

Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter

Fall 2018



Downy gentian (*Gentiana puberula*)
Photo by Tenlea Turner

Deep Connections

Submitted by Leesa McNeil

More than the theme for the 42nd annual Loess Hills Prairie Seminar (LHPS), Deep Connections reminds us of the native plants' connection to the earth and prairie lovers' connection to prairies! Prairie enthusiasts enjoyed three days of events that educated those in attendance about the prairies and prairie stressors from June 1-3, 2018.

While the weather was hot and buggy on Friday for the 45 INHF land stewardship interns that worked to cut and clear invasive brush, the conditions were great for the remainder of the weekend seminar. Many enjoyed camping on the prairie and taking the guided walks to learn about everything prairie from soils, woody plants, lichens and fungi, prairie birds, dragonflies and damselflies, reptiles and amphibians, bryophytes, and flora abundant in the area.

A session on celebrating creation with plant nations of the Yankton Sioux Tribe provided another perspective of plants and Iowa's native heritage. There were also sessions on geocaching, and map and compass navigation in addition to many fun sessions for the youth—including youth yoga, fun with furrries, introduction to archery, and a session on prehistoric animals in the Loess Hills.

Two keynote sessions on Saturday evening provided additional educational opportunities. Randall Cass, Extension Entomologist, provided an overview of the grant project studying honey bees and native bee health in Iowa. Dr. Thomas Rosburg, Professor, Ecology and Botany at Drake University, brought more science to the seminar as he shared about the history of midwestern fire regimes and vegetation management. One walk-away — summer fires may be most effective and are definitely more historically likely than prairie fires at other times of the year.

The seminar enjoyed a robust silent auction and organizers are appreciative of all the contributions made to help sustain the seminar into the future! As always — all sessions, children events and camping were FREE!

Mark your calendar for the 2019 LHPS — June 1-3!



2018 Iowa Prairie Heritage Week (IPHW)

September 9 – 15

Help us celebrate Iowa's prairie heritage. Events are scheduled across the state by government agencies and various organizations. There is something for everyone to enjoy; monarch tagging, prairie walks, educational field trips, stewardship activities, and much, much more. Go to www.iowaprairienetwork.org for dates, locations, and details.

See you on the prairie!

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Prairie Highlight

Rearing Monarchs Responsibly

Resource: www.monarchjointventure.org – submitted by Tenlea Turner

Less than 10% of monarch eggs make it to adulthood. Concerned about the declining population many conservation-minded individuals try to improve their odds of survival by collecting and rearing eggs and/or larvae and releasing the adults. Rearing monarchs is a remarkable experience for young and old alike. It also provides an excellent opportunity to learn the value of conserving our natural resources. As well-meaning as your rearing activities may be, it's important to use care when engaging in this endeavor. Mishandling larvae or adults can lead to exposure to parasites, spread of diseases, and potential death to your precious treasures. Listed below are some of the tips Monarch Joint Venture recommends for rearing monarchs responsibly. For detailed instructions please go to www.monarchjointventure.org.



Keep the cage clean. Rearing containers need to be cleaned of frass and dried or old milkweed daily. Mold will grow if this is not done. Clean containers often with a 20% bleach solution.

Keep milkweed fresh. Add fresh milkweed every day to ensure monarch larvae have quality food.

Avoid extreme temperature and moisture conditions. Keep rearing containers out of direct sunlight and make sure that there is not too much moisture (paper towel should be moist, but not dripping wet). Temperatures that are too cold will delay monarch development. If the container is in direct sun, it will act like a greenhouse and heat up to potentially lethal temperatures.

Be conscious of disease. Viral and bacterial infections spread very quickly from one caterpillar to another, so keep containers clean and sterilize them often. A 20% bleach solution works well to sterilize rearing containers. Rinse with water before next use.

Please note: Monarchs reared in close proximity are highly susceptible to disease transmission. Captive breeding for release is not recommended. For more information on proper handling and rearing procedures go to www.monarchjointventure.org.



Photos by Tenlea Turner

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"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

– Frank Lloyd Wright

IPN has 148 members that share an enthusiasm for prairies! Consider joining today!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

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Phone (optional): _____ Circle one: home - work - cell

Membership Levels & Dues (check one):

- Student Free; *please provide a valid school email address or ID*
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- Prefer to receive newsletters via e-mail at the address listed above \$0
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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”



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



Let's get down and dirty, plant the seeds and watch them grow and fly! Blank Park Zoo is offering discounted zoo membership to PGF Gardeners when they register their garden!

www.plantgrowfly.org

Don't forget to *RENEW* your membership! Go to 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.

2018 FALL EVENTS

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

September	8	IPN Region 6 prairie walk at Timber Hill Oak Savanna, Leon, IA
	11	IPN Region 4 prairie walk at Folsom Point Preserve, Council Bluffs
	11	Monarch Tagging at Sioux City Prairie
	12	Codfish Hollow Hill Prairie walk, east of Maquoketa, IA
	13	IPHW – Prairie walk at Five Ridge Prairie, Westfield, IA
	15	INPS field trip - Plant and Insect Hike at Red Oak Prairie
	15	Monarch Madness at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
	16	2018 Linn County Landowner Forum/Expo
	18	Prairie seed collection hike/workshop in Council Bluffs
	22	First Day Hikes - Fall Hike at Stone State Park
27	IPN REGION 1 Seed & Feed at Bill & Dotty Zales' Prairie Hills	
October	6	IPN Region 4 prairie walk at Waubonsie State Park
	9	Region 6 Martha's Birthday Hike location to be determined
November	TBA	Go to www.iowaprairienetwork.org for updates





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

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www.facebook.com/IowaPrairieNetwork



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