

# Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter Spring 2021

Wood Betony (*Pedicularis canadensis*) Photo by Tenlea Turner

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## *Prairies Need People*

Submitted by Michelle Biodrowski

In August of 2020, a grassroots partnership of three different organizations (Loess Hills Preservation Society, Iowa Prairie Network, and Pottawattamie County Conservation), worked together to gain and use grant funds from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, to hire five conservation stewards from the Conservation Corps of Iowa. This conservation crew worked at Vincent Bluff State Preserve, a remnant prairie in Council Bluffs, for 40 hours cutting and treating the autumn olive and oriental bittersweet that are quickly degrading the habitat.

This project is an example of how we, as prairie enthusiasts, can be stewards of the places we love. When we protect and manage remnant populations, such as Vincent Bluff, we are sustaining a stronghold for all the species that have survived. From these remnants, we have the opportunity to learn a great deal about the diverse and vastly complex interdependencies we are erasing from the Earth. Prairies need people to care and to look after them. Prairies need YOU!

We humans have pushed prairies to the edge of existence, and they are now facing a very real possibility of extinction. We must be the guardians of the last bastions of remnant plant communities by actively managing them to hold back the never-ending tide of invasive plants, trees, and housing developments. Prairies need humans now more than ever. YOU can help. Bring a friend to a prairie to give them a chance to experience its complex beauty, volunteer at a prairie workday, be an advocate for native plant communities and the policies that protect them, donate to a non-profit working hard to protect biodiversity, share your time and talents!



### **IPN Officers**

Michelle Biodrowski, President  
Jacob Pitzenberger, Vice President  
Ed Sibley, Treasurer  
Corinne Bulat, Secretary

### **Committees**

#### Communications

Chair: Ben Maas  
Webmaster: Cory Pritchard  
Newsletter Editor: Tenlea Turner

#### Finance

Chair: Joyce Hornstein

#### Membership

Chair: Leesa McNeil

#### Marketing

Chair: Jacob Pitzenberger

### *Prairies need people, prairies need you!*



After work done by the CCI Crew: from the left of the yellow line, complete cover and encroachment by oriental bittersweet, an invasive vine invigorated by fire; right of the yellow, high diversity prairie remnant. Red dotted line marks the work completed by the crew in the previous picture. You can see how much work is left to be done!



### *Getting to Know You*

Meet Justin Meissen - IPN Board member since August 2020. Justin grew up in northwestern Illinois and has been an Iowan since 2016. Justin has a PhD in Conservation Biology from the University of Minnesota and a BS in Integrative Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Justin leads the Research and Restoration Program at the Tallgrass Prairie Center where his focus is on implementing restoration research and demonstration projects, developing training seminars, and developing technical materials. Justin also enjoys nature photography, woodworking, and tinkering with native plant propagation.



Showy Orchid (*Galearis spectabilis*) Photo by Justin Davis

## IPN's Region Revision

Submitted by Ben Maas

You may have noticed that we recently updated the IPN regions, but you might be wondering “Why did IPN do this?”. Well, we updated the regions to better reflect the landforms of Iowa.

The regions now approximately line up with the landform map of Iowa.

**Region 1** is the Northwest Iowa Plains, accented by rolling hills and tallgrass prairies.

**Region 2** is the Des Moines Lobe, which is accented by prairie potholes.

**Region 3** is the Iowan Surface, a landform unique to Iowa!

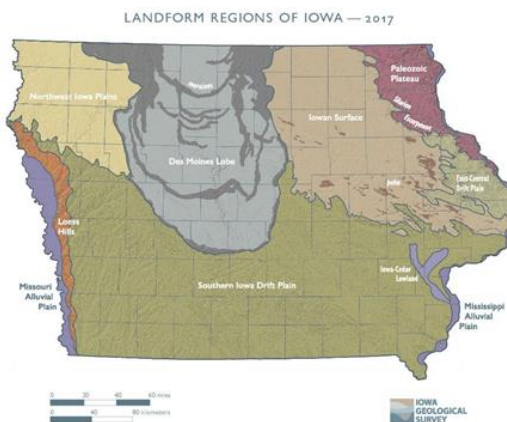
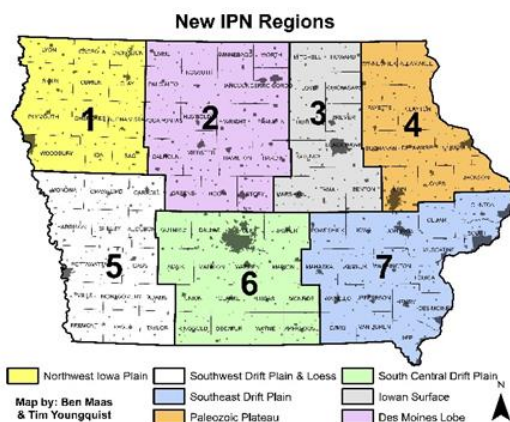
**Region 4** is a combination of the Iowan Surface, Paleozoic Plateau and the East-Central Drift Plain, areas of Iowa largely untouched by past glaciation.

**Region 5** combines the Loess Hills, Missouri Alluvial Plain, and Southern Iowa Drift Plain, the Loess Hills being a special landscape of Iowa.

**Regions 6 & 7** are both in the Southern Iowa Drift Plain, which is a landscape that has not been glaciated recently and is accented with rolling hills and prairies.

These new regions did result in changes to some region boundaries. However, the new regions better reflect Iowa's landscape, geology, and prairies. We hope that these new regions will serve as ways to foster education on Iowa's landscapes and prairies at future meetings, outreach events, and in the newsletter.

[https://www.iuhr.uiowa.edu/igs/landforms-map/?doing\\_wp\\_cron=1606329315.7015130519866943359375](https://www.iuhr.uiowa.edu/igs/landforms-map/?doing_wp_cron=1606329315.7015130519866943359375)



### IPN Board of Directors

#### Region 1

Ben Maas  
Tabitha Panas

#### Region 2

*Vacant*

Sarah Nizzi

#### Region 3

Tim Youngquist  
Justin Meissen

#### Region 4

*Vacant*

*Vacant*

#### Region 5

Lance Brisbois  
Cait Caughey

#### Region 6

Tenlea Turner  
Jacob Pitzemberger

#### Region 7

Pam White  
Ray Hamilton  
**At Large**  
Jon Judson  
Michelle Biodrowski  
Corinne Bulat  
Laura Leben  
Derek Miner  
Pete Eyheralde

### Find a Prairie

The IPN website now lists public prairies in all 99 Iowa counties.

<https://www.iowaprairienetwork.org/find-a-prairie>



### Join our Board or become a Committee Member

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about our endangered prairie ecosystem to join us in our mission! Join our Board of Directors or add your special talent to a committee (Communications, Finance, Marketing, and Membership). Contact Michelle Biodrowski (biodrowski13@gmail.com)

*“Spring is nature’s way of saying, Let’s party!” ~Robin Williams*

## Featured IPN Connection

IPN works with a multitude of agencies and organizations to support us in our mission. We thank them for their support.



*The Wapello Co. Conservation mission - "To create awareness of our natural environment by providing quality outdoor experiences."*



Pioneer Ridge Nature Area  
Bloomfield, IA

## Membership Corner

IPN has nearly 200 members that share an enthusiasm for prairies! Consider joining today!

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Circle one: home - work - cell

### Membership Levels & Dues (check one):

- ☐ Student ..... **Free** - please provide a valid school email address or ID  
☐ Intern ..... \$ 10                      ☐ Family ..... \$ 30  
☐ Individual ..... \$ 20                      ☐ Organizations.....\$100

### Newsletter Options (check one):

- ☐ Prefer to receive newsletters via e-mail at the address listed above ..... \$0  
☐ Prefer to receive printed newsletters via mail ..... add \$5

*IPN is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization*

### Please make checks payable to:

Iowa Prairie Network

c/o Edward M. Sibley, Treas. 4015 Sergeant Road, Sioux City, IA 51106

*The membership form can also be downloaded from our website – click "Join Us"*

***You can join online with PayPal***

Don't forget to **RENEW** your membership! [www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org). **Thank you!**

The Iowa Prairie Network is a grass-roots, volunteer organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Iowa's prairie heritage. IPN was formed in 1990 by Iowans concerned that our prairie heritage was disappearing. People needed an organization that would bring those who know about prairie together with those who wanted to learn, to form a network of advocacy for Iowa's natural heritage.

## Spring 2021 Events

**Please be advised:** Scheduling of events is ever-changing due to Coronavirus. Check the IPN Calendar for continued updates. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Upcoming Events – check the IPN Calendar for details, updates and more events!  
[www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org)

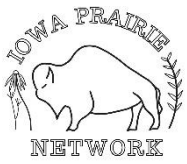
|       |     |   |
|-------|-----|---|
| March | TBD | Go to <a href="http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org">www.iowaprairienetwork.org</a> for updates  |
| April | 6   | Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie, IPN, JCCB & INPS field trip, Maquoketa<br>Go to <a href="http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org">www.iowaprairienetwork.org</a> for details |
| May   | 20  | Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie, IPN, JCCB & INPS field trip, Maquoketa<br>Go to <a href="http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org">www.iowaprairienetwork.org</a> for details |

***2021 Iowa Prairie Conference – July 31-Aug 1***

Check the IPN Calendar for details.



13-lined ground squirrel  
Photo by Tenlea Turner



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## ***IPN's Mission: To Learn About, Teach About, Enjoy, and Protect Iowa's Prairie Heritage***

### ***SPRING 2021***

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