

Report of the State Preserves Advisory Board 2013-2014 Biennium

**Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board
And
Conservation and Recreation Division
Iowa Department of Natural Resources**



Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*) in Ryerson's Woods State Preserve



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
CHUCK GIPP, DIRECTOR

January 2, 2015

To: The Honorable Governor Terry Branstad, Governor of Iowa,
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds, Lt. Governor of Iowa,
Members of the 86th General Assembly.

From: The State Preserves Advisory Board.

Dear Governor Branstad, Lt. Governor Reynolds and legislators.

The State Preserves Advisory Board is pleased to present its biennial report, prepared by personnel of the Division of Conservation and Recreation, Department of Natural Resources.

This report summarizes the activities of the State Preserve Advisory Board for the fiscal 2013-2014 fiscal year.

In keeping with the responsibilities and duties given the State Preserves Advisory Board, management and acquisition of and for the preserves system continues. Cooperative activities of Archaeological, Natural, Historic and Scientific needs and management issues have been addressed.

Governor Branstad signed articles of dedication for introduction of a new preserve into the state preserves system. Ryerson Woods (Johnson County) contains vast woodland and floral aspects to be studied and enjoyed by all. The property is owned and managed by the City of Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department.

Management plans for maintenance of drainage systems serving the City of Fairfield, which lay within the outer boundary of Lamson Woods (Jefferson County) were agreed upon with the project engineers to assure protection of the valuable preserve.

Safety and liability concerns for the Historic stone building structure within Gitchie Manitou State Preserve (Lyons County) are ongoing. Also an Archaeological study was authorized to verify and protect burial mounds located there.

Glenwood Archaeological Preserve (Mills County) management discussions for an Interpretive Center based on the Earth Lodges and peoples once making their home there some 800 years ago.

Management plans were completed for Spirit Knoll (Plymouth County) future Archaeological Preserve status. Cooperative public meetings were held with Iowa Archaeology Society at Stone Park in preparation for future preserve establishment.

Selections of inventory and research proposals, for 2015, with budgetary and practical considerations were completed. Much is yet to be considered in the future as monies and staffing become available.

Continued vigilance in maintenance and additional protection of valued resources through guidance and support continue to be a goal of the State Preserves Advisory Board.

DNR staff and advisors to the Board perform their jobs with dedication and enthusiasm. Lack of funding and staff continue to plague and hinder the preservation system.

The Board is grateful for the direction and professionalism given by John Pearson (DNR Staff) who supplies countless hours of guidance and encouragement. Much has been done and much is yet to do.

On behalf of the State Preserves Advisory Board, thank you for your support, dedication and care for Iowa's incredible resources. We look forward to years of continued support for Preserves System and the education, enjoyment and protection it offers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Wayne L. Phipps". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Wayne L. Phipps, Chairman
State Preserves Advisory Board

Introduction

The State Preserves Advisory Board was created by the General Assembly in 1965. The Act (Chapter 465C, Code of Iowa) defines preserve as “an area of land or water formally dedicated under this chapter for maintenance as nearly possible in its natural condition though it need not be completely primeval in character at the time of dedication or an area which has unusual flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or historical features of scientific or educational value”. An area becomes a State Preserve when the landowner and the Preserves Advisory Board agree on the management of the area and the Governor signs the Dedication Statement.

Preserve designation provides an area with the highest form of protection the State of Iowa offers. Preserve status is considered the highest, best, and most important use of an area for the public benefit. The area shall be held in trust and not converted except to another public use upon a finding of the Preserves Advisory Board of imperative and unavoidable public necessity and with the approval of the Natural Resource Commission, the General Assembly by concurrent resolution, and the Governor.

The State Preserves System is an effort to protect and maintain examples of significant archaeological, historical, geological, biological and scenic areas for present and future generations. The five types of preserves are defined as follows:

1. *Archaeological* preserves contain significant deposits left by prehistoric or early historic peoples.
2. *Geological* preserves contain distinctive, representative or unique geological features or deposits.
3. *Historical* preserves contain structures or places that are of significance in studying the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers.
4. *Natural* preserves contain flora and fauna that are representative of natural communities, or contain endangered, threatened, or rare organisms.
5. *Scenic* preserves contain scenic features of scientific or educational value.

Areas nominated for preserve designation must be high quality examples of one or more of the five types of preserves listed. A thorough investigation of proposed preserves is conducted by DNR staff and/or appropriate experts to determine if the area is of preserve quality. A management plan is also completed to determine if the proposed uses and management are consistent with preserve dedication.

Currently there are 97 preserves, encompassing about 10,750 acres. Ownership and management responsibility for the preserves is presented in the list of State Preserves at the end of this report.

Personnel of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources work with the State Preserves Advisory Board to carry out the powers and duties of the Board. John Pearson and Daryl Howell divide the duties of ecologist for the Board. Daryl Howell retired in June 2013 and has been replaced with Kelly Poole.

Chapter 465C requires that a report be submitted to the governor and legislature every two years accounting for the number and status of the preserves in the system and any other pertinent information. This report summarizes activities for the calendar years 2013 and 2014.

State Preserves Advisory Board Meeting Dates and Locations 2013-2014

January 11, 2013	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines
April 23, 2013	Glenwood, Iowa Tour of Glenwood Archaeological Preserve
July 23, 2013	Wallace State Office Building, Iowa
January 28, 2014	Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa
April 29, 2014	Terry Trueblood Recreation Area Lodge, Iowa City Tour of Ryerson's Woods Preserve
October 10-11, 2014	Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center, Sioux City, Iowa Symposium with Iowa Archeological Society and tour of Spirit Knoll

State Preserves Advisory Board Members as of December 1, 2014

Wayne Phipps, Chair
401 Louise Ave.
Glenwood, IA 51534

Bruce Trautman
Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Inger Iamb
9188 NW Polk City Dr
Polk City, IA 50226

Lynn Alex
5 The Woods NE
Iowa City, IA 52240

Loren Christensen
4203 Sjaeland St
Elk Horn, IA 51531

Leesa McNeil
29365 Diamante Dr
Sioux City, IA 51109

Dr. Kirk Larsen
210 E Street
Decorah, IA 52101

Advisors to the Board as of December 1, 2014

Shirley Schermer
Office of State Archaeologist
700 Clinton Street Building
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Board Members Whose Term Expired 2013-2014

Wayne Phipps (reappointed)
Thomas Putnam (replaced by Loren Christensen)

Program Purposes (Main Points)

- To preserve examples of each natural community native to Iowa in as undisturbed condition as possible, allowing scientific investigation, interpretation, and acceptable recreational uses.
- To preserve sites representative of each culture that existed in Iowa in a relative undisturbed condition, allowing carefully regulated excavation and basic interpretive activities compatible with a preservation philosophy and with the concerns of the native people.
- To preserve examples of past geological events and maintain these sites in a condition that will allow scientific study and interpretation to occur.
- To preserve sites which commemorate the tenure of humans in Iowa since the advent of the first Euro-American explorers and to maintain these sites in a condition, which will allow a sense of orientation to present and future inhabitants.
- To sponsor research on preserves or potential preserves for purposes of management, acquisition, and interpretation.
- To distribute to the general public, libraries, and colleges information related to preserves in popular or scientific format.
- To assist in surveying Iowa for remaining natural, geological, cultural, historic or scientific areas.

Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Advisory Board are listed under Chapter 465C of the Code of Iowa. They include the following:

1. To approve an area as a preserve.
2. To recommend dedication as preserves, of areas owned by the State under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources.
3. To recommend acquisition of areas for dedication as preserves subject to approval by the Natural Resource Commission.
4. To recommend dedication as preserves, areas owned by other public agencies, private groups, and individuals.

Activities and Accomplishments 2013-2014

Dedication of Ryerson's Woods as new state preserve

Ryerson's Woods is a 49 acre, wooded tract owned and managed by the Iowa City Parks and Recreation Department. The park was established in 1985 and has been managed to minimize human impact and maintain its natural character. The Board toured the area in September 2011 and April 2014 and approved the management plan and nomination in April 2014. The preserve dedication statement was signed by Governor Branstad in September 2014 and was recorded with the Johnson County Assessor in October 2014.

Management plan for Spirit Knoll

Spirit Knoll is a scenic, 223-acre area of Loess Hills land north of Sioux City with significant archaeological resources and native prairie remnants. It was acquired by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and transferred to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Preserves Board approved its nomination as a state preserve in 2013 pending completion of a management plan. Completion of the management plan was deferred until baseline studies of archaeology and insect species were conducted in 2014. A final plan is presently being drafted (December 2014) and will be reviewed by the State Preserves Advisory Board in early 2015. A boundary correction from a small error in the deed is also expected to be completed in 2015 (prior to dedication).

Gitchie Manitou State Preserve and proposed Blood Run State Park

The fate of a heavily vandalized, historic, stone CCC shelter in Gitchie Manitou State Preserve was debated several times during the biennium with participation of the Lyon County Historical Society. Options include leaving the damaged structure as presently exists (agreed by all be unacceptable), razing the structure (which would to eliminate a safety liability and its attractiveness to after-hours abusers, but destroy an historic feature), and restoring the structure as a renewed public use facility (desirable but no funding is available for this expensive option, which moreover requires a significant

increase in law enforcement, a major change in visitor use of the preserve, and establishment of a local staff to conduct maintenance). A comprehensive proposal to expand the nearby Blood Run Historic Landmark as a state park will include Gitche Manitou State Preserve and may present options for preserving its historic shelter. Planning for the proposed state park will begin in 2015. The Preserves Board and DNR preserves staff will participate in the planning process.

Preserve Management

Management activities on Iowa's State Preserves are ongoing and are carried out by the designated preserve managers. Major activities included the following:

- Prescribed burning, mowing, and chemical treatment of stumps on prairie preserves to control woody vegetation encroachment on numerous preserves.
- Use of mechanical and chemical control methods for reed canary grass and other invasive species at several preserves.
- Prairie seed collection for establishment of prairie plantings on buffer areas for preserves and for other public lands.

Research and Inventory Studies 2013 and 2014

Geoarchaeological Probing of Mounds at 13LO402, Gitche Manitou State Preserve, Lyon County, Iowa. Joe Alan Artz, EarthView Environmental, Inc. March 2014.

A Phase I Archaeological Survey of Proposed Improvements at Spirit Knoll State Preserve, Plymouth County, Iowa. Michael J. Perry, Melody Pope, and Stephen Lensink, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa. Contract Completion Report #2109. June 2014.

Land Management Activities at Selected Hill Prairies and Bedrock Glades Within the State Preserve System. William C. Watson, Biological Consultant, Cedar Falls, IA. June 2014.

Control of Exotic Species Within Natural Wetland Basins at Pilot Knob State Preserve II. William C. Watson, Biological Consultant, Cedar Falls, IA. June 2014.

An Analysis of Change in the Herbaceous Flora of Northeast Iowa Forests: Final Phase (2013). William R. Norris, Department of Natural Sciences, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM. June 2014.

Conservation Assessments for Six Iowa State Preserves. Wayne Schennum, ecological consultant, Chicago, IL. Fall 2013.

A Survey of the Butterflies, Selected Moths, and Plants of Spirit Knoll State Preserve, Plymouth County, IA. Gerald Selby, Ecological and GIS Services, Indianola, IA. June 2014.

Twenty-year Resurvey of Permanent Plots. William R. Norris, Department of Natural Sciences, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, NM.

Botanical Survey of Cold Water Spring Preserve. Critical Connections.

Hartley Fort Interpretive Material. Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA.

Control of Selected Exotic Species at Pilot Knob State Preserve. William C. Watson, Biological Consultant, Cedar Falls, IA.

Floristic Survey of Marietta Sand Prairie. Scott Zager, Wildlands Ecological Services, Maplewood, MN.

Geological Inventory of Behrens Ponds State Preserve. EarthView Environmental, Inc.

Floral Survey of Steele Prairie. Orbis.Environmental Consulting.

Butterfly Survey of Rolling Thunder State Preserve. Frank Olsen, consultant, Cedar Rapids, IA.

Iowa State Preserves December 2010

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
A.F. Miller/North Woods	Natural	10	Bremer County	Bremer CCB	Bremer
Ames High Prairie/Pohl Preserve	Natural	22	Ames Unified School District	TNC	Story
Anderson Prairie	Natural, Geological	200	State of Iowa	DNR	Emmet
Behrens Ponds and Woodland	Natural	30	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Linn
Berry Woods	Natural, Geological	42	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Warren
Bird Hill	Geological	1	Cerro Gordo County	Cerro Gordo CCB	Cerro Gordo
Bixby	Natural, Geological	183	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Bluffton Fir Stand	Natural, Geological	94	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Brush Creek Canyon	Natural, Geological	217	State of Iowa	DNR	Fayette
Brushy Creek	Geological, Natural	260	State of Iowa	DNR	Webster
Cameron Woods	Natural	36	State of Iowa	Scott CCB	Scott
Casey's Paha	Geological	175	State of Iowa	Black Hawk CCB	Tama
Catfish Creek	Geological, Archaeological	600	State of Iowa	DNR	Dubuque
Cayler Prairie	Natural	160	State of Iowa	DNR	Dickinson
Cedar Bluffs Natural Area	Natural, Geological, Scenic	223	Mahaska County	Mahaska CCB	Mahaska
Cedar Hills Sand Prairie	Natural	35	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Black Hawk
Cheever Lake	Natural	366	State of Iowa	DNR	Emmet
Clay Prairie	Natural	3	University of Northern Iowa	UNI	Butler
Claybank Forest	Geological, Natural	56	Cerro Gordo County	Cerro Gordo CCB	Cerro Gordo
Coldwater Cave	Geological, Natural	60	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Crossman Prairie	Natural	10	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Howard
Decorah Ice Cave	Geological, Natural	3	City of Decorah	City of Decorah	Winneshiek
Derald Dinesen Prairie	Natural	20	U.S. Government	Shelby CCB	Shelby
Doolittle Prairie	Natural	25	State of Iowa	Story CCB	Story
Eureka Woods	Natural	90	Private	Private	Greene
Fallen Rock	Natural, Geological	122	State of Iowa	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Fish Farm Mounds	Archaeological	3	State of Iowa	DNR	Allamakee
Five Ridge Prairie	Natural, Geological	789	The Nature Conservancy	Plymouth CCB	Plymouth
Fleming Woods	Natural	38	Poweshiek County	Poweshiek CCB	Poweshiek

Iowa State Preserves December 2010

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Fort Atkinson	Archaeological	5	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Fossil and Prairie Park	Natural, Geological	292	Floyd County	Floyd CCB	Floyd
Pellett Memorial Woods	Natural	19	State of Iowa	Cass CCB	Cass
Freda Haffner	Natural, Geological	110	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Dickinson
Gitchie Manitou	Natural	91	State of Iowa	DNR	Lyon
Glenwood Archaeological	Archaeological	907	State of Iowa	Mills CCB	Mills
Hanging Bog	Natural	16	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Linn
Hardin City Woodland	Natural	25	State of Iowa	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Hartley Fort	Archaeological	2	Private	Private	Allamakee
Hartman Bluff	Natural	48	Black Hawk County	Black Hawk CCB	Black Hawk
Hayden Prairie	Natural	239	State of Iowa	DNR	Howard
Hoffman Prairie	Natural	36	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Cerro Gordo
Indian Bluffs Primitive Area	Archaeological, Natural	845	Private	Private	Jones
Indian Fish Trap	Archaeological	1	State of Iowa	Amana Society	Iowa
Kalsow Prairie	Natural	160	State of Iowa	DNR	Pocahontas
Kish-Ke-Kosh Prairie	Natural	17	State of Iowa	Jasper CCB	Jasper
Lamson Woods	Natural	20	City of Fairfield	City of Fairfield	Jefferson
Liska-Stanek Prairie	Natural	20	Webster County	Webster CCB	Webster
Little Maquoketa River Mounds	Archaeological	42	State of Iowa	Dubuque CCB	Dubuque
Malanaphy Springs	Geological, Natural	64	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Malchow Mounds	Archaeological	6	State of Iowa	DNR	Des Moines
Manikowski Prairie	Natural, Geological	40	Clinton County	Clinton CCB	Clinton
Mann Wilderness Area	Natural	103	Hardin County	Hardin CCB	Hardin
Marietta Sand Prairie	Natural	20	Marshall County	Marshall CCB	Marshall
Mericle Woods	Natural	132	State of Iowa	DNR	Tama
Merril A. Stainbrook	Geological	33	U.S. Government	Corps of Engineers	Johnson
Merritt Forest	Natural	20	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Montauk	Historical, Natural	46	State of Iowa	DCA	Fayette
Mossy Glen	Natural, Geological	80	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton

Iowa State Preserves December 2010

PRESERVE NAME	PRESERVE TYPE	ACRES	OWNER	MANAGER	COUNTY
Mount Pisgah Cemetery	Historical	1	Church	Union CCB	Union
Mount Talbot	Natural	90	State of Iowa	DNR	Plymouth
Nestor Stiles Prairie	Natural	10	State of Iowa	Cherokee CCB	Cherokee
Ocheyedan Mound	Geological, Natural	24	Osceola CCB	Osceola CCB	Osceola
Old State Quarry	Geological	8	U.S. Government	Corps of Engineers	Johnson
Palisades-Dows	Natural, Geological	330	State of Iowa	Linn CCB	Linn
Pecan Grove	Natural	17	State of Iowa	DNR	Muscatine
Perkins Prairie	Natural	30	Private	Private	Greene
Pilot Grove Historical	Historical, Natural	7	State of Iowa	Iowa CCB	Iowa
Pilot Knob State Park	Natural, Geological	369	State of Iowa	DNR	Hancock
Retz Memorial Woods	Natural, Geological	49	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Clayton
Roberts Creek	Natural, Geological	13	State of Iowa	DNR	Cedar
Rock Creek Island	Geological	60	State of Iowa	Cedar CCB	Cedar
Rock Island Area	Natural	17	Linn County	Linn CCB	Linn
Roggman Boreal Slopes	Natural	20	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Clayton
Rolling Thunder Prairie	Natural	123	Warren County	Warren CCB	Warren
Ryerson's Woods	Natural	49	City of Iowa City	Parks & Recreation	Johnson
St. James Lutheran Church	Historical	1	State of Iowa	DNR	Winneshiek
Savage Memorial Woods	Natural	12	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Henry
Searryl's Cave	Natural, Geological	43	State of Iowa	DNR	Jones
Sheeder Prairie	Natural	25	State of Iowa	DNR	Guthrie
Silver Lake Fen	Natural, Geological	10	State of Iowa	DNR	Dickinson
Silvers-Smith Woods	Natural	20	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Dallas
Slinde Mounds	Archaeological, Natural	32	State of Iowa	DNR	Allamakee
Starr's Cave	Natural, Geological	189	State of Iowa	Des Moines CCB	Des Moines
Steele Prairie	Natural	200	State of Iowa	Cherokee CCB	Cherokee
Stinson Prairie	Natural	32	Kossuth County	Kossuth CCB	Kossuth
Strasser Woods	Natural	40	State of Iowa	DNR	Polk
Sylvan Runkel	Natural	330	State of Iowa	DNR	Monona

Toolesboro	Archaeological	3	State of Iowa	DCA	Louisa
Turin Loess Hills	Natural, Geological	200	State of Iowa	DNR	Monona
Turkey River Mounds	Archaeological, Natural	62	State of Iowa	DNR	Clayton
Vincent Bluff	Scenic	36	City of Council Bluffs	City of Council Bluffs	Pottawattamie
White Pine Hollow	Natural, Geological	712	State of Iowa	DNR	Dubuque
Williams Prairie	Natural	30	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	Johnson
Wittrock Indian Village	Archaeological	6	State of Iowa	DNR	O'Brien
Woodland Mounds	Natural, Archaeological	195	Warren County	Warren CCB	Warren
Woodman Hollow	Natural, Archaeological	63	State of Iowa	DNR	Webster
Woodthrush Woods	Natural	25	City of Fairfield	City of Fairfield	Jefferson

DNR = Department of Natural Resources

DCA = Department of Cultural Affairs

CCB = County Conservation Board

TNC = The Nature Conservancy

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