

BRINGING THE PRAIRIE TO THE PUBLIC: PART TWO

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Part of preserving or restoring tallgrass prairie is education. In Iowa and neighboring prairie states many fine efforts have been undertaken to form public awareness and roadside prairie construction. Still, Mary has lived in Iowa all her life and prior to 1997 had never seen a prairie. Mainstream Iowa and America has been slow to realize the importance and marginalization of the prairie.

We have team-taught and written articles, discussing prairie from aspects of literature and ecology for various audiences. We give some examples of our collaboration such as “Reading the Landscape: Prairie Education through American Literature” that will be a chapter in a book published by the Modern Language Association, *Teaching North American Environmental Literature*. We then highlight a small tour of Central Iowa prairies from the summer of 2007 to gauge conditions and to begin to select suitable areas to collect long-term information for classes. We share some of our findings of fragments of prairie such as Wierman, Williams, Hubbard, A.C. Morris, and Marietta Prairies.

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