2006** Iowa Prairie Network Region 6 will hold it's annual Winter Meeting and Planning Session. There will be a **potluck lunch starting at noon**, then at 1 PM Mark Leoschke (Iowa DNR) will give a presentation on "**The Native Orchids of Iowa**". Following Mark's presentation we will plan our Region 6 events for the year. Please bring ideas and suggestions!

For more information contact Pam White (641.673.3508, pam-white@usa.net) or Brant Schmell (641.898.7534, bschmell@iowatelecom.net).

Please plan to Join us at **Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**, 6 miles south of Ottumwa on Hwy 63. This event is free and open to the public.

Everyone is welcome!