

A PRAIRIE JOURNAL

2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT



FRIENDS OF
NACHUSA
GRASSLANDS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

What does it mean to know a place?

Knowing Nachusa means we name, describe, and, to some extent, understand a beautiful and infinitely complex world.

We see the interdependency of soils, plants, insects, and animals. We learn which plants thrive with certain other plants and how they build a community.

We watch for the arrival of birds; wonder which ones will build nests and what type of plant structures they will build them in.

We discover that quietly moving among us are hundreds of turtles, some older than ourselves, nibbling on spiderwort and silently wintering in sandy dens below our feet.

We learn firsthand how prescribed fire prevents shrubs from overpowering the grasslands.

We observe bison impacting every aspect of prairie life. Each glimmer of understanding yields a new question to be answered.

Knowing is the quiet emotion we feel at dusk in the dimming light, the thrill of rare species thriving, the sense of being at home and at peace. Knowing is the assembly of all this wonder in a place deep inside us; we understand that life is bigger than ourselves.

The sum of our knowing leads to loving. And, loving leads to working for the protection of this landscape. I hope you'll join me in the privilege of this work.

—BERNIE BUCHHOLZ,
President, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



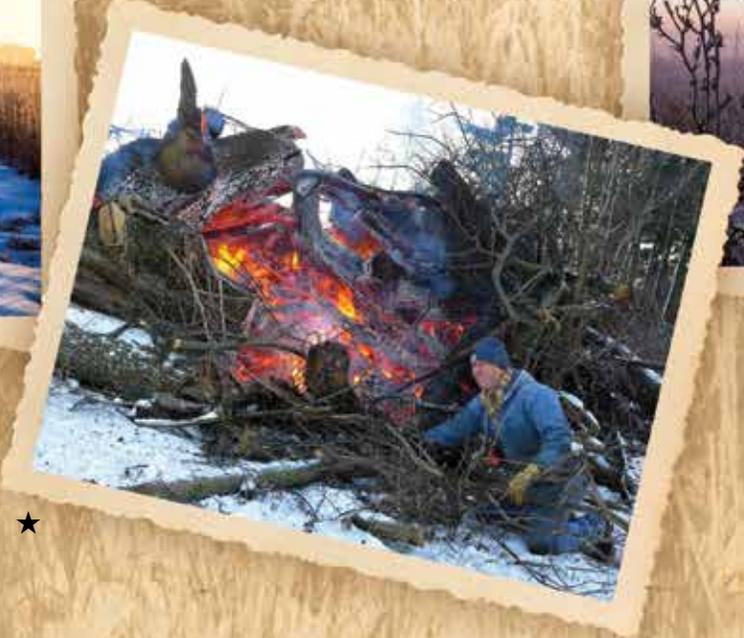
D E C E M B E R

December. A month of brown. Tan grasses, amber leaves clinging to branches, intermingling shades of hickory, walnut, and oak leaves in slow decay. Deadfall to be cut, to be stacked, to be burned. Ashes moving into the tawny sandy soil. A brown beverage after the day. A month of brown—with a hint and promise of white.

MARK JORDAN
Steward

TO-DO LIST

- Review chainsaw safety
- Order EPA fire permits for state
- Continue mowing fire breaks
- Take a hike and enjoy the quiet



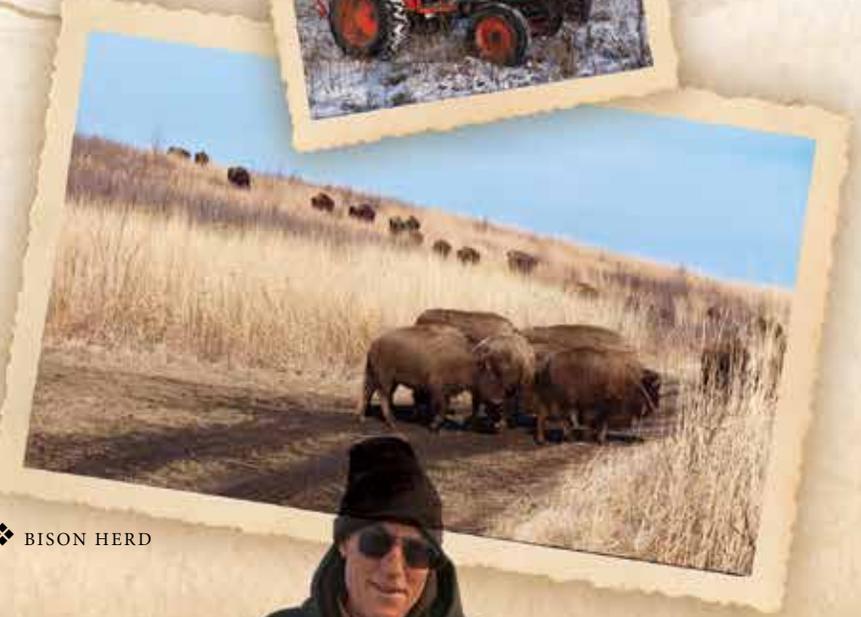
JANUARY

For me, January in Illinois used to mean minimal activities outdoors. Nachusa has taught me that winter is a state of mind—winter can be a lot of fun and productive. Clearing honeysuckle helps clear one’s mind. Starting a huge bonfire of hackberry branches kindles great thoughts. And working in the crisp winter air reinvigorates the body. By February, as I’m wrapping up my business activities and getting ready to travel, I’m reminded that Nachusa is like the Eagles’ song “Hotel California”: “You can check out any time you like but you can never leave.” I know I’ll be back in early spring and that’s always exciting.

TIMOTHY NGO
Volunteer



❖ “SLEIGH RIDE”
VIA TRACTOR



❖ BISON HERD



❖ JAY STACY



- TO-DO LIST**
- Cut brush
 - Organize and report field data
 - Mow willows
 - Go for a walk in Tellabs after it snows

F E B R U A R Y



❖ FLAME FLOWER KNOB

I cherish the moment when I notice the absence of distant man-made sounds after a fresh blanket of February snow has fallen over Nachusa and surrounding areas. A winter prairie, seemingly void of life, comes alive with the crisp ti—ti—ti song of a lone chickadee dancing through the branches of a wafer ash. It's followed by a hair-raising whew—whew—whew—whew, whew, whew, whew call from a cautious buck in the distant hills.

JEFF COLOGNA
Steward



TO-DO LIST

- Mow and clear brush
- Hire seasonal crew for summer
- Organize and report field data
- Cut and stack wood for bunkhouse
- Review for fire season, check equipment
- Watch and listen for woodpeckers

MARCH

“March Madness.” It’s all about getting our spring fire season going! In the fall, we prepare our fire breaks. As soon as winter seems to be ending, we load our water spraying equipment. Then, we look over a long checklist of tasks. Finally, there is a sunny day with a south wind blowing. We are igniting again! It is exciting, challenging, and feels good when we apply fire to the landscape that responds to it so well. Plants emerge just a few weeks later.

BILL KLEIMAN
Project Director for Nachusa Grasslands, The Nature Conservancy



● FIRE AT NACHUSA (ALL PHOTOS)



TO-DO LIST

- Hire seasonal crew
- Ensure equipment and trucks are ready for fire season
- Conduct a mid-March refresher for volunteers and staff who conduct prescribed burns
- Marvel at a landscape blackened by fire, then resurrected into a vibrant, healthy prairie, wetland, or woodland

A P R I L

Ah, the freshness of April! Pristine bloodroot blossoms light up the dark woodland floor. The more prudent fiddleheads tightly curl up in the cool soil, as though snuggled against the chill. By mid-month, the marsh marigolds with their buttery blossoms are the bright sunshine of the fen. Here and there on the prairie the bird's foot violets provide a feast for the regal fritillary caterpillars. Come month's-end, the woodlands roll out their carpets of trilliums and Dutchman's breeches, and the wild ginger buds peek out of their blankets of fuzz. The promise of new life is everywhere as the bison begin to deliver the new year's irrepressible cinnamon calves.

BETTY HIGBY
Volunteer



❖ BIRD'S FOOT VIOLETS



❖ SHOWY ORCHID



❖ BLOODROOT

MAY

Dragonflies and damselflies begin to emerge from the creeks and ponds at Nachusa Grasslands in May. Their transition from ugly nymphs living underwater to colorful aerial acrobats that live only a brief time is one of the marvels of spring. Monitoring the numbers and species of dragonflies and damselflies tells us about the quality of water at Nachusa over time. Plus, it's a great excuse to go hiking.

CINDY CROSBY
Dragonfly Monitor



❖ WILD LUPINE



❖ SHOOTING STARS



❖ CREAM WILD INDIGO

TO-DO LIST

- Manage weeds to eliminate reed canary grass, birdsfoot trefoil, Canada thistle, parsnip, king devil, and day lilies
- Begin collecting seeds of early spring ephemerals
- Listen for spring migrating birds; watch for emerging dragonflies

J U N E

What could be more glorious than nature's palette in June? Pink prairie smoke, pale purple coneflower, yellow coreopsis, purple leadplant with accents of orange, blue spiderwort, and white thimbleweed cover Doug's Knob with a blanket of beauty. My spirit is refreshed each year when the summer species burst into bloom.

MARY MEIER
Steward



* BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY



★ SPIDERWORT



★ PRAIRIE SMOKE



❖ PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER WITH HOVERFLY

- TO-DO LIST
- Weed invasive sweet clover
 - Collect spring wildflower seeds
 - Manage field hawkweed and birdsfoot trefoil
 - Keep an eye out for baby bison births
 - Gather for Friends annual Prairie Potluck

JULY

July is an exciting, busy, and beautiful time on the prairie. The weed control season is winding down while the seed collecting season is picking up. No matter how hot it gets, I truly enjoy my time out in the field with the crew.

KALEB BAKER
Crew Leader and Restoration Technician



★ PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWERS



★ PURPLE PRAIRIE CLOVER



❖ BUTTERFLY WEED

- TO-DO LIST**
- Finish spring and early summer weed management
 - Eradicate bouncing bet
 - Collect seeds of spring-blooming species
 - Watch for bison to begin annual rut
 - Sit on Fame Flower Knob and admire the coneflowers

AUGUST

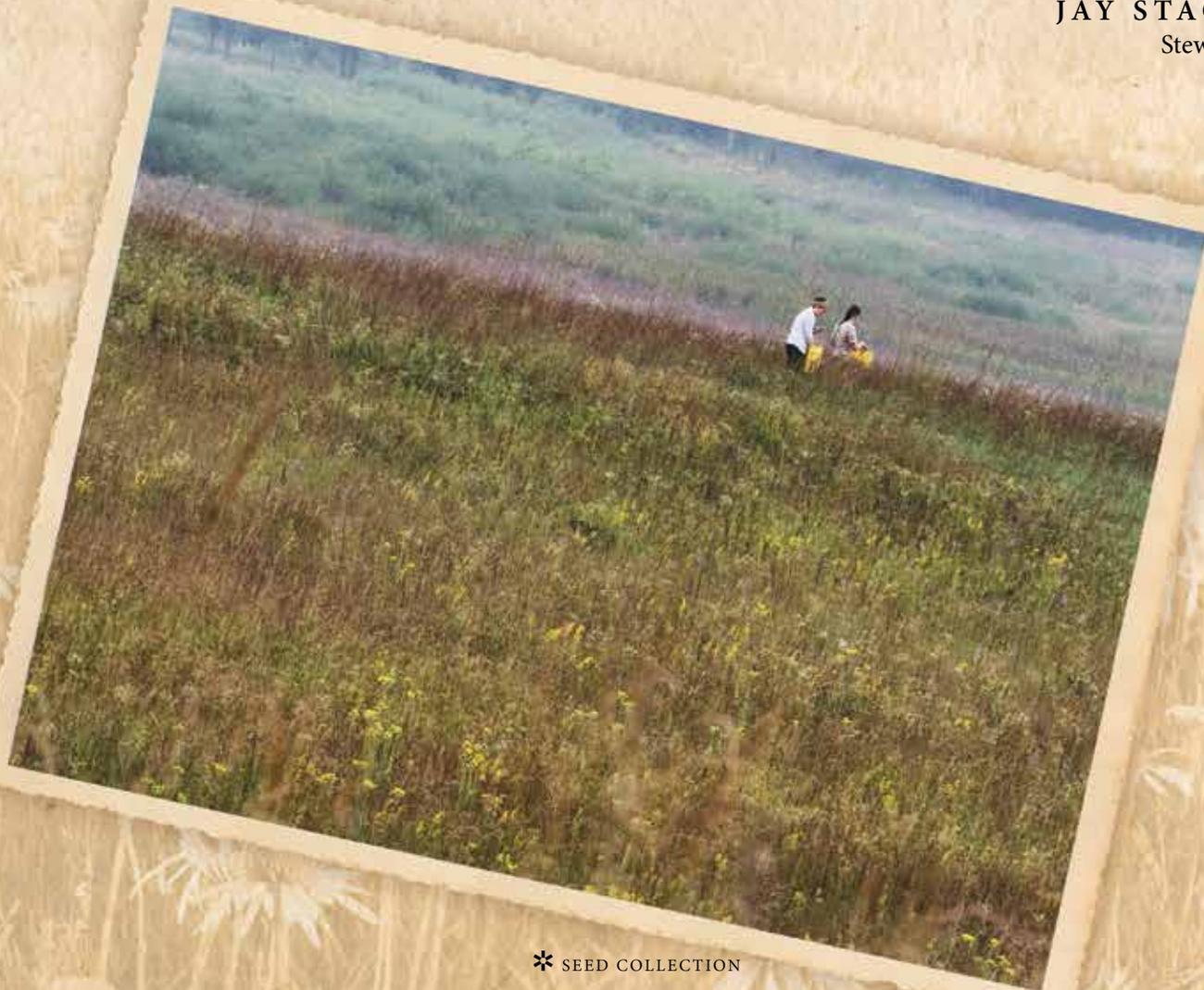


* EASTERN TIGER SWALLOWTAIL

The hot bright light of June and July becomes golden in August. The prairie stays in step with the light in this dance of the seasons, reds and pinks and whites giving way to the yellows of silphiums and sunflowers. A rush of cool air from the north breaks the heat, a first taste of the wine days of fall that lay ahead.

JAY STACY
Steward

- 
- TO-DO LIST
- Collect prairie wildflower seeds
 - Paint and maintain buildings
 - Conduct vegetation transects
 - Prepare for Autumn on the Prairie festival



SEPTEMBER

I love Nachusa Grasslands in September. The exquisite autumn colors of the grasses and flower stems mix with the purple and yellow flowers. I find hidden prairie gentians and ladies' tresses orchids in the oceans of waving prairie grass. Meadowlarks start to sing again, perhaps thinking it's spring. I thrill over the migrating flocks of geese, monarchs, and dragonflies. The sunsets seem more beautiful in the cool fall than in the summer.

SUSAN KLEIMAN
Volunteer and environmental educator



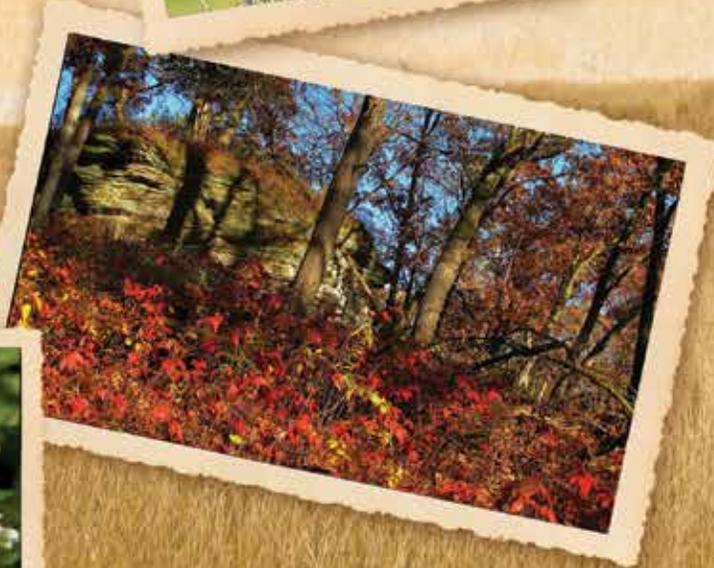
❖ BUCKEYE BUTTERFLY



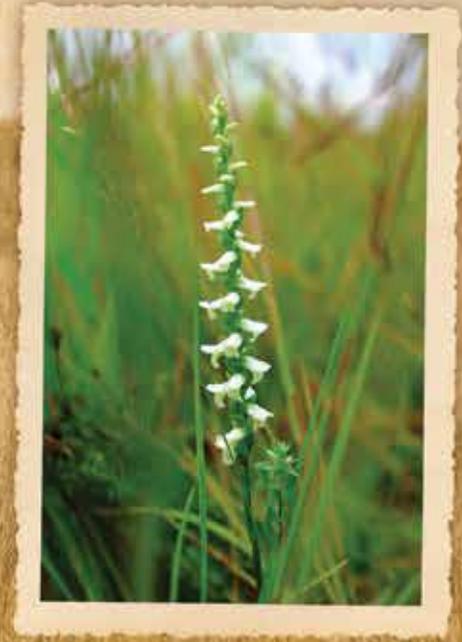
❖ FRITILLARY BUTTERFLY



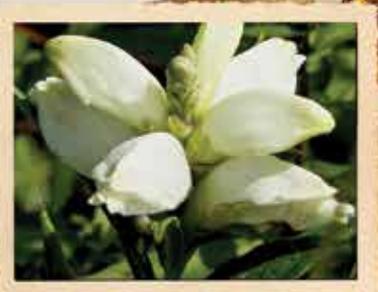
❖ AUTUMN ON PARADE FLOAT



■ ST. PETER'S SANDSTONE



❖ BRAIDED LADIES' TRESSES



❖ TURTLEHEAD

- TO-DO LIST**
- Collect ripe prairie grass and forb seeds
 - Cut brush
 - Autumn on the Prairie event
 - Host group tours
 - Admire blue gentians and ladies' tresses orchids in bloom

OCTOBER

October. Time to bring in the bison for their annual health checkup. The roundup is a fast paced, hold onto your hat, cross-your-fingers, and hope that all your hard work of planning and equipment doesn't fail! Our validation on a job well done is given to us at the end of the day if every animal went through our operation without harm. And, like most operations at Nachusa, this couldn't happen without a great team of volunteers and staff. I'm awfully proud to be part of the roundup and look forward to it each year.

CODY CONSIDINE
Nachusa Grasslands Restoration Ecologist



◆ BISON ROUND-UP CREW



* BISON CALF



* BISON

- TO-DO LIST
- Prepare fire breaks
 - Wrap up seed collection
 - Marvel at fall colors in grasses and woodlands

NOVEMBER

November is tawny, tending toward shades of smoky, punctuated by leaps of flame as late autumn prairie fires leave ash. Planting follows along in the pale light.

MARY VIEREGG

Steward

❖ COLLECTING SEEDS



TO-DO LIST

- Winterize buildings
- Begin prescribed burns
- Plant seeds
- Appreciate the rich metallic colors of the grasses as autumn slides into winter

OUR DONORS

JULY 1, 2015, TO JUNE 30, 2016

★ PRAIRIE PERENNIALS

Donors who have given to the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands in consecutive years at the same or a higher level

+ HERITAGE HEROES

Donors who have committed to including the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands in their estate plans

RESTORATION BENEFACTORS \$5,000 or More

Alliance Financial*
*c/o Frank McGhee, Linda Stone,
and John Ayres*

Bloomberg Philanthropies
Henry Paulson, director match

Bobolink Foundation*
c/o Wendy Paulson

Bernie and Cindy Buchholz*+

Ralph Burnett*

Mary Walsh and Dave Crossett*

Don and Espie Nelson*

Jay Stacy*

Jim and Mary Viereggs*

Fred and Martha Wetzel*
In memory of Irene V. Santee

CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS \$1,500 to \$4,999

Mike Adolph

John and Lisa Marie Ayres*
In memory of Marge Collens

Alan Carpenter*

Steven Diller*

Jan Grainger*

Jerry and Linda Hartz*

Jeff and Joan Meiners*

Steve and Mary Meiners

Tim Sherck+

Judy Rogers and Dale Shriver

Paul and Carol Soderholm

Tawani Enterprises*
*Lisa Ayres, Lincoln Way Inn
B&B, employee match*

Daniel Thompson*+

Vanderpoel Conservation
Foundation*

SUPPORTERS \$1 to \$1,499

Cindy and Fred Acker*

Michael Adsit*

John Albright*

American Airlines
In honor of Paul Swanson

Keith Anderson

Barbara and Michael Annin

Jim Armstrong*

P McMillen and S Bader

Joe and Karin Bajko

Ellen Baker*

Heather Baker*

John and Jane Balaban*

Mark and Gillian Batterman
In honor of Betty Higby

Sally and Max Baumgardner
*In honor of Erich and
Ann Baumgardner*

Renate and Werner Baur*

David Bendlin*

Cordelia Dahlberg Benedict
*In memory of Al and Thelma
Dahlberg*

Mary Beth Bengtson

Pat and Polly Benton, Naperville
Rotary Club
In honor of Cindy Crosby's talk

David Kanzler and Nancy Bingham*

Bishop Family Fund

Todd and Tonya Bittner*

Cindy Blue*

Liesel Wildhagen and Ray Boehmer*
*In memory of Maurice "Jim"
Peckham of Urbana, Illinois*

George and Kathy Bouska

Barbara Bowers
*In memory of Titus and Patton,
my two Rottweilers, and Magic,
my horse*

Wilbert and Dennis Boynton
In honor of Betty Higby

Karla Brandt

Carol Jean and Bernie Brown

Jonathan Brown
*In honor of Carol Jean
and Bernard Brown*

Brad Buchholz

Alice Buyers*
*In memory of
Charles Buyers*

Laura Capaldini

Angelo Capparella*

Mike and Marilyn Carr*

Thomas Cassidy*

Caterpillar Foundation
*Pete Fenner, employee
match*

Susan Cerny

Mark and Betty Kirk Chernansky
*In honor of the "Repeat the
Sounding Joy" Initiative*

Karen Hayes and Jim Coffin

Kathleen Cole*

Leslie Coleman

Mary Coleman

Lewis and Marjorie Collens

Sean and Kristen Collins-Stapleton

Jeff Cologna*

Cody and Angie Considine

Douglas and Elizabeth Considine
In honor of Cody Considine

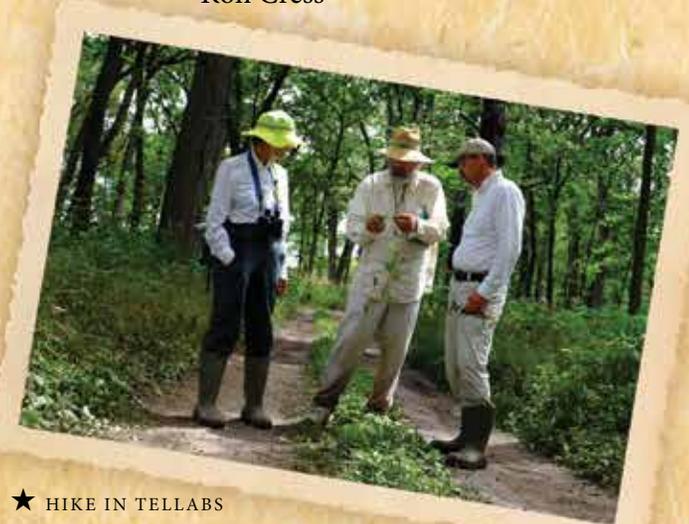
Kathy and Alan Cooper

Susan and Brent Coulter*
In honor of Mary and Jim Viereggs

Ann and Barry Cousins*

Preston and Barbara Crabill

Ron Cress*



OUR DONORS

CONTINUED

Jack Crisham, D.M.D.

In memory of Larinda Heller

David, Laura, and Michelle Crites*+

Michele and Don Cronin

Cindy and Jeff Crosby*

George Crossett

Loretta Crow*

Diane Nelson and Gary Cygan

Daughters of the American

Revolution – Rock River Chapter

In memory of Caroline Colton

Kaletka

David Davidson*

Jon and Emily Dempsey*

Ann Dervis*

In honor of Mary Vieregg

David Derwent*

In celebration of Nachusa's 30th anniversary

Ron Deters

In memory of Jasper our beloved Blue Heeler

In honor of Jay Stacy,

Jeff Cologne, and Dee Hudson

Brenda Dorsey*

In honor of Mary Vieregg

Harry and Beth Drucker*

Chris Boebel and Glenna Eaves*

Lynne and Greg Ekdale*

In honor of Alan and Mary Meier

Helen Evenson*

Exelon's Dollars for Doers

Program*

In honor of Pete Oliver

Bill and Laurie Faller*

DeWayne and Donna Fellows

Pete and Sally Fenner

Sally Bowers and Howard Fenton*

Conrad and Carol Fialkowski*

First Presbyterian Church

God Seekers

In honor of Mike Carr

Robert Fisher*

In honor of Sarah Ryerson

Lee Foley

Guy Fraker

Leslie Frane

In honor of Annette Kleinman

William D. Fruin*

Martha Garcia*

In honor of John and Lisa Ayres

Lorraine Gawlik

Don and Vicki Gladfelter*

Jacquelyne Gleason

In honor of Uncle John Perl

Candice Glover*

Cynthia Gray

Victor and Jean Guarino*

John and Janet Gundy*

Kirk and Katie Hallowell*+

Michael Hansen*

In memory of Carl and Betty

Hansen

Harold M. and Adeline S. Morrison

Family Foundation*

On behalf of Bruce and Beth Boyd

Hamill Family Foundation

On behalf of Nancy C.H. Winter

John Heneghan and Tricia Lowery

Heritage Square

Roxy W. Hey

James and Betty Higby*

In honor of the Bison Herd

Mark Hinueber

Ann Holt-Harris*

Donald and Cherril Homer

Carolyn Hotchkiss*

Gene Hotchkiss*

In honor of Nancy Hotchkiss

John and Ingrid Hotchkiss*

Terry and Janie Houchin*

In honor of Mary and Alan Meier

John Huck*

In memory of Roxana Huck

Jim and Kathy Huffman

Betsy and Marlon Huls

Illinois Audubon Society

– McHenry County Chapter

Ronald D. Ingraham

Carla Johnson

In honor of Kris and Jon Swedlund

Chris and Barbara Johnson

Mark and Patti Jordan

In memory of Jack

and Doris Jordan

Keith Kauffmann

Connie and Dennis Keller*

Tim and Carolyn Keller*

Holly Keltner*

Jack and June Kiburz*

Bill, Susan, and Leah Kleiman

Jeffrey Klocek

Clifford Knapp

Mickey Collins and Aki Knezevic*

Mark Kruis

John and Toni Landgraf*

Emmylou Studier and

Charles Larry*

Kent and Kathy Lawrence

Tom Lawson*

In memory of Annette, Russell,

and James Lawson

Ray and Linda Layton

In honor of Mark Jordan

Lee County Homemakers

Education Association

Datuk Robert F. Inger and

Datin Tan Fui Lian*

Lee and Janice Lockwood

Charlene Loescher*

Ann Lowry

Clark and Pam Lumsden*

Nancy Chadbourne Maze*

Gordon McGrew

Richard and Deborah McNeil

In honor of Annette Kleinman

Alan and Mary Meier*+

Clyde Meier*

In memory of Mary

Termont Meier

Paul and Linda Meier

Michael Mekeel

Lisa and Gerald Moore

Morton Arboretum Education Staff

In honor of Bernie Buchholz

Penny Ward Moser*

In memory of Donald Moser

Melissa Murphy*

In honor of Lisa Murphy

Natural History Society

of Barrington

In honor of John Heneghan

Peter W. Nichols MD

Randy and Melissa Nyboer

Heritage Square

Kevin and Linda O'Neill*

Pete Oliver

Clara Orban

In honor of Sheri's birthday

Oregon Healthcare Pharmacy

Services Inc.

c/o Marc Mongan, President

*Dr. Anna and Ralph Orland**

Jonah Orlofsky*
 Stephen Packard
In honor of Eriko Kojima
 Panoptic Solutions*
Mike Carr and David Crites,
employee matches
 Susan and Don Panozzo*
 Scott Baker and Sara Parikh*
 Joseph and Margaret Pasteris
 Timothy Paulin
In honor of Mom and Pops
 Thomas Peterson*
 Sandy Phillips*
In memory of our Conner,
McGonigle, and Fagan Families
 Bob and Sherry Piros
 Joseph S. and Dona M. Popp
 Joyce Powers
In honor of Paige and Mike Fritz
 Tom and Karen Pulver*
 Daniel and Rita Randecker
 Steven and Robin Read*
 Renae Rebechini*
 Richard Rockenbach
In memory of Donald Rockenbach
 Cassandra Rodgers*
 George B. Rose*
 Chuck Rosenberry*
 Edwin and Barbara Rossow*
In honor of Jim and Mary Viereg
 John and Barbara Rutherford*
 C. Rutkoske*
 Millie Saathoff
 Martha and Zink Sanders*
 Denise Sandoval
 Kate and Ron Saxton
In memory of the mother of
Ghada Hamdan-Allen
In memory of Bob Nagle
and Ron Deitz

Mike Saxton*+
 Richard Schoenberger*
 Richard Schutter
 Severson Dells Nature Center
 Bob and Joyce Shone*
 Jim and Ronda Shotsberger*
 Rebecca and Brad Smith*
In honor of Emmylou Studier
and Charles Larry
 Teresa and Tim Smith
 Judy Snyder*
 Sherrie Snyder
 Ben and Miriam Spilman
In honor of Annette Kleinman
 D. Michael Dodd and
 Georgiana Srachta
 Michael and Julia Studier*
 Jeanie and Tim Sullivan*
 Paul Swanson*
 Les and Pat Szewczyk*
 Michael Tillmans
 Kathleen Tollaksen
In honor of Mike Adolph
 US Cellular
Jeff Cologna, employee match
 Marie Van Tuyl
In honor of Mother Earth
 C J Vanderkolk
 Bruce and Kathy Vickrey*
 Jon and Ann-Marie Vigano*
 Jeff and Regina Walk*
 Catherine Weinzierl
 Margaret Williams*
 Kendall Winter
 Lucinda Winterfield
 Evelyn Young*
In honor of Alan and Mary Meier
 Dan Zellner
 Robert Zimmerman*

Anonymous
In honor of Carolyn Hotchkiss
 Anonymous+

IN-KIND DONATION
 Patagonia Chicago Mag Mile

HERITAGE HEROES NOT LISTED ABOVE
 George and Marylou Farnsworth+
 Robert J. Miller, Jr.+



★ HIKING



SCIENCE

In 2016, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands awarded \$20,000 in research project grants to:

Laura Adamovicz, DVM, Ph.D. graduate student, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Adamovicz will conduct complete veterinary physical exams, collect mouth and cloacal swabs for disease detection, and evaluate blood samples from ornate box turtles at Nachusa. The goal is to measure the health of the population which should help direct conservation strategies for the species at the preserve. This data will also serve as baseline data for use with other populations of this species in other preserves. (\$1,960)

Nicholas Barber, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University. This study will focus on the recolonization of dung beetles following prairie restoration and examine the potential effects of bison on the diversity of these functionally important insects. Specifically, this study will further document the species of dung beetles present at Nachusa, construct a picture of how dung beetle communities shift with plant restoration, and determine if the abundance and diversity of the beetles differs in the presence of grazing bison. (\$500)

Ryan Blackburn, master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University. Mr. Blackburn will be studying bison habitat preference and diet in addition to their effect on vegetation structure. One methodology he will use will be stable isotope analysis of bison hair and the collected leaves of thirteen species of grasses and five dominant forb species to look for dietary patterns. Secondly, he will use aerial imagery to map areas of the preserve of similar ages with and without bison impact. (\$1,500)

Julia Brockman, master's degree graduate student, Southern Illinois University. This is a continuation of Ms. Brockman's study of bison habitat selection at Nachusa. She is collecting hourly GPS location data from collars on seven bison cows and overlaying that data on maps of remnant and restored plant communities, burn data, and locations of human activity. Using mapping and statistical programs, she is determining the importance of different habitat and management variables on bison habitat selection. These observations should help managers develop strategies to optimally plan human/bison interaction, restoration goals, and burn schedules. (\$2,000)

Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar, Ph.D. graduate student, Rutgers University. Over the last three years, Ms. Bruninga-Socolar and **Sean Griffin** have built a data set focusing on the bee populations in the restored areas of Nachusa and surrounding alternative land use areas. This study will use that data set as a baseline to study the effects of bison reintroduction on bee communities. Their previous studies at Nachusa have shown that bee abundance and richness increased with restoration age to the target level of remnant prairie within the first two-three years after restoration began and continued at that high level thereafter. (\$3,340)

Angela Burke, master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University. This continuing project is quantifying how changes in fire intervals and the presence or absence of bison affect small mammal populations in restored and remnant prairie. Ms. Burke is using live capture-mark-recapture methods to measure small mammal diversity, abundance, and seasonal fluctuations in matched pairs of differently aged restoration sites and in remnant sites varying in bison presence/absence and fire frequency. (\$1,500)

Karley Chantos, master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University. This study will evaluate the geochemical and microbial changes brought about in prairie restorations by the reintroduction of bison. This study will build on the previous three years of soil sampling done by Drs. Barber and Swingle in the study sites. The goal is to quantify any measurable differences in the geochemistry and microbial diversity in prairie soil over time with and without the influence of bison feces. (\$1,500)



Heather Herakovich, Ph.D. graduate student, Northern Illinois University. This is the third year of a study of grassland bird density in restored plots of varying age as well as remnant control prairies. Ms. Herakovich is attempting to quantify the effects of bison reintroduction, prescribed fire, and restoration age on grassland bird populations at Nachusa. (\$1,700)

Richard King, Ph.D., Northern Illinois University, **Thomas B. Anton** and **David Mauger**, independent researchers, and **Monika Kastle**, master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University. This research will build on the previous work done by Anton and Mauger at Nachusa which identified certain areas of the preserve as centers of activity for the state endangered Blanding's turtle. This study will use trapping and radio-telemetry to learn more about the animal's movement patterns and habitat use. (\$3,500)

Jodi Vandermyde, aquatic ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey. This project will establish baseline stream conditions such as water temperature, water level, and macroinvertebrate populations and then initiate systematic sampling protocols for long-term stream monitoring at Nachusa. The goal is to study the effects of bison grazing and fire on stream water quality and aquatic diversity over time which may prove useful in assessing land management strategies. (\$2,500)

MARY VIEREGG, Science Grants Chair
and Friends Science Committee



❖ RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD EGGS



❖ DEER MOUSE

HERITAGE HEROES



Our Heritage Heroes initiative offers the opportunity for you to make a lasting contribution to prairie restoration by naming Friends of Nachusa Grasslands in your will or estate plan. This legacy program has been enthusiastically received. In less than two years, eleven individuals or families have made the commitment.

Meet Heritage Hero Tim Sherck

Home: Andersonville area of Chicago

Education: Northwestern University and Harvard Law School

Career: Tax attorney, Mayer Brown

Commitment to Restoration: Tim's parents were avid birders. He fondly remembers visits to Schaefer Prairie, a TNC preserve in central Minnesota. Tim has continued his interest and

commitment to preservation throughout his career. During an early visit to Nachusa, he met with steward Jay Stacy and promised he would return. Jay had his doubts about the Chicago-based attorney, but was delightfully surprised when Tim became a regular volunteer.

Other interests: Tim also serves on the board of The Night Ministry, which provides housing and support services to homeless youth in Chicago.

Tips for Legacy Giving

The Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands is managed by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL), our trusted partner. Founded in 1953, CFNIL manages more than \$90 million for area nonprofits. CFNIL offers planning tips for legacy giving in support of our Heritage Heroes initiative. If you would like to obtain a copy of this one-page summary please visit the Nachusa Grasslands website at nachusagrasslands.org/donate. For more information about becoming a Heritage Hero, please contact Bernie Buchholz at nachusagrasslands@gmail.com or Jon Bates, President of CFNIL, at Jbates@cfnil.org.

—Kirk Hollowell

FRIENDS

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

OUR MISSION

The mission of Friends of Nachusa Grasslands is to preserve, protect, and advocate for the restoration of the tallgrass prairie ecosystem—birds, bison, small mammals, wildflowers, grasses, insects, reptiles, and amphibians—that is Nachusa Grasslands.

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands is a leader in restoring one of the world's most endangered ecosystems: the tallgrass prairie.

Founded in 2008, we are achieving our mission by building endowments that will help defray the cost of natural areas management; conducting and encouraging stewardship; and supporting education and scientific activity at the preserve. Hundreds of concerned people have invested thousands of hours protecting and restoring remnant prairie at Nachusa, which is one of the most successful restorations in the world. We are now providing for its long-term survival.

Build Endowed Funds

We are one-third of the way toward our goal of three million dollars in principal for our two endowments. The endowments will permanently help defray stewardship costs, support scientific research, and encourage volunteering and education at the preserve. We can't do it without you! Every donation helps. Support us through checks, credit card, or monthly gifts. In return, we'll send you our annual report with updates on our work. Friends is a 501(c)3 organization. For more information, please visit nachusagrasslands.org.

Encourage and Conduct Stewardship

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Nachusa. Our volunteers harvest seed, manage invasive species, clear brush, and plant new prairie. They monitor species: from blooms to insects to birds. Volunteers give programs and lead guided hikes on the prairie. Others share their photography, art, or writing skills, or they conduct prescribed burns. E-mail us at nachusagrasslands@gmail.com for a volunteer opportunity that will fit your passion and have an immediate impact.



FINANCIAL RESULTS

2016
7/1/15 - 6/30/16

2015
7/1/14 - 6/30/15

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 23,379		\$ 18,256	
REVENUE				
Cash Donations	180,652	73%	146,078	74%
CRP Annual Payment	50,000	20%	50,000	25%
CFNIL Endowment Income	2,086	<1%	833	<1%
Grant Income	15,000	6%	0	0%
Amazon Smile Income	73	<1%	23	<1%
Total Revenues	247,811	100%	196,934	100%

DISBURSEMENTS

In Direct Support of Our Mission Statement

Gifts to TNC Endowment	65,000	26%	105,000	55%
CFNIL Nachusa Endowment	128,000	52%	62,500	33%
Science Grants	20,000	8%	15,000	8%
Nachusa Operations via TNC	2,086	<1%	833	<1%
Stewardship	16,969	7%	0	0%
Grants to other Organizations	2,450	1%	500	<1%
Subtotal	234,505	95.4%	183,833	96%

Expenses

Banking Fees	367	<1%	188	<1%
Government Fees	28	<1%	25	<1%
Insurance	3,514	1%	3,563	2%
Development	7,382	3%	4,202	2%
Subtotal	11,291	4.6%	7,978	4%

Total Disbursements	245,796	100%	191,811	100%
----------------------------	----------------	-------------	----------------	-------------

ENDING BALANCE	\$ 25,394		\$ 23,379	
-----------------------	------------------	--	------------------	--

ENDOWED FUNDS BALANCE • June 30, 2016

Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment	\$ 543,351
Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands	\$ 361,269
Total Endowed Funds	\$ 904,620

BALANCE SHEET • June 30, 2016

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash	\$ 25,394	Liabilities	\$ 0
		Funds Balance	\$ 25,394
Total Assets	\$ 25,394	Total Liabilities	\$ 25,394

LEARN MORE

SAVE THE DATES

Friends Science Grants Announcements: February 1, 2017

Friends Prairie Potluck: June 17, 2017

Friends Annual Meeting: July 29, 2017

Autumn on the Prairie: September 16, 2017

RECOMMENDED READING

A Natural History of the Chicago Region by Joel Greenberg

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold

Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy

Buffalo for the Broken Heart by Dan O'Brien

Grass Roots: The Universe of Home by Paul Gruchow

Journal of a Prairie Year by Paul Gruchow

Nature's Second Chance by Steven Apfelbaum

The Tallgrass Prairie Center Guide to Prairie Restoration in the Upper Midwest by Daryl Smith, et al

The Tallgrass Prairie Guide to Seed and Seedling Identification in the Upper Midwest by Dave Williams

The Tallgrass Prairie Reader edited by John T. Price

CONTACT US:

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

8772 South Lowden Road

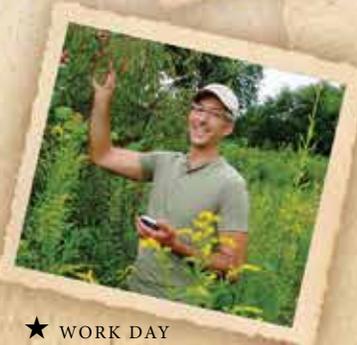
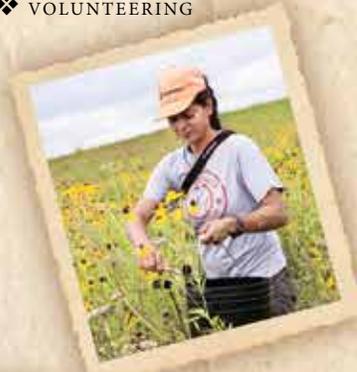
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

708-406-9894

nachusagrasslands@gmail.com



❖ VOLUNTEERING



★ WORK DAY



With grateful thanks to our writers, photographers, and illustrator who contributed to this annual report.

Each copyrighted photo or illustration is marked with a symbol indicating the photographer's or illustrator's name.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| ❖ Cindy Crosby | ■ Mark Jordon |
| ◆ Kirk Hallowell | ● Bill Kleiman |
| ★ Betty Higby | * Charles Larry |
| ❖ Dee Hudson | ★ Timothy Ngo |

ILLUSTRATOR

- ▲ Betty Higby

Background photos by Dee Hudson, Charles Larry and Timothy Ngo

All background illustrations by Betty Higby

Front cover photo and back cover photo: Charles Larry

To-do lists: Bill Kleiman and volunteers

Friends annual report creation by:

Graphic designer: Cindy Kiple

Managing editor: Cindy Crosby

Copyediting and/or assistance provided by:
Bernie Buchholz, Mary Meier, and Dee Hudson

DIRECTORS

Mike Carr (2016-2018)

Kirk Hallowell (2016-2017)

Betty Higby (2016-2018)

OFFICERS

President: Bernie Buchholz

Vice Presidents: Mike Saxton
Cindy Crosby

Treasurer: David Crites

Secretary: Mary Meier



FRIENDS OF
NACHUSA
GRASSLANDS

nachusagrasslands.org

