

1086-M5-877

**Andrea N Young\***, younga@ripon.edu. *Little Fractal on the Prairie: a study of fractal dimension.*

This talk will discuss a project completed by students in a first year seminar course (Math 175: The Shape of the Universe) at Ripon College. Students visited Ripon's Ceresco Prairie Conservancy, which has 130 acres of native prairie, oak savanna and wetland habitat. They photographed natural fractals and used various techniques to approximate the fractal dimensions. This project served as an introduction to mathematical modeling and got students thinking deeply about the concept of dimension. (Received September 14, 2012)