

- LOOKING BACK:** In SA #7-8, 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 random sampling using transects and quadrat sampling in the field, and have studied basic statistical concepts, you will be analyzing your data and relating your results to concepts of biotic community ecology.
- FORWARD:** Use your laboratory Manual, Lab #3 "Community Structure and Diversity" and the data and other instructions provided by e-mail to analyze the field data. Your lab manual and the "Lab Resources Page" on the internet give instructions for graphing the data with Microsoft Excel and writing your discussion of the results.
- PROCEDURE:** Your assignment is to analyze the data as described in your Lab Manual, page 3.4, "Analyzing Your Data." Once you have the compiled data in your Figure 1 and data tables, you are ready write the "Results and Discussion" as explained in "Lab Report," page 3.5, and on the Evaluation Form provided on the Lab Resources webpage. The questions under, "Discussion," page 3.6, are optional as far as your report. 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 graphs to lecture along with your notes from responses to the discussion points under "Lab Report" – A. and B. . Having given your best effort to complete this assignment will place you in a good learning mode for our discussion in lecture and perhaps in lab as well.