



Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter

Summer 2019

Dunn Ranch Prairie— Photo by Tenlea Turner

2019 Silent Auction Proceeds Recipient

Joe Jayjack, INHF Communications Director and Tenlea Turner

For the past 20 years, proceeds from the Region 5 Winter Seminar silent auction have been donated to support prairie restoration projects across the state of Iowa. So far, \$101,334 have been contributed to internships, scholarships, management projects, and land purchase assistance. The 2019 proceeds went toward the protection and purchase of the Hargroves II property in Monona County, in partnership with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) and Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

INHF recently purchased 162 acres of land in Monona County with the intention of transferring it to the Iowa DNR for public use. This potential addition to the Loess Hills Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the Turin Special Landscape Area and lies just a mile from the east boundary of the DNR's Loess Hills WMA. The parcel contains classic loess hills topography, scenic vistas, bur oak woodlands, high-quality native prairie, and restorable native prairie.

What is unique about this property?

The property contains a mix of very high-quality remnant loess hills prairie, restorable loess hills prairie enrolled in the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and row-crop fields (all enrolled in CRP), and bur oak woodlands. Restoration potential of the remnant prairie found on the knolls and steep slopes is excellent.

Why is it significant?

The more than 100 acres of remnant prairie is significant along with all the crop fields now in native vegetation, in helping to protect water quality in the area. The property is approximately 1 mile from the Iowa DNR's Loess Hills WMA, which is over 2,700 acres. It is also located in the Loess Hills Bird Conservation Area (BCA) and is important habitat for species like the grasshopper sparrow and western meadowlark.

Future of the property

INHF currently owns the property, but is partnering with the Iowa DNR to secure funding and eventually transfer the property to their ownership. The property will be open to the public following the transfer. IPN is pleased to be partnering with INHF and Iowa DNR in this endeavor.

IPN Officers

Michelle Biodrowski, President
Jon Judson, Vice President
Ed Sibley, Treasurer
Corinne Bulat, Secretary

Committees

Communications and Events

Chair: Anna Golightly
Webmaster: Glenn Pollock
Newsletter Editor: Tenlea Turner

Finance

Chair: Joyce Hornstein

Membership

Chair: Leesa McNeil

Burning Questions

*What are those shiny green beetle bugs in my garden? What kind of bird is that? Why should I put native plants in my yard? What can I do to help improve pollinator populations? Where's the nearest public prairie? Will prairie plants grow in moist or shady areas? What is the difference between weeds and wildflowers? Are there any native trees or shrubs I can add to my landscape? Do I need lots of land to start a prairie planting? How do wetlands help the environment? **Who can I contact to learn more about native ecosystems, wildlife, or plant species?***

If you have ever asked yourself any of these questions then Iowa Prairie Network is for you. IPN is a network of professional conservationists, self-taught naturalists, various specialists, and government and non-government organizations across the state that can help you find the answers to your burning questions about our natural heritage and how you can contribute to its preservation and restoration.

If you are interested in learning more about Iowa's prairie, savanna, or wetland ecosystems contact us at iowaprairienetworkorg@gmail.com. Follow us on **Facebook**, **Instagram**, or **Twitter**. Check out our website www.iowaprairienetwork.org. Better yet – join us at one of our many regional events. Everyone is welcome: novice or expert. You will meet some really great people and have lots of fun! **Come join us on the prairie.**

Prairie Highlight

Prickly pear cactus- Photo by Tenlea Turner

Page 2

Eddyville Sand Dunes Prairie

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

If you are looking for a unique prairie experience, the Eddyville Sand Dunes Prairie should be on your list of must-see prairies in Iowa. Located just outside of Eddyville, this 225 acre natural area includes dry sand prairie, wetland, and woodlands, and is home to some species of plants and wildlife that are rare to Iowa, such as prickly pear cactus, ornate box turtles, and 6-lined racerunner lizards.

A stroll along the 1.4 mile trail leads you through each of these valuable ecosystems. While every season possesses its own beauty and wonder, early June is when you'll find the prickly pear in bloom, as well as hoary puccoon and many others. Do yourself a favor – pack a picnic, grab the family, and head out to the Dunes to drink in this rare experience.



IPN Board of Directors

Region 1

Leesa McNeil
Ben Maas

Region 2

Tim Youngquist

Vacant

Region 3

Daryl Smith

Vacant

Region 4

Lance Brisbois
Matt Moles

Region 5

Luke Gran
Anna Golightly

Region 6

Tenlea Turner
Pam White

Region 7

Ray Hamilton
Jennifer Kruse

At Large

Michelle Biodrowski
Jon Judson

Vacant

Ed Sibley

Corinne Bulat
Jacob Pitzenberger



"There are people who think of the prairie as boring, and it is hard not to pity them."

Candace Savage - *Prairie: A Natural History*

Partner Recognition



Leading the way to create a safe, healthy environment and sustainable future for Iowa.

Through advocacy, education and coalition-building, we create large-scale change that makes Iowa a better place to live, work, explore and enjoy.

www.iaenvironment.org



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.

Summer 2019 Events

Mark your calendars for Iowa Prairie Heritage Week – Sept. 8-14, 2019

Upcoming Events – check the IPN calendar for details, updates and more events!

www.iowaprairienetwork.org

June	1-2	Loess Hill Prairie Seminar – 5 p.m. May 31 to 12 p.m. June 2
	2-5	2019 North American Prairie Conference – Houston, TX
	18	Prairie walk – Gleason-Hubel Wildlife Area in Harrison County
	19-20	Cyperaceae & Juncaceae Workshop – Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Polk Co.
	22	INPS Field Trip to Twin Oaks in Warren County
	27	IPN-sponsored Doolittle Prairie Walk – Story City, IA
	27	Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie walk – contact Jackson CCB. 563-652-3783
	29	INPS Field Trip to Kent Park in Johnson County
July	16	Ames High Prairie Walk with Deb Lewis
	25	IPN-sponsored Doolittle Prairie Walk
	27	INPS Hoffman Prairie field trip with MN NPS
August	8-10	2019 Iowa Prairie Conference at Central College in Pella
	13-15	Grass Identification & Ecology Workshop - Kent Park, Johnson County Conservation
	20	Aster Family I.D. and Ecology Workshop at Whiterock Conservancy
	22	IPN-sponsored Doolittle Prairie Walk

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!**



American Beauty on Pale Purple
Coneflower
Photo by Tenlea Turner



Iowa Prairie Network, Inc.

4015 Sergeant Rd.

Sioux City, IA 51106-4013

iowaprairienetworkorg@gmail.com

www.iowaprairienetwork.org

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

SUMMER 2019

Inside this issue:

- 2019 Silent Auction Proceeds Recipient
- Burning Questions p 1
- Prairie Highlight: Eddyville Sand Dunes Prairie
- IPN Board Members and Region Map p 2
- Partner Recognition
- Membership Corner
- 2019 Summer Events p 3

Like us on Facebook! Join the group!

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



www.facebook.com/IowaPrairieNetwork



#IowaPrairieNet



@iowaprairienetwork