

DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION: **BIOL125**
 FALL 2004

Danielle M. Wirth, Ph.D.
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Texts:

Required: Peterson's Field Guide to Birds
 Golden Field Guide to Trees
 A Prairie in Your Pocket by Mark Mueller
 Check with Bookstore

Tentative Schedule:

Field trips will be a part of the exploration. As such, you are expected to dress for the conditions so that you are comfortable and are able to fulfill the requirements. All field trips are subject to change without notice pending local weather conditions, guest lecturers, and unforeseen natural events that would lend themselves to academic study.

Date	Topic
August 31	Introduction to course. Discussion about field work, journals, field sketching, proper field attire, outdoor etiquette, using binoculars, and car-pooling procedures. Brief excursion to encounter urban wilds. (Lecture, discussion, demonstrations)
September 7	Prairie Ecosystems: Plant Communities, bison, elk FIELD TRIP to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge, Prairie City, IA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge
September 14	Wetland Ecosystems – FIELD TRIP – Engeldinger Marsh, Polk County Conservation Board Naturalist Joe Boyles is featured speaker
September 21	Insect Symphony – FIELD TRIP – to Saylorville Lake's Visitor Center
September 28	Migratory Birds – FIELD TRIP – Polk County Conservation Board site. Gather real time, scientific data about migratory birds. Assist naturalist Joe Boyles with research on birdlife of Polk County. Peterson Field Guide to Birds (or other field guide required today).
October 5	Woodland Ecosystems – Chemistry of Fall Colors – FIELD TRIP. Riparian corridor to upland forests.
October 12	Field Foray – exercise in botanical collecting. When?, Why?, How? – and when not to do so. FIELD TRIP – TBA.
October 19	Savanna Ecosystems – FIELD TRIP – TBA – Learn about this rare and threatened biological community and participate in ecological restoration of a local site.
October 26	Iowa's Geological Past – FIELD TRIP – Saylorville Gorge
November 2	Mammals of Iowa – fur, skulls, scat and more! Hands-on.
November 9	Mammals of Iowa (continued)
November 16	Reptiles and Amphibians – FIELD TRIP – to Saylorville Lake Visitor's Center. Iowa's native reptile and amphibian species; their behavior, identification, calls and conservation efforts.
November 23	Winter Bird Watching – Migratory birds have gone South. Now is the time to see our winter residents; the birds most commonly found at the bird feeder. FIELD TRIP – TBA.
November 30	Winter Wildflowers & Animal Tracking - FIELD TRIP to Des Moines Science Center
December 7	Biological Diversity in Iowa: Maintaining, increasing, and protecting. Implications for the future.

Grading:

Portfolio Evaluation (field journals, botanical specimens)	40%
Class participation in field experiences	45%
Quizzes	15%
TOTAL	100%

Field Journals should have a total of 11 field trip entries and 3 classroom entries.
 Botanical specimens should include at least 3 specimens.
 Quizzes will be random, and include material from the last 2 class periods.

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Car Pooling Directions:

Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge

University Avenue East becomes Hwy. 63. Continue east on 63 to the Prairie City Exit (past the Metro Waste Authority's Landfill facility).

Exit Prairie City. At the stop sign, note the paved road that continues into the refuge. Follow the signs for the Prairie Learning Center.

Engeldinger Marsh – 2nd Avenue north to I-80. Follow I-80 east. Exit onto Hwy 65 North. Note: This exit is on the LEFT side of the road. Follow Hwy. 65 past Metro Waste Authority's Household Hazardous Waste Recycling Center. Look carefully for 118th St. Turn right onto 118th St. and follow the road to the gravel parking lot on the right (south) side of the road. This is the parking lot for Engeldinger Marsh.

Saylorville Lake – 2nd Avenue north to Camp Sunnyside Exit. Turn left at the exit ramp and follow the road to the "T" intersection at 6th Avenue. Turn right onto 6th Avenue (Casey's General Store) and then left onto NW 66th. Travel west on NW 66th and turn right (north) at the first traffic light (another Casey's General Store). Travel north and then turning left on the first paved road. This road has several bends. As you travel on this road, note Cottonwood Recreation Area on your left. The next public, paved road AFTER Cottonwood Area is a left turn on the top of the step hill. After turn left, note the woodlands and prairie on your left; the road leading across the dam on your left; and just past the turn for the dam, is the Saylorville Lake Visitor's Center. Depending upon instructions, you will meet at the Visitor's Center or another public use area at Saylorville Lake.