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www.nachusagrasslands.org

November 2022

Dear Friend,

Nachusa Grasslands is both a place and an idea.

As a place, Nachusa is beautiful to the casual passerby but reveals its greatest treasures to those who look with intent. Nachusa the idea was originally an experiment to see if we might reconstruct a landscape-scale prairie true to its ancient original form. The experiment was decisively successful, and, with proof of concept made, we are duty-bound to restore this precious landscape, to protect each irreplaceable part of the whole, and to celebrate the land's enduring beauty.

After years of volunteering, I now see that being part of both Nachusa the place and Nachusa the idea is a true privilege. Caring for our prairies, woodlands, and wetlands strengthens us against a growing tide of environmental despair. There is nowhere else I would rather give my time, share my treasure, and sustain my hope for a thriving natural world.

With calloused hands and strong backs, our stewardship makes recovery of the landscape possible. A focused vision guides our land protection efforts. Burgeoning scientific research into prairie mysteries keeps us challenged and inspired. A community of like-minded believers ties it all together.


Your financial support is the essential resource that makes the whole enterprise possible. Please take full advantage of the privilege of being part of both this remarkable place and this worthy idea.

All the best,

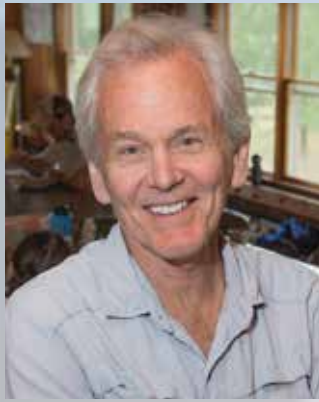
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bernie Buchholz". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Bernie Buchholz, President
Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS
2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PLANT
LOVE
STORIES



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bernie Buchholz



Among seepy fens, gravel prairies, and light-dappled woodlands, more than 700 plant species call Nachusa Grasslands home. How is it that one smallish, inconspicuous plant commands a vastly oversized role in my vision of the prairie?

False toadflax, also known as bastard toadflax (*Comandra umbellata*), stands barely six inches tall. It's a hemiparasite, willing to steal nutrients from any of its neighbors, while still making some of its own food through photosynthesis. It is

present in all of Nachusa's relic prairies, yet is nearly impossible to grow from seed. In fact, only a single stem is confirmed to have grown from tens of thousands of seeds collected and planted by persistent volunteers over the past 37 years.

My fascination with this plant and the belief that it is foundational to great restorations, have led me to plant hundreds of toadflax plugs throughout my plantings since 2009. Seeing that a ten-pound plug of toadflax can grow to 50 feet in diameter



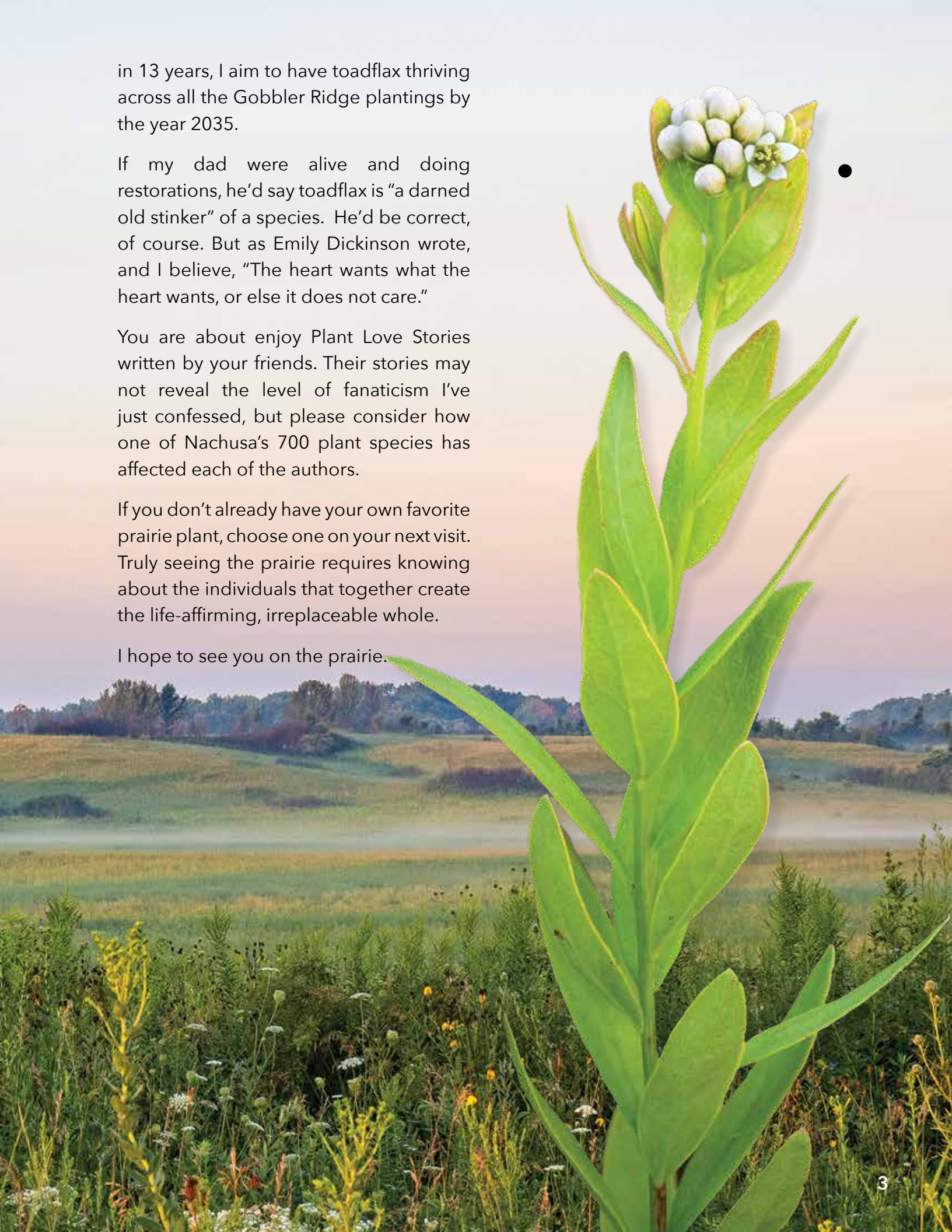
in 13 years, I aim to have toadflax thriving across all the Gobbler Ridge plantings by the year 2035.

If my dad were alive and doing restorations, he'd say toadflax is "a darned old stinker" of a species. He'd be correct, of course. But as Emily Dickinson wrote, and I believe, "The heart wants what the heart wants, or else it does not care."

You are about to enjoy Plant Love Stories written by your friends. Their stories may not reveal the level of fanaticism I've just confessed, but please consider how one of Nachusa's 700 plant species has affected each of the authors.

If you don't already have your own favorite prairie plant, choose one on your next visit. Truly seeing the prairie requires knowing about the individuals that together create the life-affirming, irreplaceable whole.

I hope to see you on the prairie.



PLANT LOVE



Shooting Star

Dodecatheon meadia

By Emmylou Studier

Walks in parks and preserves with Mom and Aunt Mildred were my introduction to wildflowers. They would reminisce and point out favorites, too many for me to remember. But one was easy because of its most appropriate name and beauty: the shooting star.

One hundred years ago, they walked through a prairie on their way to the one-room schoolhouse. Their story of filling a lunch pail with shooting stars for their mother captured my imagination every time I heard it. Tell me again, how many shooting stars? For years I dreamed of seeing so many massed together...until finally stepping into the dream on Dot's Knob one spring years ago.

Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

By Susan Kleiman

Since my name is Susan, I have always liked black-eyed Susan flowers. It also helps that I am from Maryland, where it is the state flower. It was chosen because black and gold resemble the colors of the Calverts, the family name of the Lords Baltimore who founded Maryland. The state flag has four quarters, two of them bearing gold and black.

Like many young women I had a "horse phase" and was always thrilled that the horse that wins the Preakness Stakes (run at the Pimlico Track in Maryland) is lauded with a blanket of black-eyed Susan flowers.

THE STORIES

Cardinal Flower

Lobelia cardinalis

By Stew Pagenstecher

I never before considered that I had a favorite plant, and I was initially stumped and reluctant to offer my suggestion and story to Friends of Nachusa Grasslands. But all I had to do was look out my kitchen window and my backyard rain garden at the many native plants I have added in recent years and see the one plant that inspires and makes me smile every summer morning. That plant is the cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) with its unsurpassed, brilliant red blooms.

However, I must mention another plant that does the same magic as the cardinal flower: the crimson colored bee balm (*Monarda didyma*). Together, these two have really made my garden come alive by attracting the

ruby-throated hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) every year. The first individual which arrives seems to have the upper hand in claiming my rain garden for its territory. And whenever we see competitors attempting to intrude, they are immediately chased off.

Another prominent visitor is the hummingbird moth, and nearly as conspicuous; they enjoy the “fruits” of the cardinal flower and bee balm just as much. In addition, they are fun to watch as they mimic the same flight pattern as the hummingbird when reaching for a drink of nectar. I could not ask for a better seat in the house.



PLANT LOVE

Same Old Story

Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)

By Keith Kauffmann

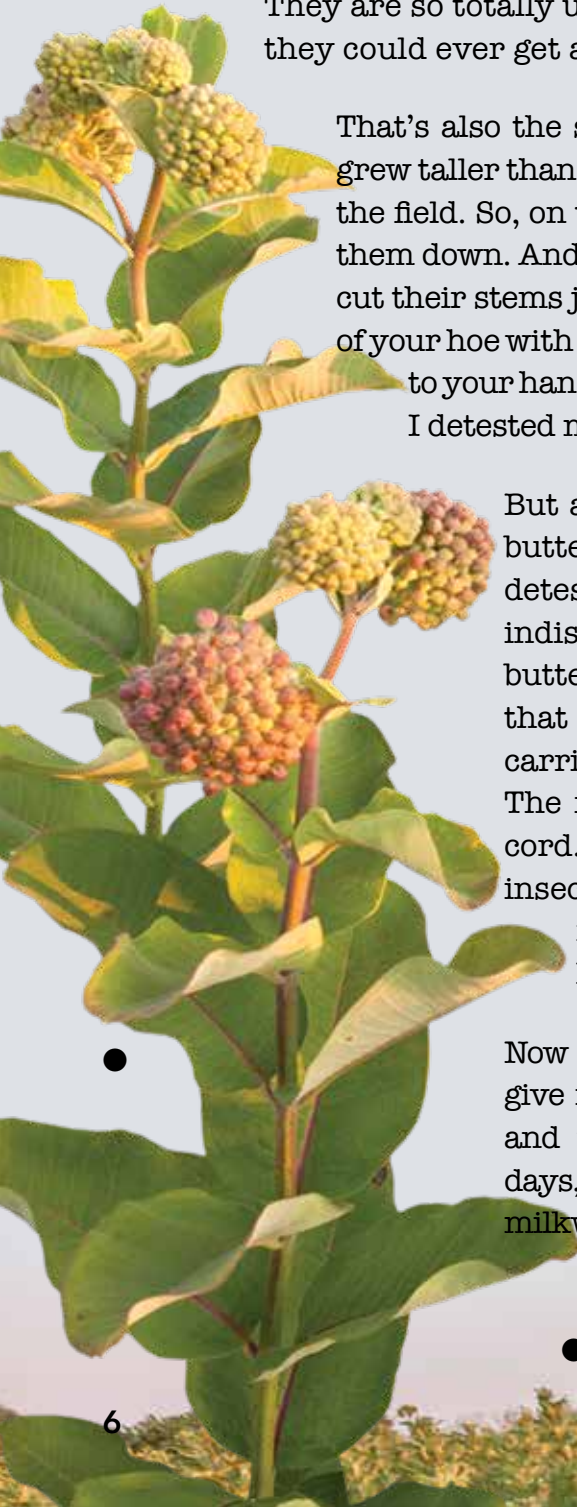
Every romantic comedy tells the same old story. From the very start, the protagonists can't stand one another. They are so totally unsuited for each other that there is no way they could ever get along.



That's also the story of me and the milkweed. I hated the things. They grew taller than the soybeans and ruined the nice, uniform appearance of the field. So, on the hottest days of the summer, Dad sent me out to chop them down. And the milkweeds fought back. No matter how carefully you cut their stems just below the soil line, they managed to cover the handle of your hoe with their sticky sap. And from the handle, the sap transferred to your hands and then to your forehead as you wiped away the sweat. I detested milkweeds, and I don't suppose they cared much for me.

But almost as much as I hated milkweeds, I loved monarch butterflies. I learned that the itchy, sticky sap, which I detested, is the very substance that makes the milkweed indispensable as food for the caterpillar of the monarch butterfly. As I looked at the milkweed in a new light, I learned that it had other interesting qualities. The tuft of fluff that carries the seed is so light that it can be used as insulation. The fibers of the stem are strong enough to be woven into cord. And that crafty milkweed isn't content to depend on insects to accidentally carry a few random grains of pollen. Its flowers are designed with slots that catch the insect's leg and attach a whole sac of pollen.

Now as I walk across the prairie, there are few things that give me more satisfaction than spotting the shiny oval leaves and the small purple flowers of a milkweed. And on good days, a monarch will be fluttering above it. I'm really glad that milkweeds are still around!



THE STORIES

Lost and Found

Prairie false dandelion (*Nothocalais cuspidata*)

By Bernie Buchholz

We enthusiastically seek to increase the population of rare species, but a grander challenge is finding a species that was once present, but is now missing. It can lead to years of searching for a local source.

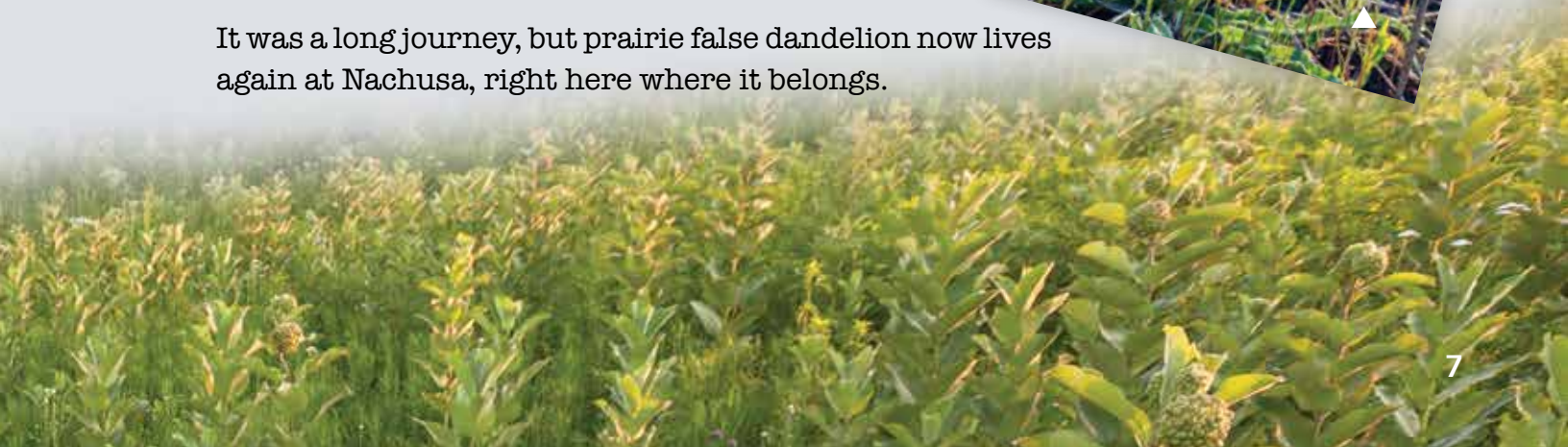
So began my hunt for prairie false dandelion. It bears a resemblance to the dandelion many homeowners try to eliminate from their lawns. But this is no common lawn weed.

In the mid-1990s Dot Wade – the prairie evangelist and namesake of Dot’s Knob – showed Susan Kleiman where the dandelion had once grown. Intrigued with this history, I made annual visits each May – hoping against the odds to find a surviving plant – only to learn years later that I had been prospecting in the wrong remnant.

In 2019 a prairie friend said he once had a propagation garden for the prairie false dandelion and that there were a few survivors he would give me. I jumped at this offer.

Then came the critical question: what was the source of the seed he had planted? It would need to be within 50 miles of Nachusa – a standard to ensure plants are local genotype. To my great disappointment, the seed was sourced from a native nursery in Wisconsin, well beyond our 50-mile limit. But a call to the nursery revealed that the seed was sourced by our own Dot Wade in Ogle County, home to part of Nachusa Grasslands.

It was a long journey, but prairie false dandelion now lives again at Nachusa, right here where it belongs.



PLANT FLOW

Indian Pipe

Monotropa uniflora

By Mike Saxton



It is easy to fall for the effortless beauty and undeniable charisma of a genus like the *Liatris* with its post-fire floral displays of stunning purple hues. When the light hits a patch of rough blazing star just right, setting the blooms off against a backdrop of little bluestem, I get goose bumps. And it is hard to deny the magnetism of *Symphotrichum* with their multiplicity of blooms and habitat affinities. I gape and gush over fields of lovely asters. For each of these genera their allure is undeniable and charm plain to see.

But these scenes and species are neither subtle nor shrouded in mystery like the enigmatic parasitic plant *Monotropa uniflora* – Indian pipe (Ericaceae).

Indian pipe is a ghostly white perennial mycotroph that has lost the ability to photosynthesize and gets all or part of its carbon, water, and nutrient supply through symbiotic association with fungi. Due to this relationship, and owing to its odd appearance, *M. uniflora* is sometimes referred to as a “fungus flower.” It prefers rich, high quality woodlands and occurs in all parts of the US except the Rocky Mountains and desert Southwest.

So what exactly is it about Indian pipe that draws me in? It is not a single aspect, but rather the whole picture: the lack of chlorophyll, the fungi symbiosis, the all-white demure appearance, the utter strangeness, and the simplistic beauty. That Emily Dickinson called the Indian pipe “the preferred flower of life” seems fitting. The natural world is full of magic and mysteries, and *Monotropa uniflora*, unique unto itself, is a treat to behold when one happens to stumble upon it.



THE STORIES

Fringed Puccoon

Lithospermum incisum

By Mary Vieregg

So many enchanting prairie plants,
Over which one do I swoon?
After deep, careful, musing thought,
I choose the rare puccoon!



Three prairie *Lithospermum* species grow
On Nachusa's hills, dales, and dune.
My favorite is the palest yellow one—
L. incisum, the fringed puccoon.

Blooming brightly in spring in upland soils,
The showiest flowers with insects commune,
But it's the seeds of the later modest flowers
The restorationist finds opportune.

The seeds are small white nutlets
The plant will soon have nearby strewn
To grow more lovely linear-leaved beauties—
With hidden soil fungi perhaps in tune.

The pigment in the stout woody taproot
Once dyed pottery, baskets, and beads maroon.
The roots also provided medicinal potions
Whose use most moderns impugn.

As other plants begin to rise above
Lithospermum incisum in June,
I still search for the prairie plant I love best—
The rare and beguiling fringed puccoon.



PLANT LOVE

The Yellow Lady Slipper

Cypripedium pubescens

By Mike Carr

The first wildflower my parents introduced me to was the beautiful lady slipper, an ephemeral spring orchid. Dad came home one spring day, loaded the family into the family car, and drove to a woodland close to our home.

He wanted to show Mom this wonderful woodland spring flower. I was 4-5 years old on this day. I remember the delicate, beautiful flower Mom and Dad were enjoying together. It looked like its name, the pocket open at the top waiting to receive a little foot, and the leaves near the opening made me think of strings to tie the slipper onto the ankle.

I was amazed that nature provided such a beautiful, delicate piece of art. Though I was too young to really understand “art”, I did understand beauty. This encounter with nature changed how I looked at life. It gave me a desire to explore the world of plants and nature in general.

I moved to Illinois as an adult, and for almost 50 years I have been looking for the wonderful lady slipper here all that time. It has been found in Ogle County, but I have never found it myself, nor seen it in Illinois.

The last time I saw my friend, the wonderful lady slipper, was on the last walk I took with my dad in the town forest. We have town forests in New England, not forest preserves. We had been talking about plants I don't see in Illinois. Dad suggested we take a walk in the town forest: that sounded great to me. So off we went, Dad taking me down a path I did not know. Soon he sat on a bench in a small clearing, where I joined him. After a short time, Dad told me to “stand up and look around.” I looked around near my feet, and all around the bench were yellow lady slippers. The attached picture was taken that day.

I have only seen my friend, the lady slipper, one other time. It was on a vacation with my wife and two young children to visit my parents. We drove through Canada to get to New Hampshire and stopped at a roadside rest area. Under a tree there I found a lady slipper and introduced my two young children to this gem, just as my dad had done for me so many years earlier.

Can you tell me where to see my lifelong friend in Illinois?



WEST STORIES

Wild Bergamot

Monarda fistulosa

By Joe Richardson

It is really difficult for me to name a single favorite native plant. It is much easier to choose a color family. I would have to say that my favorite native flower color family is blue, as long as lavenders are included in the blue family.

There are so many flowers in this family to choose from. Take Ohio spiderwort, *Tradescantia ohioensis*, with its deep blue triangular flower petals and contrasting yellow anthers. Or consider purple prairie clover, *Dalea purpurea*, with its progressing rings of delicate deep lavender or light purple flowers.

There is also the easily recognized pale purple coneflower, *Echinacea pallida*, and its cousin, the broad-leaved purple coneflower, *Echinacea purpurea*. These are two of the most-recognized prairie flowers but they are probably more properly classified in the red color family.

However, if I am pressed, I would say that wild bergamot, *Monarda fistulosa*, is my favorite. Yet this is due more to the plant's minty aroma and its open airy form than its medium lavender color. Each flower head consists of many two-lipped flowers. It is the form and color that attract the eye before the aroma is noticed.



PLANT LOVE

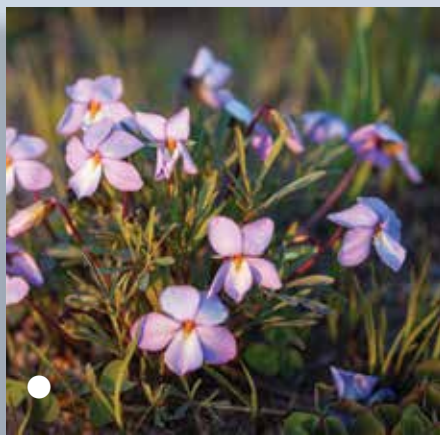
Bird's Foot Violet

Viola pedata

By Charles Larry

My favorite plant at Nachusa is bird's foot violet, so-called because the shape of its leaves are thought to resemble a bird's foot, instead of the heart-shaped leaves of other violets. This small, early blooming plant is always a pleasant sight for me to find when wandering through various places at Nachusa. When I see them I always photograph them, even though I've done so many, many times past.

As I was growing up in the little woods near my home in Carbondale, Illinois (the "hundred acre wood") there was a small hillside where I used to climb in a mulberry tree. Around its base were violets. These were not bird's foot violets but the deep blue, violet, and white varieties mixed. It always seemed a magical place to me. The violet thereafter has been a favorite plant. Bird's foot violets, to me, are the epitome of what a violet should be—beautiful color, perfect shape, and the distinctive leaves give it further aesthetic appeal.



Bird's Foot Violet

Viola pedata

By Mary Meier

Every April, bird's foot violets (*Viola pedata*) bloom on the western edge of Dot's Knob. I always greet the profusion of purple blossoms with joy, as I know that true spring has finally arrived and will soon be followed by warmer weather and many more stunning prairie flowers.



THE STORIES



A Cornucopia of Favorites

By Heather Herakovich

I cannot pinpoint one plant for this story, because every plant I have encountered at Nachusa holds some special place in my heart. Although I cannot choose one, the ones I love most of all have one common reason why they mean so much to me: they represent certain “prairie seasons.”

Shooting stars in early spring bring me so much joy to see, as the weather is still cloudy and cold. As they wane, I look forward to spider-wort in later spring. Their purple pigment lightly stripes my clothing.

Summer brings the firework-shaped pale purple coneflower. Later in summer, prairie dock and compass plant shoot to the sky, towering over me, with blooms reminiscent of stars in the night sky.

As plants go to seed in the fall, I look forward to hearing the rattle of wild white indigo pods and being nearly covered in tick trefoil. I wish I had enough space to include the plants I love to smell in the prairie! I never thought myself to be a plant person, but I cannot imagine experiencing Nachusa in any other way but through the plants.



2022 SCIENCE

● **RICHARD KING**, PhD, Northern Illinois University, Thomas B. Anton and David Mauger, Independent researchers. "Head-Starting: A New Phase in Blanding's Turtle Management at Nachusa Grasslands." This grant supports the ongoing effort to increase the population and promote the persistence of the state-endangered Blanding's turtles at Nachusa and adjacent properties within the Franklin Creek corridor. This work is part of the state-wide Blanding's turtle conservation effort led by IDNR. In addition to tracking newly released "head-start" hatchlings to obtain data on their survival, movements and habitat use, this research team will track adult females to their nest sites and collect eggs for head-starting at Willowbrook Wildlife Center and their later release at both Nachusa Grasslands and Richardson Wildlife Foundation. \$4,750.

● **REB BRYANT**, PhD candidate, The University of Kansas. "Testing the Effect of Native Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Fungi (AMF) on Prairie Restoration Success at Nachusa Grasslands." The goal of this three-year project is to study the question of whether or not the inoculation of specific native arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi (AMF) into the soil of greenhouse grown plants can facilitate the plant abundance of "hard-to-establish" plant species in prairie restorations. If successful, this work may provide a "library" of AMF cultures that can be used to increase biodiversity in future restorations. \$14,525 (paid in full in 2021).

● **KATHRYN BLOODWORTH**, PhD candidate, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. "Fire Effects on Multiple Ecosystem Outcomes: A Meta-Analysis for the Land Managers of Tallgrass Prairie." This grant supports the second year of a comprehensive three-year effort to understand the role of fire frequency in conserving multiple ecosystem outcomes including but not limited to its effects on birds, insects, small mammals, soil characteristics, woody plants, grasses, and forbs across a wide variety of settings (including Nachusa Grasslands) in the tallgrass prairie region. This analysis should provide land managers with information they need to make vital decisions on fire frequency for specific desired outcomes. \$4,873 (in 2022).



CE GRANTS



MOLLY CARLSON, MS candidate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "A survey of crayfishes of Nachusa Grasslands with effects of tallgrass restoration on burrowing crayfish presence/abundance." Burrowing crayfish populations are both understudied and severely threatened worldwide even though they play significant ecological roles. This grant supports a comprehensive survey of Nachusa's crayfish under the supervision of Illinois Natural History Survey astacologists Dr. Chris Taylor and field researcher Dusty Swedberg, while at the same time collecting data on local habitat parameters, e.g., stem density, canopy cover, distance to water, etc., at each identified burrow. The resulting baseline data will provide future direction for measuring the effects of prairie management on burrowing crayfish. \$4,500.


JENNIFER BELL, PhD, Morton Arboretum. "Arbuscular Mycorrhizal Community Structure in a Chronosequence of Tallgrass Prairie Restoration." Using techniques of DNA extraction, PCR, and DNA sequencing, Dr. Bell will be examining the diversity and abundance of symbiotic fungi (arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi, AMF) present in soil samples taken over the course of several years from remnant sites and restorations of various ages at both Nachusa and the Morton Arboretum. The two goals of the study are to determine 1) if AMF community structure eventually mirrors that of remnant sites, and 2) if the AMF community is site specific. The role of AMF in restoration efforts has become an increasingly important focus in restoration science. \$4,750

ROBERT JEAN, PhD, Environmental Solutions and Innovations. "Community dynamics, flower preferences, and parasite loads of native bees and domesticated honey bees at Nachusa Grasslands." This study will investigate the differences in bee community composition, floral preferences, and parasite loads of native bees and domesticated honey bees at various distances from a large honey bee aggregation/apiary located adjacent to Nachusa Grasslands. This study may shed some light on what effect, if any, domesticated bees have on native bee populations (including the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bees residing at Nachusa.) \$8,200.

GAVIN MCNICOL, PhD, University of Illinois at Chicago. "Effects of ecological management on native ecosystem soil-climate interactions." Using a variety of methodologies, Dr. McNicol will measure 1) soil carbon concentrations and stocks, 2) greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide), and 3) soil microbial diversity and community composition in specific prairie, woodland, and wetland units at Nachusa with different histories of management. The goal is to gain insight into the role played by various ecosystems and their management in climate regulation. \$6,022.



2022 SCIENCE



◆ **JOSHUA KLOSTERMANN**, PhD candidate, University of Missouri. "Understanding the Role of Bison Wallows on the Bee and Wasp Communities of Nachusa Grasslands." Previous work on the native bee populations at Nachusa led to the discovery that several rare and uncommon species of bees and a diverse aggregation of ecologically important ground-nesting wasp species use the wallows created by the preserve's bison. Using collected soil data, emergence trap data, and careful observation, this study will take a closer look at these species, their behaviors, and the interactions between the different species using the wallows. This work may in time influence management decisions regarding these habitats. \$9,500.

ERIN ROWLAND-SCHAEFER, PhD candidate, Northern Illinois University. "Quantifying Burns: Using Drones to Numerically Assess the Success of Prescribed Burns." The final year of this three-year grant will support the completion of the drone imagery work being done to quantify the amount of any given unit actually burned during a prescribed fire event as well as the pattern and intensity of the fire. The imagery is also being used to develop a comprehensive land cover map of the preserve. Additionally, the ongoing monitoring of small mammal populations in burn areas is shedding

light on the impact of prescribed fire on those species dependent on specific land cover. Two research papers compiling data from this study have already been submitted for publication. \$3,400 (in 2022).

JESSE SIKORA, MS candidate, Northern Illinois University. "Measuring Beaver Dams and Their Impacts at Nachusa Grasslands." This project is a follow up to the work done last year collecting baseline data on beaver activity at Nachusa. Last year's work identified and mapped 153 beaver dams on the preserve, 80 of which were along flowing streams. This year, Ms. Sikora and her assistant will measure upstream and downstream discharge rates, water retention, and suspended sediment at 15 randomly selected dams to quantify their impact on the streams. Beaver activity on the dams will be quantified by measuring beaver dam volume and beaver-created stump production and by analyzing motion-triggered camera trap footage. \$6,000.

LAURIE SPENCER, PhD candidate, Northern Illinois University. "Assessment of Enteric Parasites in Wild Bison at Nachusa Grasslands." Using microscopic analysis, PCR, and DNA sequencing, this ongoing study will measure the prevalence and abundance of intestinal parasites in Nachusa's bison herd from



CE GRANTS

new and previously collected fecal samples. Infection differences across variables such as age, sex, sample year, diet composition, and climate conditions will also be assessed. Collected data may prove useful in developing both herd management strategies and future veterinary health interventions. \$2,710.

CARIAD WILLIAMS, PhD candidate, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. "Exploring the Diversity of Singing Orthoptera at Nachusa Grasslands using Non-destructive Acoustic Surveying Techniques." This grant supports the use of audio recorders and cluster analysis software to survey and compile a more complete list of the "singing" crickets, katydids, and stridulating grasshoppers found in different habitats of Nachusa. This study builds on the work done by Dr. Sam Heads (Illinois Natural History Survey) in 2011/2012 using active collection techniques. A secondary goal of the project is to relocate the velvet-striped grasshopper (*Eritettix simplex*) first discovered by Dr. Heads at Nachusa. It is listed as a "Species in Greatest Conservation Need" in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. \$4,570.

MATT VON KONRAT, PhD and Todd Widhelm, PhD, Field Museum. "Uncovering Hidden Diversity of Nachusa Grasslands: Insights in the Cryptobiotic World of Bryophytes and Lichens." Lichens and bryophytes

(mosses, liverworts, and hornworts) play a major ecological role and serve as early indicators of global warming, but they have never been studied at Nachusa. Drs. Von Konrat and Widhelm will lead a diverse team of specialists who will complete an inventory of these organisms at the preserve and selected natural areas nearby. A resulting checklist of the area's lichens and bryophytes, a color guide and downloadable pdfs of common species, and digitized label data and images of selected species will help the preserve's managers, volunteers, scientists, and visitors increase their knowledge about these understudied organisms and perhaps influence future management decisions. \$6,725.



Robert and Patricia Anderson Award

This annual award for excellence in science is made possible through a generous gift that honors Robert and Patricia Anderson

Dr. Bruninga-Socolar began studying bees at Nachusa in 2013, and has been awarded several Friends of Nachusa Grasslands science grants to support her work. Beginning with a baseline survey of the bee populations on remnants, restored land, and alternative land use areas at the preserve, the work grew into an exploration of the impact of management actions including bison introduction on the diversity and abundance of bee species and their interactions with plants.

Dr. Bruninga-Socolar's work resulted in the discovery of rare and endangered bee species, and her numerous publications and presentations have made Nachusa one of the Midwest's pre-eminent sites for learning more about these important pollinators. Dr. Bruninga-Socolar is now an Assistant Professor at Albright College in Reading, PA and plans to continue her long-term monitoring of bee populations at Nachusa.



OUR DONORS

JULY 1, 2021, TO JUNE 30, 2022



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Kathleen Cole*
in honor of Nancy Hotchkiss
Leslie Coleman*
Jeff Cologna
in honor of Al and Mary Meier and Mike and Marilyn Carr
Kathy and Alan Cooper*
Susan and Brent Coulter*
in recognition of Mary and Jim Viereggs for their years of commitment to Nachusa Grasslands
Preston and Barbara Crabill*
Ron, Monica and Luke Cress+
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Jill and Gene Crozier*
Diane Nelson and
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and Glenna Eaves
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*Wayne Carlson employee
match*
Carole Edwards
*in memory of Pauline
Kuzmicki*
Vic and Ruth Eichler*
*in honor of Betty and
James Higby for their
involvement in promoting
Nachusa Grasslands to the
public*
Larry and Marsha Eils*
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Johannah Fine*
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in honor of Sarah Ryerson
Loren Roy Floto*
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Lorraine Gawlik*
*in memory of Sally
Baumgardner*
Joyce Gibbons

Don and Vicki Gladfelter*
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*in memory of Carl and
Betty Hansen*
Harold M. and Adeline S.
Morrison Family Foundation*
*on behalf of Bruce and
Beth Boyd*
Philip Harpole
*on behalf of Mark and
Carol Harpole*
Sean Collins-Stapleton and
Kristen Harris*
Michael and Kathleen Hartke*
Linda and Jerry Hartz*
Ann Haverstock
Don and Vicki Hay
Amber Hays
Jeff Hedrich
Trudy Hennessy
Heather Herakovich
Bill and Sheana Hermann*
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in memory of Stella Grobe
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Eugene Hotchkiss
in honor of Nancy Hotchkiss
Carolyn Hotchkiss
Janie and Terry Houchin*
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John Huck
in memory of Roxana Huck
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*in memory of Isabel Johnston
and Mae Domack*
Connie and Dennis Keller*
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in memory of Kim Schnorr
Bill, Susan, and Leah Kleiman*
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Blythe Buchholz and
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*in memory of Annette,
Russell, and James Lawson*
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Lorrie Liphart*
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Bollman-Little*

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JULY 1, 2021, TO JUNE 30, 2022



Susan and Don Panozzo
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in memory of Kim Schnorr
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in memory of my Conner, McGonigle, and Fagan Families
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Tom and Karen Pulver
Ellen Rainey
in honor of Nancy Hotchkiss' 90th birthday
Daniel and Rita Randecker*
Serena Rebechini*
on behalf of Renee Rebechini and Bob Norris
Renaee Rebechini*
Joe and Carol Richardson
Bill and Harumi Richmond
Donna Ritchey Martin
James Warner and Linda Robertson*
in appreciation for a controlled burn by Bill Kleiman
Rockford Hiking Group
in appreciation for a tour led by Mark Jordan
Cassandra Rodgers
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in honor of Erin Rowland-Schaefer
Sue Ann Samuelson
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in honor of Heather Herakovich's birthday
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in honor of Paul Swanson
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in memory of Clyde Meier
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Holly Trott
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U.S. Cellular
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Tom and Nancy Wadsworth*
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Robin Rothbard and Alan Ziebarth
Robert Zimmerman*
Susan Zook*
Anonymous*
in honor of Emmylou Studier and Charles Larry
Anonymous* (8)
Anonymous
in honor of John Godawski
Anonymous (6)
Heritage Heroes Not Listed Above
Karla Brandt
George and Mary Lou Farnsworth
Kirk and Katie Hallowell
Mark and Cecilia Hochsprung
H. Phillip LeFevre
Gerald McDermott
Robert J. Miller

FINANCIALS



	2022 (pre-audit)	2021 (audited)
Net Assets Beginning of the Year	\$3,488,018	\$2,240,491
Support and Revenue		
Program Income	1,502	599
Donations	240,503	690,027
Grants	261,810	131,900
Investment Income	-318,495	548,488
Other Income	50,000	50,000
Total Revenue	\$235,320	\$1,421,014
Expenses		
Science Grants and Symposium	66,394	62,185
T-Shirt Expenses	3,620	0
Professional Expenses	6,655	7,005
Nachusa Operations via TNC	89,248	49,216
Restoration	36,906	31,055
TNC Management Fee	3,035	2,783
Development Expenses	15,139	14,182
Grants to Other Organizations	4,000	4,000
Insurance	2,357	2,330
Government Fees	28	15
Other Expenses	31	716
Total Expenses	\$ 227,412	\$ 173,487
Net change in net assets	7,908	1,247,527
Net assets, end of year (June 30)	\$ 3,495,926	\$ 3,488,018
Reconciliation between Assets and Net Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 172,337	\$ 54,757
Investments		
Beneficial interest in endowments held by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL*&**)	2,619,521	2,536,574
Beneficial interest in endowment held by The Nature Conservancy (TNC***)	783,119	896,688
Total assets, end of year (June 30)	\$ 3,574,977	\$ 3,488,019

ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS

June 30, 2022 (net of fees)

	Current Year	Since Inception
CFNIL General*	\$ 89,248	\$ 225,597
CFNIL Science**	4,108	4,108
TNC***	33,721	143,565

Total Distributions \$127,077 \$ 373,270

ENDOWMENT BALANCES

June 30, 2022

Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands (CFNIL*)	\$ 2,392,855
Friends Endowment for Nachusa Science (CFNIL **)	226,666
Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (TNC***)	783,119

Endowments Total \$ 3,402,640

LAND PROTECTION FUND****

June 30, 2022

Distributions Current Year	Distributions Since Inception	Fund Balance
\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 55,024

Distributions from CFNIL and TNC*** fund operations at Nachusa. Distributions from CFNIL** fund science.*

**Operations endowment established May 14, 2014; 3rd Q distribution based on average yearend balance over prior 3 years.*

***Science endowment established December 1, 2020; 3rd Q distribution based on average yearend balance over prior 3 years.*

****Operations endowment established September 1, 2009; 2nd Q distribution based on average yearend balance over prior 5 years.*

*****Established June 30, 2021. This is a savings account that will provide seed money for land acquisitions by TNC.*



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to restore and protect the tall-grass prairie ecosystem—grasslands, savannas, woodlands, and wetlands. We care for the birds, bison, wildflowers, grasses, insects, and reptiles that are irreplaceable parts of the whole.

ENCOURAGE STEWARDSHIP

Volunteers are the heart and soul of Nachusa. Our volunteers harvest seed, manage invasive species, clear brush, plant new prairie, and conduct prescribed burns. They monitor streams, dragonflies, and frogs. Some volunteers lead hikes or share their photography or drawings. E-mail us for a volunteer opportunity that will have an immediate impact.

BUILD ENDOWED FUNDS

Our goal for our operations endowments is a total of five million dollars, which will help de-

fray the costs of stewardship over the long-term. We can't do it without you! In recognition of your support, we will send you our Annual Report detailing the progress you make possible.

SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

We support critical scientific research that expands our understanding and improves our restoration practices. We recently established the Friends Endowment for Nachusa Science with a goal of one million dollars, which will be a durable source for a portion of our annual grants. We will award \$70,000 in 2023.

PROTECT LAND

We've created a fund to provide seed money for land acquisitions for the continued expansion of Nachusa. Our goal is \$50,000 annually.

LEARN MORE

SAVE THE DATES

Science Symposium: April 22
Friends Prairie Potluck: June 10
Friends Annual Meeting: July 29
Autumn on the Prairie: September 16

CONTACT US

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
8772 South Lowden Road,
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
708-406-9894
nachusagrasslands@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Mike Carr (2022-2024)
Heather Herakovich (2022-2024)
Charles Larry (2021-2023)

OFFICERS (2022-2023)

Bernie Buchholz, president
Mike Saxton, vice president
Mary Vieregg, vice president
Eric Kingery, treasurer
Mary Meier, secretary

PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ILLUSTRATOR

We gratefully thank our photographers and illustrator who contributed to this annual report.

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CONNECTING WITH PRAIRIE FLOWERS AND EACH OTHER

What attracts you to a particular prairie flower? Does it trigger a treasured memory? Does its amazing color grab your attention? Is its delightful fragrance irresistible?

Is there a species that is so rare that the challenge of your discovering even one such plant entices you into a search for it? Do you wish to support efforts to save a threatened species?

A close look at our own relationships with individual native plants can lead to a better understanding of their many other relationships. This examination can introduce us to their pollinators and to birds who feed on those pollinators.

Scientists' work now enables us to comprehend plant interactions with the soil from which they draw nutrients and to which they deliver carbon that they have pulled from the air. Such insights further help us to better support our native plants.

It is our good fortune that your caring for prairie plants has resulted not only in personal enrichment, but also in meaningful connections with folks in Nachusa's like-minded volunteer community. We treasure these interactions among us.

With deep appreciation for your continuing support,
Betty Higby, *Volunteer Steward*



FRIENDS OF
NACHUSA
GRASSLANDS

nachusagrasslands.org



30% Recycled Paper

*"When we see land as a community to which we belong,
we may begin to use it with love and respect."*

-Aldo Leopold

Thank you for supporting Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

Giving levels listed in our Annual Report are

Supporter — \$1 to \$1,499

Conservation Champion — \$1,500 to \$4,999

Restoration Benefactor — \$5,000 or more

How should Friends apply my donation?

- Where most needed

Stewardship/Science Endowments*

- Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands (CFNIL)
 Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (TNC)
 Friends Endowment for Nachusa Science (CFNIL)

Funds**

- Friends Fund for Science
 Friends Land Protection Fund
 In Honor/Memory of: _____

For an honor/memorial acknowledgment or employer match, please include information on a separate note.

Send me information about:

- Including Friends in my estate to become a Heritage Hero
 Donating stocks, bonds, mutual funds, or other assets
 Donating from my IRA



FRIENDS OF
NACHUSA
GRASSLANDS

Visit nachusagrasslands.org/donations for endowment details, giving options and more information.

* Endowments permanently secure funding for the future.
** Funds support current science or land purchases.

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Enclosed is my check to **Friends of Nachusa Grasslands** for:

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