

# Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter

## Fall 2016



## Iowa Prairie Heritage Week – **SEPT. 11-17, 2016**

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

In 1983 Governor Terry Brandstad signed a proclamation to declare one week in September as Iowa Prairie Heritage Week to celebrate Iowa's native prairie system. The declaration states that "Iowa's surviving original prairies are uniquely and irreplaceably precious as sites of beauty, recreation, biodiversity and research" and that "only a fraction remains". "Interest in the restoration and reconstruction of Iowa prairies is rapidly growing in Iowa and is providing new environmental, recreational and economic opportunities for Iowans working on public and private lands..." prairies and prairie species continue to demonstrate their special abilities to protect topsoil, cleanse water, store carbon, and provide wildlife habitat..." Researchers are just beginning to understand and unlock the enormous potential value of prairie ecosystems and species for making Iowa farms and cities more sustainable". IPN has been instrumental in renewing this Proclamation over the past several years. Various governmental agencies, non-government organizations, and individuals plan special events during this week, and throughout the month of September, to provide education, information, and recreation for all people interested in Iowa's prairie heritage.

Check the following list of dates for **September** to find an event near you. Additional information can be found on [www.iowaprairienetwork.org](http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org). See you on the prairie!

### IPN Committees

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Editor: Tenlea Turner

#### Events

Chair: Pam White

#### Finance

Chair: Joyce Horstein  
\$10,388.80 (07/2016)

#### Membership

Chair: Leesa McNeil

Date	Time	Event
2	4 pm	Bee and Butterfly Festival at Dickinson County Nature Center – Learn about bees and butterflies, enjoy crafts and entertainment
3	10 am 1 pm	Monarch Tagging at Fife's Grove Park, Ringold County – Participate in monarch tagging activities Monarch Tagging at Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa, IA – Participate in monarch tagging activities
6	6 pm	Practical Conservationist Series, Jester Park, Polk County – 6 week class on conservation practices, ends Oct 15
7	5:30 pm	Happy Hour Harvest at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Seed collection, gather at Founders Irish Pub afterward
9	10 am	Kauten Fen Walk at Kauten Farm, 9573 110th St Fayette, IA – Visit what's billed as one of the best fens in Iowa
10	9 am 9:30 am 10 am 1 pm 1 pm	Monarch Madness at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, IA – Monarch tagging activities. Registration required Monarch Tagging at Hitchcock Nature Center, Pottawattamie County – Registration required. <b>2<sup>nd</sup> session @ 10:30 am</b> Puccoon Prairie Restoration at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Clearing of brush and other invasive plants Prairie Exploration at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Explore tall grass prairie, search for insects, tag monarchs Monarch Tagging at Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa, IA – Participate in monarch tagging activities
11	8:30 am 1 pm	Fall Festival at Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City, IA – Canoeing, air rifles, archery, nature challenge, trail tram rides, live critter presentation, monarch butterfly tagging, and more! A lunch of grilled burgers and brats will be served. Registration required Elk Talks and Monarch Tagging at Hillview Recreation Area, Plymouth County – Celebrating 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hillview!
12	6:30 pm	Prairie Walk at Hamilton's Prairie, Maquoketa, IA – Prairie remnant, plant identification, and rare plant species. See Calendar
13	6 pm	Monarch Tagging at Sioux City Prairie, Sioux City, IA – Monarch tagging activities (Talbot Rd entrance)
15	6 pm 6:45 pm 7 pm	"Back to Your Roots" Prairie Hike at Kothenbeutel Prairie, Franklin Co. – 40 acre prairie remnant and savanna. See Calendar A Little Reading on the Prairie at Sioux City Prairie – Outdoor reading event, inclement weather location: Briar Cliff University Full Moon Hike at Red Feather Prairie, Saylorville Lake Visitor Center – Full moon, the lake, and prairie
17	9 am 9 am 10 am 11 am 1 pm	Volunteer Prairie Work Day Seed Harvest at Whiterock Conservancy, Coon Rapids, IA – Seed collection, free lunch provided Celebration Seed Harvest at Snyder Farm, Elkhart, IA – Seed collection, complimentary lunch. Reservations required Monarch Tagging Whitewater Canyon Wildlife Area, Dubuque County – Monarch tagging. Reservations required Gladys Black Day at Shadle Park, Pleasantville, IA – SOAR (Saving Our Avian Resources) event. IPN representatives will be present. Monarch Tagging at Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa, IA – Participate in monarch tagging activities

*Look for more events on page 3, and remember to check the IPN website calendar for more details!*



# Prairie Highlight



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## Late Bloomers

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

As the days grow shorter, and daytime temperatures reach more tolerable levels, you may think that finding colorful blooms in the prairie is nearing an end. Summer days may be waning, but the beauty of the prairie is not. The grasses begin to change from lush green to hues of brown, red, and purple, and blooming forbs such as *Helianthus*, *Silphium*, and *Solidago* blanket the prairie in yellows and golds. A closer look may reveal some special surprises. Check out a prairie near you and see what late blooming gems you can find.



Nodding Ladies Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*)  
Photo taken by Ryan Schmidt in Jones Co.



Downy Gentian (*Gentiana puberulenta*)  
Photo taken by Anna MacDonald in Madison Co.



Great Blue Lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*)  
Photo taken by Tenlea Turner in Kossuth Co.

*A star bloomed on the Prairie  
And from it we were born  
You and I are the things of Aster  
Of Aster all things are formed  
For she shines in the nighttime  
And she burns in the day  
The sky is filled with Aster  
But the Prairie's where she lay  
Jacob Pitzenberger*



Rough Blazing Star (*Lobelia aspera*)  
Photo: taken by Tenlea Turner in Woodbury Co.



Snow-on-the-mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*)  
Photo taken by Tenlea Turner in Woodbury Co.



Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)  
Photo taken by Don Nelson in Floyd Co.

## IPN Board of Directors

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Ryan Schmidt  
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*"I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright."*

Henry David Thoreau - Walking



IPN has 150 members that share an enthusiasm for prairies! Consider joining today!

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

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

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

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

Have you registered your prairie or garden with Plant.Grow.Fly. yet?

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

IPN is an official partner of Plant.Grow.Fly., the Blank Park Zoo's initiative to promote habitat for our native pollinators. You can help by registering your backyard pollinator garden or prairie at [www.plantgrowfly.org](http://www.plantgrowfly.org)

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

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”

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.

2016 Events Please check our calendar for events coming in November and December

Upcoming Events – check the IPN calendar for details, updates and more events! <a href="http://www.iowaprairienetwork.org">www.iowaprairienetwork.org</a>		
September	18	12 pm - Monarch Fest at Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines, IA – Plant.Grow.Fly program. IPN will be there to celebrate the fall Monarch migration
		1 pm – Prairie Walk at Eddyville Dunes, Eddyville, IA – Visit a sand prairie remnant
	20	2 pm – Raptor Release, Story County – Release of rehabilitated hawk followed by bus and walking tours. See Calendar
	22	6 pm – Hitch Hike at Hitchcock Nature Center, Honey Creek, IA – Hike the Wildwood Trail
		1 pm – IPN Region One Seed 'n Feed at Prairie Hills in Plymouth Co., Westfield, IA – Seed collection followed by light dinner. Reservations required. See Calendar
	24	9 am – National Public Lands Day at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, IA – Volunteer day. Pre-register
October		9 am – Turin Prairie Dedication, Monona County – seed harvest, hikes, birding and van tour to follow.
	29	1 pm – Monarch Tagging at Hurstville Interpretive Center, Maquoketa, IA – Participate in monarch tagging activities
		4 pm – Doolittle Prairie Seed Harvest at Doolittle Prairie State Preserve, Story City, IA – Seed collection. Pre-register
	4	4 pm - Doolittle Prairie Seed Harvest at Doolittle Prairie State Preserve, Story City, IA – Seed collection, Pre-register
	5	5:30 pm – Happy Hour Harvest at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Seed collection, then Founders Irish Pub
	5-6	7:30 am - Heartland Native Plant Summit – Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha, NE – See calendar for agenda
	6	5 pm – Prairie Seed Harvest at Annett Nature Center and Park, Warren County – Seed collection. Register online
	8	9 am - Ding Darling Day at Neal Smith NWR – stewardship day
	15	6 pm – Moonlight Seed Harvest at Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Seed collection followed by a bonfire, cider and s'mores.
	18	5 pm – Mounds Fall Hike at Woodland Mounds, Ackworth, IA – Hike Native American mounds. Pre-register





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

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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](http://www.facebook.com/IowaPrairieNetwork)