



Volume (2012), Issue 1

August 2012

## New Look and Theme to *Wildlife Sightings*

Welcome to *Wildlife Sightings*! Not only has the look of the Chapter newsletter changed, the content has changed somewhat as well.

As a part of a newly revitalized Education and Information Committee we have been working to reinvent the newsletter to appeal to a wider audience, and to have a “theme” associated with each issue. Each issue will feature at least three sections. The Research Corner will focus on current or past wildlife-related research in Iowa. The Management Corner is devoted to a topic on habitat management. And in each issue, we’ll include a Species Spotlight, a special section about Iowa’s wildlife, particularly

those that are less well known. Look for two other sections in upcoming issues, including People Spotlight, a special section about people involved in wildlife research, management and/or outreach and the President’s Soapbox.

Some features of the newsletter have remained the same. In this fall edition, we have included a slate of nominees to fill Chapter offices and the link to vote online.

There is an announcement for a Chapter-sponsored, upcoming professional development workshop. The focus of the workshop will be prairie plants. Participants will learn how to identify prairie plants including grasses, how

to measure grassland structure, and the functions of plant species in grassland ecosystems. Dr. Tom Rosburg of Drake University is the Lead Instructor for the workshop.

Also included in every issue of the newsletter is a listing of upcoming meetings of interest to our readers.

We hope you enjoy the new look to the newsletter. Please contact anyone on the Information and Education Committee with your suggestions or comments.

- IA TWS *Information and Education Committee*

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### Research Corner

## Restoring Ecological Function to Midwestern Grasslands: Using the Fire Grazing Interaction in Iowa

Grasslands the world over face many threats, including conversion to intensive agriculture, desertification, invasion by woody and exotic herbaceous plants, and loss of plant and wildlife diversity. On many remaining grasslands, the

processes that shaped and maintained these ecosystems over millennia – namely fire and herbivory – are either overused or underused or absent altogether, amplifying the negative effects of other threats.

A drive through Iowa’s

rural countryside highlights the effects of overgrazing: vegetation grazed to the ground, absence of habitat structure, encroachment by eastern red cedar, osage orange and other troublesome woody species, and eroded banks or incised gullies along

waterways. On the other hand, drive I-35 from Kansas City to Wichita during the month of April, and you’ll see literally hundreds of thousands of acres of black – the result of expansive range fires.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Restoring Ecological Function to Midwestern Grasslands: Using the Fire Grazing Interaction in Iowa *(con'd)*

Recent studies are now highlighting the downsides of too much fire: shrinking populations of prairie dependent species such as prairie chickens, many passerines, butterflies, and a grass-dominated system lacking floral diversity.

Over the last 20 years, range and wildlife scientists in the southern Great Plains and elsewhere began to think more about how fire and grazing shaped the development of the region. Experiments in Oklahoma beginning in the 1990s led to an examination of the fire-grazing interaction, known and applied in management as patch-burn grazing. Implementing a patch-burn grazing approach involves burning spatially discrete areas of a grassland or pasture and allowing free access by lightly to moderately stocked grazers. The grazer (typically cattle, but in some cas-

es bison) instinctively graze the fresh, highly nutritious regrowth following the fire. The intensified grazing on this recently burned area can lead to a suppressive effect on undesirable plants by overriding defense mechanisms (e.g., plant toxins, woody stems, spines, low nutritional value), as well as allowing time for unburned portions of the pasture to rest. This effectively creates a “rest-rotational” grazing system that relies upon the grazing animal’s instinct rather than fences and a producer’s labor. The resulting grassland diversity in several stages of succession offers critical habitats both within species (e.g., prairie chicken lekking, brooding, and escape cover) and across species (e.g., grasshopper sparrows, shorebirds in heavily grazed areas and Henslow’s sparrows, dickcissels in lightly used, largely ungrazed areas) in one pasture.

- Ryan N. Harr

Ryan N. Harr is a Wildlife Biologist / Assistant Scientist II at Iowa State University.

(515) 294-1662

[nharr@iastate.edu](mailto:nharr@iastate.edu)

To learn more about the Patch-Burn Grazing Project

<http://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/patchburn/>



## The Greater Prairie-Chicken in Iowa: Past, Present, and Future

The Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*) was once the most common game bird species in the grasslands of Iowa. Greater Prairie-Chickens are known for the elaborate courtship rituals performed by males. Gathering on lek sites, males strut and make booming calls to attract females. In fact, this courtship behavior not only attracts females of the species, but in Iowa it is the focus of an annual Prairie Chicken Festival in Ringgold County - at their only known active lek site in the state.

Greater Prairie-Chickens were once popular and abundant game birds in Iowa. As native grasslands were converted to more intensive agriculture, the amount of habitat available for grassland species decreased. This habitat loss, combined with over-harvesting, led to a dramatic decline and eventual extinction of Greater Prairie-Chickens in Iowa.

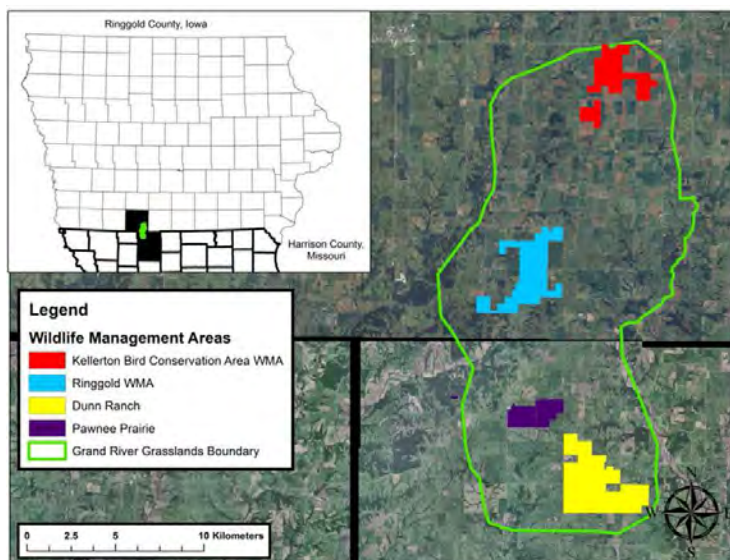
In 1980, the Iowa Conservation Commission, the predecessor to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), began an effort to bring Greater Prairie-Chickens back to Iowa. Between 1980 and 1994, 558 birds were relocated from Kansas to Iowa in a series of releases in Monona, Ringgold, and Adair counties. Although efforts initially appeared to be successful, by 1999 the number of birds had decreased dramatically, and by 2009,

only a handful of birds remained. Because of the small size of the current population, Greater Prairie-Chickens in Iowa suffer from low genetic diversity and the future of the population is uncertain.

To prevent extinction of Iowa's remaining Greater Prairie-Chicken population, IDNR, in cooperation with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, is planning an effort to trap and relocate Greater Prairie-Chickens from Nebraska to Iowa. The translocations, which began last April, will take place over the next 4 years. All of the birds translocated in 2012 were released in or near the Kellerton Wildlife Area in Ringgold County (see map). In coordination with IDNR staff, researchers at Iowa State University have received funding to study the survival, habitat use, and genetic diversity of the translocated birds.

Of added interest, this project represents a unique partnership between the DNR and The Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, IA which is providing much of the funding for this conservation effort. As an initial step the zoo funded a thorough habitat inventory in 2011 which was an important feasibility tool and is guiding all future planning. Other partners include the Missouri and Iowa Chapters of The Nature Conservancy.

- Jennifer Vogel and Stephanie Shepherd



Jennifer Vogel is a post-doc at ISU in the laboratory of Diane Debinski.

Stephanie Shepherd is a Wildlife Biologist at the IDNR in the Diversity Program.

Figure 1. Grand River Grasslands Conservation Area, including Kellerton Conservation Area (2012 prairie chicken release site) and Ringgold Wildlife Management Area in Iowa, and Dunn Ranch and Pawnee Prairie in Harrison County, Missouri.

## Management Corner

### In the Field: Patch-Burn Grazing Management

Combining burning and grazing has a profound effect on the habitat's structure at a landscape level. The Kellerton Bird Conservation Area (BCA) exemplifies the grassland mosaic that this management tool can produce. Across its 1800 acres, there is everything from mature native grass stands to the grazing lawns of the most recently burned areas. At the Kellerton BCA, this represents a success for creating the diverse structural needs of the Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Tympanuchus cupido*. It also fulfills habitat requirements for species requiring more specific structural needs. For instance, Upland Sandpipers, *Bartramia longicauda*, require the short cropped and sparse structure produced when the cattle are attracted to and graze most heavily on the most recently burned patch. On the other hand, Henslow's Sparrows, *Ammodramus henslowii*, require thick grass stands which are generally present on the patch longest removed from fire since cattle tend to avoid these areas. Other species, like the Greater Prairie-Chicken and Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*, prefer the patches that were burned two years prior but may still use the other patches for nesting or lekking.

In Southern Iowa, and arguably a far greater portion of Iowa, Eastern Red Cedar poses a threat to grasslands and prairies because of its invasive nature and the loss of production resulting from its expansion. On any drive through rural Ringgold County, the loss of pasture ground and invasion of CRP acres due to cedars is readily apparent. With the fire rotation we keep on our patch-burn grazing areas, cedars are more easily controlled. While mature cedars may resist the fires, recruitment in these study sites has greatly decreased.

Fire rotation is also useful for controlling other woody species. Osage orange, *Maclura pomifera*, honey locust, *Gleditsia triacanthos*, and shingle oak, *Quercus imbricaria*, are just some of the more prolific trees that are kept at bay with the fire rotation

kept on the patch-burn grazing areas. However, a balance of succession with various shrub species is kept that appeases the fauna they host. Some further mechanical control is necessary in places where topography can limit the impact of fire and grazing.

Two of the more invasive plants that we have to manage in the Grand River Grasslands include *Sericia lespedeza*, *Lespedeza cuneata*, and tall fescue, *Schedonorus phoenix*. From a management viewpoint, we have not yet really noticed an effect upon these species. The potential is still there, but if we focus our aims at these species it may require tweaking burning dates, grazing dates, and stocking rates.

Both fire and grazing are extremely dynamic management tools, so it would only make sense that their combination is as well. Each patch-burn grazing site yields a unique outcome based on soil types, hydrology of the site, and the plant communities present.  
*(con'd on Page 6)*



Lowell Washburn: Greater Prairie Chickens

## Night Song on the Prairie

As the spring moon rises over swaying stems of big bluestem and Indian grass, you'll hear them singing - a repeated sharp chirp and buzzing call, "tip-tup-zeeeeeeeeeeee". Not an insect, but a bird - the Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Although we usually think of owls and nighthawks commanding the avian symphony after dark, Grasshopper Sparrows are surprisingly vocal at night, especially when the moon is full. This rare Iowa species may be easier to find with your ears than your binoculars. Males can be heard belting out their grasshopper-like trill from tops of plant stems at mid-day and evening, but ordinarily they're quite elusive, keeping well hidden among the tall clumps of prairie grasses and wildflowers. In addition to their "grasshopper song", males will sing a completely different tune, the "sustained song", a louder, more musical combination of insect-like buzzing. These are one of the few sparrows that will sing two different songs, and both males and females can be heard making trills from the first days of spring courtship till the end of the nesting season.

Like most sparrows, *Ammodramus savannarum* falls into the "little brown bird" category. It's most easily distinguished by the large flat head and short tail, with a yellow-orange spot in front of the eye. The dark crown is bisected by a white stripe, and adult birds have an unmarked buff-colored breast. Insects, primarily grasshoppers, comprise the bulk of this bird's diet. Beetles, ants, caterpillars, spiders, snails, and worms are also caught and consumed on the ground. Seeds of grasses and prairie forbs are eaten as well.

To find Grasshopper Sparrows, you'll first have to find a large tract of unbroken grassland. That's easier said than done in this era of intensive row-crop agriculture. Like other grassland obligate species, Grasshopper Sparrow numbers have greatly declined due to habitat loss. Iowa Audubon lists this bird as a species of high conservation priority. Grasshopper Sparrows are not generally found in fields of < 25 acres. You're much more likely to spot them in open grasslands of over 100 acres.

By early May, most Grasshopper Sparrows have returned to Iowa from wintering grounds in the southeast. Nesting begins soon after, and pairs may raise 2 broods of 3 - 6 young birds each season. Fledgling birds leave the nest at 9 days, but scurry through the grass like meadow voles rather than taking flight on their first outings.

Adults too, rarely fly when flushed, preferring to take their chances at a running escape through the maze of trails between grass clumps. If you're about to step on them they may burst into a zig-zag flight for a short distance and quickly dive back into the tall vegetation. Although distributed across the state, numbers of these birds are most concentrated in the cattle pastures and back road prairie remnants of south central Iowa. Its preferred habitat in the former tallgrass prairie region is a mix of moderately open grasslands interspersed with patches of bare ground. Historically this type of landscape would have been maintained by natural disturbances such as fire, as well as grazing and wallowing by herds of bison.

Critical to the management of this species today is the preservation and reconstruction of large blocks of grassland habitat. Most privately owned hayfields are mowed and baled too early in the season for grasshopper sparrows to have much nesting success in these locations. Managing public grasslands for minimal disturbance from May to August would help boost numbers of these birds, as would incentives to encourage landowners to defer mowing of private lands until after the nesting season. Light to moderate grazing outside of the nesting season can create structural diversity of vegetation that is beneficial to Grasshopper Sparrows. A patchwork of successional stages can be created by mowing or burning sections of a field on annual rotations. This will also help to hold back the encroachment of dogwoods,

(con'd on page 6)

## In the Field: Patch-Burn Grazing Management (con'd from page 4)

(con'd from page 4)

Depending on the snow pack and rainfall of a year, certain sites may require higher or lower stocking rates to produce the same outcome. Furthermore, if the stocking rate is too high or too low it will affect the fuel loads which, in turn, affects fire behavior the next year. Stocking rates and dates are also influenced by our objectives, whether for cool season grass control or specific structure types. Patch-burn grazing requires working closely with the cattlemen to keep appropriate stocking rates as we continue to adjust and try new rates.

The patch-burn grazing project also creates a unique closeness with the research side of wildlife management. During the spring burning season, our wildlife unit largely combines forces with Ryan Harr and his fire crew from Iowa State University, including the graduate students who are working in the Grand River Grasslands. There are many times in wildlife management when this relationship is overlooked or lacking. However, we are fortunate enough to work side-by-side with the researchers, giving us an integrative perspective and approach for the area.

Patch-burn grazing has turned into a very useful management tool. As we continue to work with Iowa State to study and adapt this management technique, we expect even greater results and to encompass a greater array of objectives.

- Andy Kellner and Josh Rusk

Andy Kellner is a Natural Resources Technician I, at the Grand River Wildlife Unit of Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Josh Rusk is a Natural Resources Technician II, at the Grand River Wildlife Unit of Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviarum*), courtesy of Brad Sillasen from Illinois.

## Night Song on the Prairie (con'd from page 5)

locust, and other early successional trees and shrubs. Fields with over 35% cover of woody species will see a decline in Grasshopper Sparrow numbers.

In recent years Grasshopper Sparrows have become a target species for many conservation efforts, as indicators of overall grassland health. Fortunately these unique prairie singers can respond rapidly to habitat management and restoration attempts, and as they say in Iowa "If you build it, they will come."

- Pete Eyrhalde

Pete Eyrhalde is a doctoral student in Wildlife Ecology at ISU, working with Sue Fairbanks.

## Meet the Nominees for Chapter Offices

It's that time of year again—time to vote! Elections will be held September 18-19. Members will be able to vote in person at the TWS fall workshop (see page 10). Members who are unable to attend the workshop will be able to vote online. Please read over the statements of nominees included on the following pages and be sure to cast your votes!

In addition to the positions listed below, the Iowa Chapter of TWS is seeking a new chair for the Awards Committee. Please consider serving in this important role in our organization. We also are in need of a new REAP representative. A member living in central Iowa would be best suited for this position due to the location of most of the REAP Alliance meetings.

### **President- Elect**                      **Tyler Harms**

Tyler Harms is a Research Associate II at Iowa State University (ISU) and serves as the biologist for the Iowa Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring Program. Tyler grew up enjoying the outdoors in north-central Iowa and earned a B.S. degree in Animal Ecology and a M.S. degree in Wildlife Ecology from ISU. Tyler has been interested in natural resources since he was a kid and enjoys all activities outdoors, especially hunting, fishing, and bird-watching. Tyler has held leadership positions, including president of the ISU Trumpeter Swan Restoration Committee as well as co-chair of the Research Seminar Committee for the Natural Resource Ecology and Management Graduate Student Organization at Iowa State. He received recognition as Associate Wildlife Biologist from The Wildlife Society in 2011 and remains active in the organization as a member of the Biometrics Working Group and chair of the Education and Information Committee for the Iowa Chapter. As Iowa Chapter president, Tyler hopes to uphold the mission of The Wildlife Society and make Iowa's Chapter the leading group for effective wildlife conservation by bringing together wildlife research, management, and education efforts across the state. In addition, he plans to boost membership in the Iowa Chapter through outreach and other public communication and strives to increase opportunities for student involvement.

### **President- Elect**                      **Terry Haindfield**

As I approach my 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary working as a wildlife professional (I started when I was 10), I face the bittersweet event of sending my youngest to be a freshman at Drake University this fall. I will most certainly miss Rachel's high school participation in activities but I am ready for her to spread her wings (I think). This will once again allow me to crank up my passion a notch or two for worth conservation measures.

I am currently the wildlife management biologist for the DNR Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit. I am extremely interested in Iowa's Water and Land Legacy legislation and devoted my personal time to help that constitutional amendment pass. I am now looking forward to implementation of this very important piece of legislation. I believe TWS Iowa Chapter can help lead the movement for implementation. In addition, I believe TWS should be the voice for wildlife professionals and sound wildlife science. My experience, commitment and passion for the profession will help me lead the TWS if elected.

## Meet the Nominees for Chapter Offices (con'd)

### **Secretary-Treasurer      Travis Russell**

My name is Travis Russell. I am a Natural Resource Technician for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. I have decided to run for a second term for the Secretary-Treasurer Officer position. I feel I would be an excellent candidate for this position as I am very well organized and motivated to succeed. I have been a member of the Iowa Chapter of TWS for nine years and a member of the National Chapter for the past two years. I believe being re-elected would be an excellent opportunity to continue to gain both knowledge and experience within The Wildlife Society. Thank you for your consideration.

### **Secretary-Treasurer      Brian Sauer**

I am an Iowa State graduate and serious Cyclone fan. My past work experience includes working at the Maquoketa and Odessa Wildlife Units, working on research projects with Delta Waterfowl in Manitoba, USGS in Hawaii, and working in private lands for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and also the Iowa DNR in various positions located in Garner and Decorah. I currently work as a wildlife technician located in Elkader working in the private lands section in Clayton, Winneshiek, and Allamakee counties for the NE Wildlife District.

I would like to take a leadership position with TWS because it would give me an opportunity to help continue the tradition of providing a voice and leadership for wildlife professionals in Iowa.

### **Member at Large      Steve Dinsmore**

Stephen J. Dinsmore is an Associate Professor (Wildlife Ecologist) in the Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management at Iowa State University, where he has been employed since 2005. He received degrees from Iowa State University (B.S., Fisheries and Wildlife Biology; 1990), North Carolina State University (M.S., Zoology; 1994), and Colorado State University (Ph.D., Fishery and Wildlife Biology; 2001) and was previously employed as an Assistant Professor (Avian Ecologist) at Mississippi State University (2001-2005). His broad research interests are in the areas of avian ecology and population biology. Recently, he has focused on topics such as avian nest survival modeling, survival estimation, and sampling techniques, and he currently supervises four graduate students working in these areas. He also teaches two undergraduate courses (Ecological Methods and Ornithology), one graduate course (Avian Ecology), and teaches in the Study Abroad program (Natural History of Costa Rica) at Iowa State University. He has regularly attended both the Iowa Chapter and national meetings of The Wildlife Society and wants to become an Iowa Chapter board member to strengthen the ties between Iowa State University and other Iowa wildlife professionals.



## Meet the Nominees for Chapter Offices *(con'd)*

### **Member at Large**                      **Curt Kemmerer**

I would like to be considered for the Member at Large position. I am interested in this appointment because TWS has the ability to be the voice of wildlife professionals in Iowa, and has a history of providing good opportunities for education and professional development at our meetings. I would like to learn more about how TWS works, and help ensure that it continues to be a benefit to all of us. I am a native Iowan, growing up in central Iowa. I received a degree in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University in 2005. I have worked in wildlife management with the Iowa DNR for 7 years. I have been a member of TWS and have regularly attended meetings since 2006.

### **Member at Large**                      **Kathy Koskovitch**

I am a wildlife biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's Private Lands Wildlife Management Program. I provide wildlife habitat technical assistance to private landowners in Northwest Iowa (NRCS Area 1). In addition to working with landowners, I also provide technical assistance to various public and private agencies working with private landowners.

I attended Iowa State University in Ames, where I received a BS in Animal Ecology (1995) and a Masters Degree (2001) in Interdisciplinary Graduate Studies (Animal Ecology, Forestry, and Agronomy). I also worked as a Research Associate in the Animal Ecology Dept at ISU conducting (Iowa) vertebrate habitat modeling for the Iowa Gap Analysis Project.

The Iowa Chapter of TWS is a highly esteemed group of natural resource professionals who contribute greatly to the advocacy of wildlife and wildlife habitat in Iowa! I feel, with my education and work experience, I can contribute to TWS in many ways! I look forward to serving as Member At Large!

### **Member at Large**                      **Greg Schmitt**

Greg Schmitt is a Private Lands Biologist with the Iowa DNR in NE Iowa. I provide wildlife habitat advice and cost share opportunities to landowners and technical assistance to 18 NRCS field offices in NE Iowa. Before moving into my current position 7 years ago, I was a Roadside Vegetation Manager for 13 years in the Iowa County system.

I seek a leadership position to serve the professional community of scientists, managers, educators, planners and other members of the Iowa Wildlife Society who actively study, manage, and conserve wildlife and habitats in the Cyclone State.



The Iowa Chapter of the Wildlife Society Hosts



# GRASSLAND PLANT ID WORKSHOP FOR WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS

Also offering a training session for Deer Antler Scoring

## September 18-19, 2012

### Selected Workshop Topics:

- Vegetative ID of grassland plants
- Knowing the grasses - how to key
- Measuring grassland structure
- Functions of plant species in grassland ecosystems

### WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

Register by: **Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

Two Lunches and Tuesday Dinner included:

**PROFESSIONALS: \$60.00      STUDENT/AMERICORPS: \$40.00**

Register online at: <http://www.iowatws.org/Activities/NextMeeting.aspx>

NOTE: You do not have to be a member of the Iowa Chapter of TWS to attend though if you'd like to join (or renew) dues are \$10.00

### Tentative Schedule

#### Sept. 18 – Tuesday

9:30am Check-in Begins  
 10:30am Training Begins  
 Noon Lunch (Provided)  
 1-5 PM Training Continues\*  
 5:30-6:30 Dinner (included)  
 6:30-8:00 TWS Business Meeting  
 Adjourn for Day

#### Sept. 19 – Wednesday

9-11am Antler Scoring Training  
 Or  
 Tour of Refuge  
 11-11:30 Lunch (Provided)  
 11:30-4 Training Continues\*  
 Workshop Adjourns

\* = Some portion may be spent in the field.

### LOCATION AND HOTEL:

#### Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge at Prairie City, IA

There are Room Blocks at 2 hotels in the Pleasant Hill/Altoona Area being held until **Saturday September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012**.

Sleep Inn and Suites	Holiday Inn Express
5850 Morning Start Ct.	165 Adventureland Dr. NW
Pleasant Hill, IA	Altoona, IA 50009
515-299-9922	515-967-1855
Doubles and Singles: \$84.99	Doubles:\$94.00/Singles:\$84.00

Ask for The Wildlife Society or TWS Workshop Block of rooms. Please double up as much as possible!

### PLANT ID INSTRUCTOR

**Dr. Tom Rosburg** is a long-time professor at Drake University with an expertise and primary interest in Plant Ecology. He has won many awards for his contribution of knowledge to prairie ecology and protection.

### ANTLER SCORING INSTRUCTOR

**Don Pfeiffer** is a recent retiree after a storied and successful career with the Iowa DNR. One of his many areas of expertise is scoring deer antlers which he has been doing for many years.

Questions/Problems? Contact Stephanie at 515-432-2823 or [iowatws@gmail.com](mailto:iowatws@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 24, 2012 National Wild Turkey Federation IA/MO Landowner Workshop and Field Tour, Lineville Community Center, Lineville, Iowa
- September 7-9, 2012 Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) Annual Meeting Camp Frontier Pioneer Scout Reservation Learn more and register at <http://www.regonline.com/MWPARC-2012>
- September 18-19, 2012 IA TWS Professional Development Workshop, Grassland Plant ID & Antler Scoring, Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Learn more and register at <http://www.iowatws.org/activities/NextMeeting.aspx>
- September 28, 2012 Iowa's Outdoor Legacy Conservation Summit, Keynote Speaker: Shane Mahoney, Community Choice Convention Center, Des Moines, Iowa <http://rallyforiowasoutdoors.com>
- October 13-18, 2012 19th Annual The Wildlife Society Conference, Portland, Oregon <http://www.wildlife.org>
- December 9-12, 2012 73rd Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference, Wichita Kansas. Learn more and register at <http://www.midwestfw.org/>



Milksnake, Iowa DNR, MSIM Program, Ryan Rasmussen, 2009

Rebecca Christoffel,  
Newsletter Editor  
([christof@iastate.edu](mailto:christof@iastate.edu))

### 2012-2013 IA Chapter The Wildlife Society Education and Information Committee Members

Tyler Harms (Chair)  
Pete Eyrhalde  
Molly Gillespie  
Andy Kellner  
Rebecca Christoffel

**We're also online!  
Check out Iowa TWS at**

<http://iowatws.org>