



Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter Winter 2019-20

Photo by Tenlea Turner

Region 5 Winter Seminar

Tenlea Turner, Trish Patrick, and Joyce Hornstein

The first IPN Winter Meeting was held in 1991 at the Ames Public Library with around 30 people attending. By 2001 attendance had reached nearly 100, and our 25th Annual Winter Seminar welcomed 200 attendees. Over the years, attendance is not the only aspect of the meeting that has expanded, we also added the silent auction - which has contributed over \$101,000 to restoration projects across the state.



In 2016 we began working alongside Mike Todd and the students of Ames High School to host our growing event. Last year 168 people braved the winter weather to attend the 29th Annual R5 Winter Seminar. There were 6 informational sessions covering a variety of topics, 19 vendors, the silent auction, door prizes, and of course the pizza party to top it all off.

Although knowledge, experience, and trends may have changed over time, our mission to learn, teach, enjoy, and protect remains consistent. Come join us, won't you? It's the perfect opportunity to shake off the winter blues and meet (or reconnect with) some really fantastic people.



IPN Officers

Michelle Biodrowski, President
Jacob Pitzenberger, Vice President
Ed Sibley, Treasurer
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Communications and Events

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Webmaster: Cory Pritchard
Newsletter Editor: Tenlea Turner

Finance

Chair: Joyce Hornstein

Membership

Chair: Leesa McNeil

Marketing

Chair: Jacob Pitzenberger

IPN Region 5 Winter Seminar - January 25, 2020

Join us at Ames High School for the 29th Annual Winter Seminar. The winter meeting is free, open to the public, and no preregistration required. Check the IPN calendar for details. www.iowaprairienetwork.org

Prairie and Pie

Every year in October Region 6 plans an event to celebrate long-time IPN member Martha Skillman, spend some time on the prairie, and eat pie. The 17th Annual Martha Skillman Birthday Hike and Pie Tasting was held at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. We had more than 20 well-wishers on hand and plenty of pie and ice cream. We followed up the celebration with a hike and some seed collecting. It was a sunny, cool, somewhat blustery day autumn day - perfect for working off all that pie. Happy Birthday Martha! We're all glad you're a pie lover!



The Good, the Bad and the Irritating

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

One of the earliest native plants to bloom in the spring is Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*). Unfortunately, many people confuse this native beauty for the non-native, and often irritating, wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*). Both plants are topped with umbels (clusters) of tiny yellow flowers, but that is where the similarities end. Once you recognize the differences, you will never question the identity again.

	Golden Alexanders	Wild Parsnip
Stem	1 ½ - 3' tall Light green, hairless, rather shiny	2 - 5' tall Hairless, angular, furrowed
Leaf	Shiny compound leaves, with 3 or 5 leaflets Leaflets are 3" long and 2" across, medium green, hairless, odd-pinnate with sharply toothed margins and pointed tips	Compound with 5 to 15 leaflets each, up to 18" long and 6" across Leaflets oblong-elliptic, coarsely toothed, hairless, often cleft or with shallow lobes
Inflorescence	Blooms May to June Flat to slightly rounded umbels with yellow flowers, 2 – 3" across Central flower of umbellets is stalkless	Blooms June to September Flat compound umbels with pale yellow flowers, 3 – 5" across The foliage is toxic and irritating, particularly when in bloom



Resources: "An Illustrated Flora of the Northern United States and Canada" Britton and Brown Vol. II; illinoiswildflowers.info; minnesotawildflowers.info

IPN Board of Directors

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Ben Maas

Region 2

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Vacant

Region 3

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Vacant

Region 4

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Vacant

At Large

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Laura Leben
Derek Miner
Corinne Bulat
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Become an IPN Board Member

IPN currently has **5 vacant positions** on its Board of Directors. We are looking for individuals that are passionate about our endangered prairie ecosystem that want to join us in our mission! We have one opening in **Region 2** (North Central Iowa), and two in both **Region 3** (NE Iowa) and **Region 7** (East Central Iowa).

If you are a previous board member you can rejoin after a one-year break!
Interested persons can **contact Michelle Biodrowski (biodrowski13@gmail.com)**.

*"Get lost in nature...
And find yourself.."*
Author unknown

Partner Recognition



Our Goals

- Develop industries in local communities that utilize local resources.
- Ensure healthy natural resources that meet the needs of agriculture, industry, private use, and recreational facilities.
- Promote and enhance art, culture and historic resources in rural communities
- Collaborate with local governments and organizations on projects that benefit the environment.
- Work on projects that fill gaps in community services to benefit people of southwest Iowa.

Mission Statement: *To develop and promote sustainable cultural and conservation projects that enhance quality of life and preserve the assets of rural western Iowa.*

www.goldenhillsrccd.org

Membership Corner

IPN has 165 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
- Individual \$20
- Family \$30

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. **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.

Winter 2019-20 Events

Upcoming Events – check the IPN calendar for details, updates and more events!
www.iowaprairienetwork.org

December		Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!
January	4 25	Christmas Bird Count – Neal Smith NWR 515-994-3400 IPN Region 5 Winter Seminar – Ames High School
February		To be announced



Great News! The 2020 North American Prairie Conference is coming to Des Moines, IA!! Stay tuned for further details

Hoarfrost on Pale Purple Coneflower
 Photo by Tenlea Turner



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

WINTER 2019-20

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We use our Facebook Page and Group to share prairie-related news and updates. Join our online community!



www.facebook.com/IowaPrairieNetwork



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