

Spring/Summer 2016

S

by Dave Coulter

forestry Conference in the city of Ames. Over the past few years I have been promoting the idea of restoring the use of hedgerows in our contemporary urban and rural landscapes, and

Near Sundown

I was eager to visit with those who understood the potential values of such installations to many types of wildlife in landscapes that were otherwise devoid of such habitat.

As I made my way from the city, the scenery changed from urban to agricultural. The farmlands of Illinois and Iowa are dominated by grand vistas of corn and soybeans. Occasionally the scene along the expressways would change briefly—if I happened to

of the Mississippi River valley near my crossing at Dubuque, Iowa. I continued west, passing through iconic landscapes, one made famous by the paintings of Grant Wood.

The drive gave me plenty of opportunity to survey the land, albeit at highway speeds. For a hedgerow-obsessed person such as me, this was a welcome diversion. If horticulture is the intersection of plants and people, I have spent the better part of my life using plants to

Grant Wood, 1933

make our cities and lives better. Over the course of earlier visits to England I became aware of how hedgerows have co

or mark property boundaries. They have become harbors of biodiversity (to whatever extent they do) generally by accident. In

Hedgerows *continued from page 7*

the Prairie State when virtually all of the native prairies have been lost to farming and urban development.

Over the past year I have conducted field surveys to sample insect and bird populations in remnant field margins and hedgerow settings in the suburbs of Chicago. In both instances there was solid evidence to suggest that such marginal settings gave harbor

This ed ally cts t I'd

already in the ce
the rows of Os -o

color treatment in places like National Geographic.

I s my
bu and
as mature trees.

on ly
an re

b tivity. at is the re-
h on of pl and how

Remnant 19th century hedgerow (planted ca. 1870) Cook County,

t as rec that 1 rent
spe the 1300 on &

information that is starting to turn heads in North America

especially in light of pollinator decline and other concerns.

this corridor concept to be extremely seductive. Honestly, who

