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# BENJAMIN J. HOKSCH

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## EDUCATION

### University of Northern Iowa

*Bachelor of Arts: Biology: Ecology and Systematics*

*Minor: Natural History Interpretation*

*Certificate: Outdoor Recreation*

- Coursework: plant systematics, conservation policy, fire ecology, restoration ecology, limnology, aquatic toxicology, GIS

**December 2011**  
*Cedar Falls, Iowa*

### University of Northern Iowa/Tallgrass Prairie Center

*M.S. Biology*

- Thesis title: Butterfly and floral community dynamics at a native prairie agrofuel research site

**May 2015**  
*Cedar Falls, Iowa*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Field Assistant

*Employer: University of Northern Iowa*

*Salary: up to \$17,000, Stipend*

*Supervisor: Dr. Mark Myers (319) 505-5981, may be contacted*

- Conducted visual surveys along transects for butterflies and breeding grassland birds
- Identified 50+ species of butterflies and two dozen species of birds which required knowledge of flight behaviors and calls
- Assessed vegetation structure and monitored floral resources at reconstructed prairies
- Responsible for training undergraduate research assistants in the above methods
- Conducted small mammal censuses using Sherman traps

**May 2010 – September 2014**  
*Cedar Falls, Iowa*

### Botanist/Field Assistant

*Employer: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*

*Salary: \$3,200-\$4,995 (2-3 weeks), 10-12 hour/days*

*Supervisor: Fred Harris (651)-259-5084, may be contacted*

- Monitored effects of patch-burn grazing on native prairie which required the ability to identify plants under active grazing

**July/Aug 2013-2017**  
*Western Minnesota*

### Field Assistant

*Employer: Driftless Land Stewardship. Contract from State of Minnesota*

*Salary: \$13.25/hour, 10-12+ hour days*

*Supervisor: Jaye Maxfield (608) 996-2135, may be contacted*

- Conducted surveys of flowering/budding plant species, butterflies and tiger beetles on remnant prairies/savannas
- Located new populations of special concern tiger beetles and butterflies and documented individuals with photos and GPS

**March 2016-Sept 2017**  
*Southeastern Minnesota*

### Field Assistant

*Employer: Jon Stravers. Contract through IADNR Forestry*

*Salary: Variable*

*Supervisor: Jon Stravers (563) 880-8046, may be contacted*

- Collected baseline forestry data on globally significant cerulean warbler habitat

**May 2018**  
*Yellow River State Forest, Iowa*

### Field Assistant

*Employer: Tufts University. Contract through Department of Defense*

*Salary: Variable*

*Supervisor: Dr. Norah Warchola, may be contacted*

- Conducted research on disease transfer in Monarch butterfly populations

**June-Sept 2018-2019**  
*Camp Dodge Military Base, Johnston, IA*

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Trip Coordinator

*Employer: University of Northern Iowa Outdoor Recreation Program: UNI Outdoors*

*Supervisor: Andy Martin (319) 273-7164, may be contacted*

- Responsible for planning and leading one to nine day adventures for students and community members in activities such as backpacking, canoeing, rock climbing and ice climbing
- Responsibilities included:
  - Driving a loaded 15 passenger van and trailer across country

**September 2009 – May 2011**  
*Nationwide*

- Carrying, spending, and documenting the use of large amounts of cash (\$1,500.00+)
- Managing group dynamics and working with other leaders to find creative solutions to unforeseen problems

## **AGRARIAN/NATURAL RESOURCE WORK EXPERIENCE**

### **Farm Laborer**

**May – September 2008**

*Conventional Farming Operation/Hog Confinement Animal Feedlot Operation*

*Cedar Falls, Iowa*

*Supervisor: Ed Juhl (319) 988-3609, may be contacted*

*Salary: \$10.00/hour, 40 hours/week*

- Planted crops, vaccinated animals, conducted general farm maintenance and construction
- Channelized a stream, tiled and planted to soybeans a remnant wetland

### **Farmer/Owner**

**June 2011 – Present**

*Never Been Tilled and Hoksch Consulting LLC*

*Iowa*

- Organically farmed and sold produce and maple/river birch syrup to local businesses
- Consulted for clients and prescribed fire to prairies and savannas
- Collected seed from over 100 species of native grasses, sedges and forbs
  - Established small native prairies from seed, greenhouse plants and rescues

### **Ecotech**

**February 2016 - October 2017**

*Employer: Driftless Land Stewardship*

*Bagley, Wisconsin*

*Salary: \$13.25/hour, 10 hour days*

*Supervisors: Jaye Maxfield and Jesse Bennett (608) 996-2135, may be contacted*

- Conducted management of diverse natural areas for federal, state, county and city entities as well as private landowners
  - Utilized mechanical, manual and chemical means for removal of invasive species
  - Applied prescribed fire during spring, summer and fall to sites up to 500 acres
  - Utilized herds of goats as management tools
  - Long days under stressful and exhausting conditions that required constant situational awareness

## **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

### **Sales Associate**

**September 2002 – August 2010**

*Employer: Ankeny Hardware*

*Ankeny, Iowa*

*Salary: \$10.00/hour, 10-40 hours/week*

*Supervisor: Richard DeReus (515) 964-5838, may be contacted.*

- Provided advice on a variety of home improvement projects
- Assisted in repairing and maintaining small engines

## **PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH**

### **Interpretive Naturalist**

**May 2011 – Present**

*Various organizations (i.e. Clayton County Soil Cons. Dist., UNI student groups, Waterloo/CF schools etc.)*

*Iowa – Statewide*

- Lead hikes for up to 30 children and adults that included identifying, collecting and consuming wild plants and mushrooms
- Visited schools to discuss Iowa ecology and helped develop a plan to establish a high school's native garden

### **Mississippi River Storyteller**

**January 2013 – Present**

*Various organizations (i.e. Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Iowa Weed Commissioners Association)*

*Iowa – Statewide*

- Shared my experience from canoeing the Mississippi River with stories, songs and photos to groups of children and adults
- Presented information on ecological processes and current water quality issues

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Myers Mark C, JT Mason, BJ Hoksch, CA Cambardella and JD Pfrimmer (2015). Birds and butterflies respond to soil-induced habitat heterogeneity in experimental plantings of tallgrass prairie species managed as agroenergy crops in Iowa, USA. *Journal of Applied Ecology*, DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.12503.

Myers Mark C, BJ Hoksch, JT Mason (2011) Butterfly response to floral resources during early establishment at a heterogeneous prairie biomass production site in Iowa, USA. *Journal of Insect Conservation*, 16:457–472.

## **HOBBIES AND INTERESTS**

Meadmaking, maple syrup production, wilderness, beekeeping, banjo, herpetology, foraging, mushroom identification, and creating art. Volunteering time to share the above skills with public and private organizations