

Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter Spring 2020

Loess Hills State Forest Photo by Lance Brisbois

IPN 30TH
ANNIVERSARY

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2020 North American Prairie Conference

Article includes excerpts from the 2020 North American Prairie Conference website

Great news for Prairie Enthusiasts! The North American Prairie Conference (NAPC) is coming to Iowa. The 2020 NAPC will be held at **Prairie Meadows Events & Conference Center in Altoona, Iowa, July 20-22.**

The NAPC is America's oldest and most celebrated native grassland conference. It has been held since 1968, roughly every two years. The 2020 conference is the 26th event and the 5th NAPC held in Iowa.

The 2020 North American Prairie Conference will draw some of the brightest minds in prairie protection, restoration, stewardship, education and communications. Three featured speakers will share their perspectives with us. In addition to the featured speakers, attendees can experience symposia and concurrent sessions, field trips, pre-conference hikes and volunteer opportunities, and much more.

Go to www.northamericanprairie.org for conference details, updates, and registration.

IPN will be offering grants to undergraduate and graduate students that will attend the North American Prairie Conference. Both in-state and out-of-state students will be eligible. Please go to www.northamericanprairie.org for details. Deadline for application will be 4 p.m. June 19, 2020.

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Bastard toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*)

Loess Hills Prairie Seminar May 29-31, 2020

The Loess Hills Prairie Seminar in Onawa, IA is a 3-day family event filled with kid-friendly activities, prairie excursions, and informational presentations. Check the IPN calendar for details.

www.iowaprairienetwork.org

Congratulations IPN Logo Contest Winner!

Thank you to everyone who submitted a logo to our new look competition! We had some incredible artwork submitted, and it was very difficult to choose just one. We were going for a streamlined and updated look that encompasses our respect and love for the prairie and the species dependent on this disappearing ecosystem. The winning logo came from **Cait Caughey** of Mullein Hill Farms! Cait was announced as the \$300 prize winner at the 2020 Region 5 Winter Seminar. Thank you again for all the energy and hard work everyone put into their submissions! It gives us hope for the future of the prairie to know such passionate and artistic people are out there. *Michelle Biodrowski, IPN President*



CAIT CAUGHEY



WINNING LOGO

Prairie Highlight

West Sioux Prairie Reserve

Alex Lynott, Park Ranger - Sioux County Conservation Board

In 2017, a collaboration took place between a West Sioux High School biology teacher and a former student, currently a Park Ranger for Sioux County Conservation, to develop an outdoor research area for the students.

The West Sioux Prairie Reserve is an inspiring two-acre restoration project that serves as an invaluable resource for the students of West Sioux, the community of Hawarden, and the local native pollinators. In its midst, students and community members can stand among the giant big bluestem patches, smell the wild bergamot, count the number of visiting monarch butterflies, and listen to the hum of native bees busy pollinating away. Biology students can now walk right out the lab doors and conduct plant and insect diversity studies without leaving campus.

Located on the south side of the high school at 1300 Falcon Drive in Hawarden, the West Sioux Prairie Reserve is a forerunner in on-campus high school field research areas with the potential to inspire other schools, city parks, businesses, and homeowners to restore even the smallest of areas back to the historical and beautiful Iowa tallgrass prairie.

The Reserve is open to the public and prairie enthusiasts are encouraged to visit. Contact Josh Martinsen jmartins@w-sioux.k12.ia.us for more information.



Photos left to right: West Sioux Prairie Reserve, Black-eyed Susan, Purple Prairie Clover, Long-headed coneflower by Alex Lynott

Welcoming Spring

Sometimes it feels like the cold gray days of winter will never end, but when the calendar page turns to March and the vernal equinox is within sight we anxiously await the brilliant colors of spring. No other native flower welcomes spring like the pasque flower (*Anemone patens*). It blooms so early that it has been known to push through snow to beckon the season.

Pasque flower photos by Lance Brisbois



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Join our Board or Become a Committee Member

We are looking for individuals who are passionate about our endangered prairie ecosystem and want to join us in our mission! We have openings on our Board of Directors and could always use additional talent for any of our committees (Communications, Finance, Marketing, Membership). Interested persons can contact Michelle Biodrowski (biodrowski13@gmail.com).

“Behold, the Spring has come; the earth has received the embraces of the sun and we shall soon see the results of that love!” ~ Sitting Bull

Featured IPN Connection

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



Protecting and restoring Iowa's land, water and wildlife.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) is a statewide 501 (c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization that works with private landowners and public agencies to protect and restore Iowa's land, water and wildlife. Since our founding in 1979, our members and staff have protected more than 175,000 acres of Iowa's natural resources.

Learn more at: www.inhf.org



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
- 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.

Spring 2020 Events

Don't miss the **Region 6 Winter Meeting – February 29 at Pioneer Ridge Nature Center**. Potluck at noon, followed by speaker **Pete Eyheralde**. Go to the IPN Calendar for details.

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

March	27-28	Day of Insects Workshops and Reception – Reiman Gardens, Ames, IA
April	4 22	Region 4 Pasque Flower Field Trip – Pisgah, IA Earth Day Celebration – Jester Park Nature Center www.polkcountyiowa.gov
May	2 13 29-30	Fowler Forest Wildflower Walk – Smithland, IA Codfish Hollow Prairie Walk - Jackson County Conservation Board 563-652-3783. Rain or shine. Loess Hills Prairie Seminar – Check IPN Calendar for details



Bloodroot
Sanguinaria canadensis
 Photo by Tenlea Turner

2020 marks IPN's 30th Anniversary
Join us on the prairie and help us celebrate!



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

SPRING 2020

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IPN Celebrating 30 Years



www.facebook.com/IowaPrairieNetwork



[#IowaPrairieNet](https://twitter.com/IowaPrairieNet)



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Photo by Tenlea Turner