

Erythronium

Newsletter of the Iowa Native Plant Society, vol. 26 no. 1 Nov 2020

Join your INPS friends at the Annual Meeting – November 14th

COVID can't stop us from enjoying our plantloving friends at the INPS Annual Meeting! Please join the ZOOM meeting:

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2020 9:30 to 11:30am (CST)

Instructions for joining this meeting are below. In place of a field trip, we'll take a virtual hike through ISU's Ada Hayden Herbarium, where Curator Deb Lewis will explain the history, use, and accomplishments of Iowa's largest herbarium. We'll also watch short video clips from several INPS Board members about their favorite native plants and sites. These field trip substitutes will be followed by a short business meeting with reports on what INPS has done in 2020 and our plans for 2021.

You don't have to be an INPS member to join the meeting, although membership is required for voting on business-meeting decisions.

Here's how to join the meeting:

Sign in a bit before the starting time, 9:30 am. Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Click this URL to join the meeting: https://iastate.zoom.us/j/92757098419

Or, go to https://iastate.zoom.us/join and enter meeting ID: 927 5709 8419

Or join from dial-in phone line:

Dial: +1 646 876 9923 or +1 301 715 8592

Meeting ID: 927 5709 8419

Zoom is available as a free download at: https://zoom.us/pricing (click the "buy now" button for the download of the free version).

Sign in up to 15 minutes early to be sure that your connection works.

We're looking forward to seeing you there!



Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of INPS – A Look Back at Our First Year

by Deb Lewis

It is hard to believe that it's been 25 years since I suggested to Bill Norris that we should have a Native Plant Society. His response: "Let's do it!" Here's a look back – from the first INPS Newsletter, June 1995: The first informational meeting for creation of the Iowa Native Plant Society was held in Northeast Iowa, Saturday, April 29th at Backbone State Park. Thirty-two were in attendance on a cool, overcast day. In the morning, Deb Lewis led a lively discussion with participation by all in attendance to address proposed goals and activities of INPS. After lunch, the group drove to Mossy Glen State Preserve to spend the afternoon hiking in one of Iowa's most pristine forests... A good time was had by all!



Photo by Deb Lewis (continued on page 8)

Table of Contents

Announcements and articles	pages 1, 4-8
Leaves/President's Notebook; Spec	ial Giftpage 2
2020 Grant recipients and 2019 Rep	ort pages 3-4
Membership form	page 8
Native Plants AND Insects	special insert

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as above)

Printed on recycled paper

Leaves of the President's Notebook



Well the world has really changed! The nice thing is that Nature remains in its cycles. Winter is coming and we can expect cold and snow, although how much and when are still up in the air. I have enjoyed reading the observations on the *Spiranthes* species that people have been reporting on the Iowa-Native-Plants listserv. Funny what we can observe when we slow down and look!

I am in the process of moving to town after 40 plus years here. I have accumulated a lot of stuff that I will miss. I will also have to find new places to explore!

Note that this year's INPS Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, November 14th from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. Join us!

~ Lloyd Crim



INPS Receives Special Gift to Honor Glenn Pollock

The Iowa Native Plant Society has received an honoring gift from Cindy Hildebrand and Roger Maddox. The gift honors Glenn Pollock, a well-known leader for promoting prairies, and most recently for researching and documenting prairie pioneer cemeteries. His commitment to introducing people to native plants has impacted so many in Iowa and Nebraska over several decades.

The INPS Board desired to do something special with the donation. The result was a decision to help a prairie cemetery that needs management, agreeing to add additional funds to cover what is needed.

Tom Rosburg stepped up with a willingness to visit a few sites to assess the need. Both township cemeteries were in Glenn's home county, Crawford. Tom coordinated this with Glenn and the result was a plan to do management at Willow Cemetery. Tom asked Crawford County Conservation Board to mow fire breaks this summer for a burn next spring.

The Board appreciates the work of Tom and his students in the Drake Prairie Rescue for their help as INPS joins in honoring Glenn, and we thank Cindy and Roger for their gift.

Glenn has compiled a list of prairie cemeteries; watch for it to be posted to the INPS website in the near future!



First INPS logo, selected at the 1996 annual meeting, designed by Sara Sheeley

What's in a Name, Native Plants AND Insects, by MJ Hatfield

As members of the lowa Native Plant Society we appreciate, study, document and enjoy our native plants. The recent postings of photos of blooming spring native plants on the INP Mailing List (sponsored by INPS) highlight the return of spring. However something was missing in most of the photos: insects! True, insects are not native plants and this is a Native Plant Society, but given the evolutionary connections between insects & native plants and the reported precipitous decline of insects world wide, maybe they are worth a closer look. But first we have to see them, be curious about them and then certainly our knowledge will increase, not just about insects but also about our native plants.

In an effort to promote the absolute coolness of insects to native plant enthusiasts, please scroll down to view photos of a few insects along with their binomial names. Does the name of the insect help you determine which plant(s) the insect might be associated with, which plant the larva may require for survival? You may know more about insects than you think.

Please turn to the back pages of the Newsletter for more information.

Photos are NOT to scale



Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges) Asphondylia helianthiflorae



Chrysomelidae (Leaf Beetles) *Physonota helianthi*



Tortricidae, Suleima helianthana



Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges)
Asphondylia helianthiqlobulus



Tischeriidae (Trumpet Leafminer Moths)

Astrotischeria helianthi



Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges) Olpodiplosis helianthi



Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges)

Pilodiplosis helianthibulla, No adult photo on BugGuide

INPS Grants Information: 2020 INPS Grant Recipients Announced

Please join the INPS board in congratulating our 2020 grant recipients! Some of these projects may be delayed by the coronavirus crisis, but when completed they will address education, protection, and management of Iowa's nature plants and natural areas. The grants are made possible through your dues and generous donations to INPS. Thanks to all for making these grants possible! *Connie Mutel*

"Ashton Cross Country Course Prairie Signage Project," \$500 Education proposal

Megan Lenss and Stratis Giannakouros, the University of Iowa Office of Sustainability and Environment, Iowa City IA

"Floristic Inventory of Mossy Glen State Preserve, Clayton Co., IA (1994-2020): Final Phase," \$850 Research proposal

Professor Bill Norris, Dept of Natural Sciences,
Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM
(Note that Bill received more than the usual
research grant limit because of his significant
previous efforts inventorying this important preserve,
and ongoing efforts on other Iowa natural areas.)
"Woodbury County Conservation Board Prairie

Rescue Equipment," \$1,250.00 Restoration /
Management proposal

Dawn Snyder, Woodbury County Conservation Board, Sioux City, IA

"Benton County Fen Acquisition Project," \$1,250 Land Acquisition proposal

Karen Phelps, Benton County Conservation, Vinton, IA

"Friends of Hickory Hill,", \$835 Restore Iowa! proposal

Casey Kohrt, Friends of Hickory Hill Park, Iowa City, IA



2019 INPS Grants Final Report Floristic Inventory for Lake Iowa Park

by Cecilia Dirks, Iowa County Conservation
Lake Iowa park, managed by Iowa County
Conservation (ICC), has acres of beautiful restored
prairie, but it also has areas that could be true
remnants, areas that were never cropped or disturbed.
ICC obtained a grant from the Iowa Native Plant

Society (INPS) to find out if there are any remnant areas left at Lake Iowa Park and how to best manage them. This information will create a baseline for data collection and help ICC create a management plan to help these remnant areas survive for generations.



Dr. Thomas Rosburg was chosen to complete the floristic inventory with a background including a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Master's in Plant Ecology and Bachelor of Science in Fish and Wildlife Biology from Iowa State University. With his impressive resume and wealth of knowledge we were very pleased when he agreed to the survey, and with the monetary help of the INPS grant, ICC was able to afford the project.

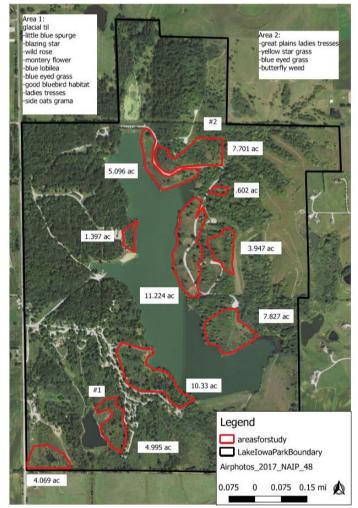
Iowa County staff created a map that highlighted the areas most likely to have true remnant prairies. These areas were selected using GIS software, aerial imagery, and descriptions of Lake Iowa Park from previous staff members. Using this information, ten areas, 57 acres in total, were selected for study. Dr. Rosburg performed meandering plant surveys on June 5th, July 12th, and September 8th of 2019 to better capture the different growing seasons. He observed 245 vascular plant species, including many native species.

Dr. Rosburg lays out evidence in his report that Lake Iowa Park may have remnant prairie, which is very exciting and encouraging news. His report includes how to manage these remnant areas. The most pressing issue is the encroachment of invasive species. Dr. Rosburg suggests using multiple stressors against the invasive species at the proper timing. Iowa County Conservation will put areas containing potential remnants at the top of the list when developing the management plan and deciding where

to start fighting back against the invasive species that have taken hold in our areas.



Native Study Areas



We are very excited to see some unusual species and very pleased to know that we have remnant prairies still in Iowa County, Iowa, a place that has been so changed from the original landscape. Thank you very much for the hard work from Dr. Rosburg. Thank you to the Iowa Native Plant Society for making this project possible.

A link to Dr. Rosburg's full report can be found at https://iowacountyconservation.org/2020/03/23/floristic-inventory-of-lake-iowa-park/.



Galearis spectabilis - Showy Orchis

by Stephen Johnson and Mary Stark

Most worthy of its common name of showy orchis, *Galearis spectabilis* is perhaps the most striking of the spring flowers in Iowa woodlands. We have been on a search for them together for twenty-two years. What

we have found in the intervening years is that this delicate remarkable plant is somewhat of a playful trickster, suddenly appearing in unexpected places while utterly disappearing from what we consider established haunts. To say the least it is rarely encountered, sporadically appearing, but delightful to



see.

In the wooded natural areas around our base in Pella we have seen "stable" clusters at Cordova County Park and a nice, small population on a deer trail intersecting the hiking trail at Lake Red Rock's North Overlook. But the

largest and best-known population was at Big Rock Park within the city limits of Pella.

Then there are the isolated trickster sightings. One was atop a hill at South Tailwater that is covered in *Hepatica* on its north-facing slope but is fairly sunny on its crest. There we found sizable specimens about 15 years ago but for 13 seasons after it was not seen. Conversely, in 2012 a beautiful specimen arose by the hiking trail at North Overlook some distance from the afore mentioned plants on the deer trail and just as suddenly it disappeared again. Then those deer trail specimens seem never to flower!

At Big Rock Park, we have walked all the hiking trails and quite a few of the deer trails in search of *G. spectabilis*. Twenty years ago, it was sporadically but widely distributed throughout suitable habitats in the park, but always close to a human or deer used trail. As it happens, recent scientific studies show that certain species of rare plants benefit from the presence of a trail.

Back then, at the south end of Big Rock, we were amazed to happen upon two or three of the largest *G. spectabilis* individuals we had ever seen. We indicated that the top of the inflorescence of the largest came up to Steve's knee, giving it a height of about 38-42 cm.

The Flora of North America states a maximum size at about half that number. Sadly, the plants were pinned between a sizable and spreading Amur honeysuckle

and the mown hiking trail.



Nineteen years and perhaps ten invasive species later, we find that alien garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata) and native beggar's lice (Hackelia virginiana) like trail-side openness, too, and so far, we can find only two small G. spectabilis and one diminutive individual, two km apart. These are growing in a cleanish understory in the shade of Amur honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii) shrubs. The first to flower was just west of the south meadow and in the rather shady habitat beneath a dense honeysuckle shrub (it did at least apparently deter garlic mustard). This G. spectabilis had deep lavender hoods, and across the trail another, perhaps no more than 38 mm tall, had two flowers with delicate pink hoods. The lower elevation plant and the last to flower also had the light lavender to pink hoods. It is comforting to see this species hold out in the face of the invasive assault. It again seems like a trickster, as we have perhaps seen the largest and the smallest specimens at

the Big Rock Natural Area—somewhat akin to the cake that Alice eats in *Alice in Wonderland*.

Apart from competition for light, garlic mustard can be more than a meter tall, while *Galearis* comes typically to ankle height. The garlic mustard may also secrete chemicals into the soil that inhibit or annihilate mycorrhizal fungi such as the *Ceratobasidium* that is symbiotic with showy orchis.

As always, the search will continue. The transience of showy orchis, like Alice's Cheshire cat, keeps us looking.

Remnant Prairie Rescue

by Sarah Nizzi

In times of worry, despair and confusion, it can be hard to know where to turn, what to believe and how to move forward with life. Life as we know it will likely never be the same. One example of steadiness that does remain is nature. As I write this, the month of April is nearly over and despite a pandemic the spring season is giving us all it has to offer. Trees are beginning to bud, spring ephemerals have emerged, some already gone, and the male wild turkey continues to gobble for a lady friend. The work many of us do to restore, preserve and protect our native ecosystems continues on. The desire to explore familiar and new places has not wavered. Our everlasting appreciation of native plants fuels us with the hope needed to keep our spirits up.

Nearly a decade ago, I had the pleasure of being a Drake University graduate and a student of many passionate, knowledgeable professors. A highlight in my Drake career was helping Dr. Thomas Rosburg with Drake University Prairie Rescue, a program Tom has been running for many years. Annually students are paid to help restore private remnant prairies across the state. This past fall I had the opportunity to relive the glory days and join a new crew of prairie rescuers, as well as my dear friends and former professors Don and Danielle Wirth to conduct prairie restoration work. The task at hand was removing a thick stand of smooth sumac, raspberries, wild grape and other undesirable species at Polk City Cemetery prairie. I had not been to this site since my undergrad days. I knew species like the infrequent Eastern prickly pear (Opuntia humifusa) cacti were present (the only known record for Polk County). I remembered the site as a special one but had also heard the conditions of

the remnants had been in serious decline. The dry, sandy, gravelly soils of Polk City Cemetery offered us many unique prairie species over the years, but these species have not been able to fully present. themselves for some time. The goal of the restoration work is to give these species another fighting chance.



Drake Prairie Rescue Students fall 2019, photo by Tom Rosburg

The winter months came and went, and this April Tom and I went back to Polk City Cemetery to continue what had been started. The pandemic has left Tom without a crew to help restore remnant prairies. I knew I would have ample amount of time to spare, so I volunteered to help with whatever he may need. Plus, spring projects generally mean prescribed fire and who doesn't want to help with that?



Photo by Sarah Nizzi

One sunny morning with winds out of the northeast Tom and I set to burn the seven brush piles (from a safe physical distance, of course). While waiting for our brush piles to burn down we explored the plant community that was once dominated by undesirable species. We were encouraged by the native plant response to our brush removal. The hillside was full of Culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*) and spiderwort (*Tradescantia* spp.) seedlings amongst common early successional forbs. I found a tiny flower I thought looked just like a violet, but it didn't have the characteristic basal leaves of a violet species. We got down on our hands and knees for a closer look

and Tom determined it was a native pansy species within the genus Viola. We both took mediocre photos with our smart phones, and when our eyes adjusted to the new addition on the landscape, it was evident the species was sporadically scattered throughout the prairie hillside. Tom mentioned this species had not been documented at this site previously. As a native plant enthusiast, I was very excited to have stumbled upon this discovery. Later we concluded the species was Viola bicolor (common name: wild pansy), a rare native species found on usually disturbed, sandy soils in central, southeast and south-central Iowa according to the Vascular Plants of Iowa. It stands only a few inches in height and can be easily overlooked.



Viola bicolor, photo by Sarah Nizzi

We spent the next hour burning the remaining remnant within this parcel and another hillside adjacent to the northeast. It has been many years since these remnants have seen prescribed fire. The amount of native fuel left to burn is only a sliver of what it could be.

Management is an ongoing process. The area where we discovered *Viola bicolor* still requires more work. Continued cutting and spot treatment of herbicide will be necessary to keep the encroachment of undesirable woody species at bay. Native grasses may need to be interseeded to the site to ensure future prescribed fire management. Areas of dense shrubs still stand on the north end, the south end of the cemetery has yet to be touched by mechanical tools,

and the Eastern prickly pear cacti are in desperate need of help. Eastern red cedars and other woodies have shaded out the cacti. The vibrant yellow flowers have not been seen for some time.

The work left at Polk City Cemetery is plentiful but not impossible and worth the time and sweat. I am thankful to be part of the process and anxious to see what the future has in store. Was our discovery of *Viola bicolor* simply a brief moment in time, only to be seen post disturbance? Continued management and time may help us find an answer.

I wish everyone the very best in these trying times. Keep in mind, the seasons will continue to come and go, no matter the changes in our daily lives. Don't forget to make time for the outdoors, help others when you can safely, engage in restoration work to refuel the human spirit and discover the surprises the restoration process has to offer. It is our responsibility to preserve the jewels of our native ecosystems.

Field Trip Anyone?

by Dianne Blankenship, contact for INPS calendar of activities and Tom Scherer, contact for INPS field trips

From Dianne: We can say one thing for certain, 2020 has been a year like no other in so many ways. For the Iowa Native Plant Society, Tom Scherer and I were talking to field trip leaders who were willing to offer a visit to a special site, until COVID arrived. Thank you to Mark Leoschke, Glenn Pollock, and Jim Kessler for offering field trips that had to be canceled.

We had hoped to see our native plant friends at field trips and at the Loess Hills Prairie Seminar and North American Prairie Conference. What a walk down memory lane of past LHPS's was provided for all to enjoy: https://youtu.be/jITkBqGK5_E.

In addition to webinars and Zoom meetings, it was still possible to get outdoors to enjoy native plants in our yards or at parks and other natural areas. That is supposed to be very good for us in many ways.

The Iowa Native Plants listserv kept subscribers up to date with what was blooming. To subscribe: Send an email to: iowa-native-plants-request@ list.uiowa.edu; leave the Subject blank; send the message: subscribe. If you have any trouble completing the enrollment process, send an email to MJ Hatfield and she will enroll you directly.

Contact me or Tom Scherer with your ideas for

future field trips, with hopes we can do some in 2021.

From Tom: As Dianne so aptly described, the 2020 INPS Field Trip schedule and planning was cancelled just as we were getting a few leaders and sites identified. We both agreed back in March that this decision was appropriate.

Nonetheless, as a nature enthusiast and a nature photographer who loves prairie and wildflowers in any season, I continued to spend time as I always do, enjoying our native areas with friends and dedicated conservationists. I decided not to travel a long way from home this year but have managed several outings close to Des Moines and a couple not so close: Pasque Flowers in the Loess Hills
Trout Lilies in Crawford County with Glenn Pollock
Prairie Violet, Birds Foot Violet, Ground Plum and many more at Tipton Prairie
Showy Orchis at Ledges State Park
White Lady Slippers in Guthrie County
Yellow Lady Slippers at Hayden and Crossman
Prairies

Butterfly Milkweed, Rattlesnake Master, Phlox, and so many more at Doolittle Prairie Western Prairie Fringed Orchid in Polk County Yellow Coneflower, Prairie Sage, Wild Bergamot at Ames High prairie

As you can determine, with so many plants to enjoy and sites to visit – with a friend or solo – it is up to you and me how we decide to live in a 'non normal' season of plants and flowers. I have made my decision. Take a family member, or a grandchild or even another youth who may not have ever seen native prairie. And, don't miss out on the beauty of native plants in winter! Now is our chance!



Doolittle Prairie, photo by Tom Scherer





Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges) - *Asphondylia helianthiflorae* Images: https://bugguide.net/node/view/1765976/bgimage Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/1765976







Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges) - *Asphondylia helianthiglobulus* Images: https://bugguide.net/node/view/304691/bgimage Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/304691



Tischeriidae (Trumpet Leafminer Moths) - *Astrotischeria helianthi* Image: https://bugguide.net/node/view/1733893 Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/1182378



Chrysomelidae (Leaf Beetles) - *Physonota helianthi* Sunflower Tortoise Beetle

Images: https://bugguide.net/node/view/39977/bgimage
Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/39977



Tortricidae—*Suleima helianthana*, Sunflower Bud Moth Images: https://bugguide.net/node/view/378676/bgimage Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/378676



Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges) - *Olpodiplosis helianthi* Images: https://bugguide.net/node/view/1033405/bgimage Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/1033405



Cecidomyiidae (Gall Midges) - *Pilodiplosis helianthibulla* Images: https://bugguide.net/node/view/313309/bgimage Information: https://bugguide.net/node/view/313309

As you meander this summer, the prairies, woodlands, wetlands and even the so-called 'waste' areas of lowa, pull out your fancy phone and snap some photos of insects and sign of insects. What's that insect and who's eating these plants? Sign up for an account on BugGuide (hosted by ISU) and post your photos. There is a ID Request category just for this purpose. Take the time and don't be shy. Let the insect enthusiasts and professionals of BG help with identification and you may just light up Iowa on the BG map!



Enchanter's Nightshade, *Circaea lutetiana* https://bugguide.net/node/view/1621827



Stigmella ceanothi
https://bugguide.net/node/view/1319920

BugGuide.Net: https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740

We are an online community of naturalists who enjoy learning about and sharing our observations of insects, spiders, and other related creatures. We enjoy the opportunity to instill in others the fascination and appreciation that we share for the intricate lives of these oft-maligned creatures.

We collect photographs of bugs from the United States and Canada for identification and research.

We summarize our findings in guide pages for each order, family, genus, and species.

More than just a clearinghouse for information, this site helps expand on the natural histories of our subjects. By capturing the place and time that submitted images were taken, we are creating a virtual collection that helps define where and when things might be found.

We capture never-before-seen behaviors and we have photos of species that you won't find anywhere else on the web.

Iowa Insects Mailing List

The lowa Insects Mailing List provides a forum for those interested in lowa's insects and, more generally, invertebrates, their identification and ecology. Its purpose is to encourage novices who are trying to expand their knowledge about the incredible world of insects. The lowa Insects Mailing List is an outgrowth of the Iowa Native Plants Mailing List as that list frequently receives posts pertaining to insects. As with the Iowa Native Plants List, and in recognition of the tight ecological relationships between plants and insects, another objective of the Iowa Insects Mailing List is to promote the Iowa Native Plant Society.

You are invited to join the Iowa Insects Mailing List

Send an email to: <u>listserv@list.uiowa.edu</u>

Leave the subject line blank

Type the message: subscribe lowa-insects

Or contact mjhatfield@oneota.org

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of INPS! (continued from page 1)

Rochester Cemetery Prairie was the site of the second informational meeting and field trip on July 29th. The field trip was led by Paul Christiansen and Jim Scott, and attendance was at least 25.

A third informational meeting was held at Backbone State Park on September 9th. This meeting was in conjunction with the DNR Natural History Foray held Sept. 8th–10th, and the field trip/foray study that day was at Backbone.

The INPS was officially chartered in Fort Dodge on October 21st, 1995, following a field trip to Dolliver State Park led by Don Farrar. In the newsletter article (in Vol. 1, issue 2) leading up to the organizational meeting, Bill and I had stated: "We would like to reemphasize our desire that both amateur and professional botanists take active roles in the leadership of INPS. We do not want to see this organization become "top-heavy" with professionals. Our #1 objective for the Society is to provide a forum for communication between all plant enthusiasts, amateur and professional alike." Indeed, that has been true, and

much of our strength, from our first volunteers to the present. Bill Thomas had drawn up a draft set of bylaws, and these provided the framework for organizing the INPS. The first officers elected at the organizational meeting were Christine Kirpes, President; Bill Thomas, Vice-President; Deb Lewis, Secretary; and Mary Brown, Treasurer. Linda (Suzanne) Gucciardo was the newsletter editor. Committees included:

Organization - LeRoy and Susan Anderson and Eric Howes-Vonstein)

Membership – Jane Clark and Philip Dykema Program – Judy Felder, Martha Maxon, Bill Norris and Tom Rosburg

More of the history of the INPS will be included in future newsletters.

INPS 2021 Dues Now Being Received

INPS Treasurer Bill Blankenship will be happy to receive our 2021 dues! The membership form is available below or can be downloaded from the INPS website: http://www.iowanativeplants.org/ docs/membershipform.pdf.

Membership Form for Iowa Native Plant Society

Name:		
Address:		
City, State:	Zip code:	
Phone:	Email Address:	
I wish to receive newsletters by U.S. N	Mail Email	
	esting newsletters by Mail\$5 Student (one-time payment) ership levels (includes mailed or emailed newsletters or both):	
\$25 Anemone*	\$150 Dodecatheon*	
\$50 Botrychium*	\$200 and up Erythronium*	
\$100 Calamagrostis*	If donor, prefer to remain anonymous.	

Send with your dues to: INPS Treasurer, 737 Buckwalter Dr., Sioux City, IA 51108

*The Iowa Native Plant Society is a non-profit organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Annual contributions beyond basic membership are tax deductible.