

LOOKING BACK: In SA #6, we studied the factors influencing distribution and abundance of species on islands of various kinds, and in SA #7, we discussed the attributes that distinguish biotic communities. Meanwhile, our laboratory study of a prairie grassland system in the process of being restored is intended to help us understand the challenges of “building” a biotic community. Now that you have learned some of the skills of transect and quadrat sampling in the field, you will be analyzing our data and relating your results to concepts of biotic community ecology.

FORWARD: Use your laboratory Manual, Lab #2 “Community Structure and Diversity” and the data and other instructions provided by e-mail to analyze the field data. If you choose to submit a report for this laboratory, instructions have been given for graphing the data and writing the report.

PROCEDURE: Your assignment, regardless of your decision to submit a report, is to analyze the data as described under “Results” in Lab Manual, page 2.4. Once you see the compiled data in your data tables, you are ready to respond to the questions under, “Discussion,” page 2.5. Treat these questions as valuable study questions because they will help you to apply actual experimental data toward understanding concepts encountered in lecture and text.

Please print out and bring your tables (and optionally, your graphs) to lecture along with your responses to the “Discussion” questions. Having given your best effort to complete this assignment will place you in a good learning mode for our discussion in lecture.