

BIOS for Session Leaders

Whiterock Conservancy's 2013 Bio-Blitz

July 12th - 13th, 2013

Come explore our seven-square-miles of oak savannah, prairies, and river bottoms with expert naturalists and scientists as you learn more about the varied ecosystems at Whiterock Conservancy!



Jennifer Kurth
Natural Resources Biologist in the Watershed Improvement Section
Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

She has a B.A in Theatre and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Minnesota and an M.S. in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine. She works on streams that are listed as impaired for aquatic life use (fish, bugs, and/or mussels) but the cause is unknown, and she likes to explain it as a sort of environmental CSI. Her area of expertise is freshwater mussels and she is currently in the midst of a six-year, state-wide survey of freshwater mussels in Iowa rivers and streams.



James O Durbin
President of Cedar Rapids Audubon

I am retired from Rockwell Collins (April 2006). I was employed there for 40 years. I led a group at the airport that designs, documents and installs avionics equipment into airplanes. I have been involved with Cedar Rapids Audubon since 1989. I have served as president for several years and also on the board in other positions. I am currently the president, membership chairman and treasurer. I also do volunteer work with the Linn County Conservation department doing bird classes and studies of species in some of the parks. I have also been involved with the DNR doing Henslow's Sparrow studies in 2004/5/6 at Pleasant Creek Lake State Recreation Area. I continue to monitor the Henslow's population. Since 1989 I have increased my photography activity a tremendous amount, primarily with flowers, birds, butterflies and dragonflies. Since 2002 I have also starting black lighting for moths. I also do a lot of landscaping in my backyard including ponds.

In 2007 I created a website <http://www.insectsofiowa.com> that has pictures and collection data of moths, butterflies, and www.birdsofiowa.com that has birds, fungi, mammals and amphibians.



Joe Alan Artz
Director, Geospatial Program
Office of the State Archaeologist,
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Phone: 319-384-0795

OSA: Research, Service, and Outreach since 1959

MA University of Kansas 1983; geographic information systems, geoarchaeology, prehistoric settlement systems, Holocene pedology and geomorphology, Plains, Midwest)

Joe Alan Artz has conducted archaeological fieldwork since 1976 in Idaho, Belize, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, the Dakotas, and Iowa. He has published articles and book reviews in a variety of journals and newsletters. He is a past President of the Professional Council for North Dakota Heritage, a past Editor of the North Dakota Archaeological Association Journal, and presently serves as President and webmaster of the Plains Anthropological Society.

He joined the Highway Archaeology Program in 1989, and in 1999 became OSA's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Coordinator. He is currently engaged in a project to create a GIS for Iowa archaeology, digitizing the locations of the state's 19,000+ recorded sites. His research interests also include geoarchaeology, in particular Holocene landscape evolution and pedogenesis, and the effects of pedologic and geomorphic processes on archaeological sites.



Rosanne Healy

Rosanne Healy received her masters in Botany from Iowa State University and recently received her doctorate in Plant Biological Science from the University of Minnesota, with a strength in Mycology. Her areas of study are fungal systematics and fungal ultrastructure, and her expertise is in the cup fungi (Pezizales, including truffles). From 2000-2007, with the late Dr. Lois Tiffany, she conducted surveys of Iowa macrofungi (fungi large enough to see with the unaided eye), which culminated in a book (Mushrooms and Other Fungi of the Midcontinental United States) and a website (<http://www.herbarium.iastate.edu/fungi/>) through the Ada Hayden Herbarium at ISU. She is in Iowa for the year 2013-2014 to barcode Iowa cup fungi and to bring the fungal database and website up to date.



Thomas R. Rosburg
Department of Biology, Olin Hall
Drake University, 2507 University Avenue

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 1994; Iowa State University, Department of Botany, Ames, IA
Dissertation: Community and physiological ecology of native grasslands in the Loess Hills of western Iowa.

M.S., Plant Ecology, 1990; Iowa State University, Department of Botany, Ames, IA
Thesis: Restoration of remnant, native grasses in southern Iowa.

B.S., Fish and Wildlife Biology, 1977; Iowa State University, Department of Animal Ecology, Ames, IA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Current Positions:

2005 to present: Collaborating Faculty, Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University

2004 to present: Director of Environmental Science and Policy, Drake University

2002 to present: Associate Professor Drake University;

Visiting Associate Professor Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Field Station, Iowa State University

1998 to 2002: Assistant Professor Drake University

1996 to 1998: Visiting Assistant Professor Drake University

1995 to 2002: Visiting Assistant Professor Iowa Lakeside Laboratory Field Station, Iowa State University

Research Interest

Research encompasses many areas within plant ecology. A primary interest is prairie and grassland ecology (plant community studies, fire ecology, effects of management in restorations, landscape ecology of prairie remnants, and prairie plant biology and eco physiology). Substantial work has been done investigating ecology of seed banks. Forest community work has been directed at the effects of deer herbivory on forest composition and structure, and on the effects of dredge placement on floodplain forests. Avian ecology is also an interest, particularly the bird community composition studies.

Scholarship Publications

Runkel, S.T. and D.M. Roosa (authors), T.R. Rosburg (photography and botanical revision), J.M. Madson (foreword). 2009. Wildflowers of the Tallgrass Prairie – The Upper Midwest. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, IA.

Hill, E.C, H.J. Vogel, T.R. Rosburg, L. Lown, and K. S. Summerville. 2009. Response of a population of *Terrapene ornata* to long distance relocation. *Natural Areas Journal* 29:311-316.

Rosburg, T.R., and M.Q. Owens. 2006. The seed bank of a reconstructed prairie. Pages 44-54. In D. Egan and J.A. Harrington (eds.). *The Conservation Legacy Lives on: Proceedings of the 19th North American Prairie Conference*, University of Wisconsin-Madison Communications, Madison, WI.

Rosburg, T.R. 2001. Iowa's prairie heritage: From the past, through the present and into the future. Pages 1-14. In N. P. Bernstein and L. J. Ostrander (eds.). Proceedings of the Seventeenth North American Prairie Conference: Seeds for the Future; Roots of the Past. North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City. 241 pages.



Russell Benedict, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biology
Central College, Pella, IA

Dr. Russ Benedict spent most of his childhood in eastern Nebraska and was introduced to birds by his sixth grade teacher. This led to a lifelong fascination with all aspects of nature. While in college, he worked as a ranger and naturalist at Fontenelle Forest Nature Center near Omaha, Nebraska, which further fueled his interest in biology. Dr. Benedict earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree, both from University of Nebraska at Omaha. He then completed a Ph.D. at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) in May of 1997. He taught at UNL for two years and spent an additional three years as an Assistant Professor at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia. In 2002, Dr. Benedict arrived at Central College in Pella, Iowa, and now is a Professor of Biology and Chair of the Biology Department. Russ Benedict conducts research on the ecology of bats, and recently began a long-term project examining the potential of incorporating diverse prairie reconstructions in the agricultural landscape (the Prairies for Agriculture Project).



DOUG HARR
Iowa Audubon
Ogden, IA

Doug Harr is a Certified Wildlife Biologist, retired from over 38 years with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. He served as a Wildlife Management Biologist in northwest Iowa (1972-2001), as a Wildlife Diversity (nongame) Biologist at the Boone Wildlife Research Station (2001-2002), and finished his career as Wildlife Diversity State Program Coordinator at DNR's Des Moines headquarters (2002-2010). Prior to his work for DNR Doug was a Biological Technician with the US. Fish & Wildlife Service in North and South Dakota, and an instructor of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University. He holds BS & MS degrees in Wildlife Biology from SDSU. Today he serves as President & Chief Operating Officer of Iowa Audubon, is active in several conservation organizations, and does private consulting work regarding birds and habitat. His primary hobbies are birding and bird photography.



Kirk A. Moloney
Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution and Organismal Biology
Chair of the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution
Iowa State University

Dr. Moloney became interested in ecology as an undergraduate at Pomona College, where he spent a semester abroad living in Tucsa, Peru, an isolated, high elevation, Incan community, studying recolonization of fallow fields by wild species of plants. After graduating he spent several years deciding what to do and eventually settled on going to graduate school to study the ecology of plants as a profession. He received his Ph.D. at Duke University in 1986 and then went on to be a postdoc at Cornell University. He eventually wound up at Iowa State University in 1992, where he has been ever since. During his time in Iowa he has been involved in a number of projects, including an examination of the role of gopher disturbances in determining plant community composition in tallgrass prairies. Most recently he has been focused on studying the ecology and evolution of exotic species (invasive plants). This has involved a detailed study of the ecology and evolution of purple loosestrife, a very aggressive, invasive wetland species that is widespread in Iowa and Minnesota. Most recently he has been involved in a project studying the impact of invasive annual plants on fire risk in the desert Southwest.



Barbara Tagami, E. E. Coordinator/Naturalist
BS in Biology with emphasis in Botany, minor in Art from San Diego State University



For the past 14 years, Barbara Tagami has been the Naturalist for Dickinson County Conservation Board.

She have received IAN/ICEC awards for Outstanding Environmental Education programs and well as Outstanding Environmental Interpreter from her peers. She has produced media programs aired on Lakes TV on a variety of Water Quality related topics.

She has always been interested in wild foods for edible and medicinal usages. She has a passion for this subject and actively pursues knowledge on these topics gaining knowledge from fellow wild food experts, workshops, education and experimentation . She has created many of her own recipes using wild plants that grace the Iowa landscape and is working on a Wild and Edible Foods of Iowa with her recipes.

She loves to cook and feed people.