

FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS



BEAUTY
IN SCALE

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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www.nachusagrasslands.org

October 2020

Dear Friend of Nachusa Grasslands,

“In difficult times carry something beautiful in your heart.” That’s the mathematician and philosopher Blaise Pascal speaking from the 1600s. Seldom has his advice been more helpful than in this tumultuous year.

When I search for something beautiful, I sometimes latch on to images of the Grasslands: the first flowers of spring on a relic knob, the rolling hills of tallgrass, a butterfly dancing stem to stem, or our committed community pursuing the restoration dream. Beauty wards off negativity and fear.

Nachusa’s beauty comes not only from nature, but also from the human truths that our prairie mission is selfless, democratic, enduring, and essential. We are a grassroots community getting results and willingly getting tired and dirty in the process.

If being part of Nachusa is even a small measure of who you are, please consider helping us earn our largest-ever challenge grant. If we raise \$100,000 more than our five-year average annual revenue, we’ll receive \$100,000 from a private foundation. The award will be a big step in our goal to provide for the long-term protection of the Grasslands.

Not everyone can “do more” this year, but, if you are able, this is a great time to reaffirm your belief in the beauty of what is happening at Nachusa. Take a positive step to validate the steadfastness of these efforts with your continued support.

As 2020 comes to a close, try keeping a beautiful memory of Nachusa in your mind. Or even better, come make a new memory. Take a hike through Nachusa’s welcoming beauty. Carry something of Nachusa wherever you go.

Sincerely,

Bernie Buchholz

MESSAGE FROM THE PRAIRIE

BY MIKE SAXTON, FRIENDS VICE-PRESIDENT



There is a certain comfort in the consistency of the natural world. Light always follows darkness, and stars invariably crawl across the nighttime prairie sky. We know the harshest winter will melt away to lush spring days and that summer heat will yield to the crisp golden hues of autumn. We trust in the seasons and the skies.

But aside from the peace of predictability, there is intrigue and allure in the dynamic and ever-changing nature of the land. With a keen eye and patient step you never walk through the same prairie twice.





A bison wallow where none was before. Dazzling blooms of kaleidoscopic color. The first migrant warbler spotted for the year. A new insect species discovered for the first time. Splashes of orange and red as leaves turn in autumnal splendor. No two prairie sunsets ever the same.

The changing landscape keeps us curious, inspired, and coming back for more.

A resilient, thriving prairie contains an elegant and mysterious web of organisms large and small. From the gnarled bur oaks to the minute soil microbes, every member of the natural

community has its role to play and niche to fill. In this complexity there is unexplainable beauty, endless possibilities, and a spot for you and me.

Nachusa is a place to appreciate the small things and to ask the big questions. Among the undulating hills of tallgrass there is something for everyone. Come join us on the land and see. Lose yourself in the prairie and wonder at what you find.





REMNANT BEAUTY

BY DEE HUDSON, VOLUNTEER STEWARD

Rolling and steep remnant hills sweep the Thelma Carpenter Prairie landscape, framed on the north and south ends by beautiful restoration plantings. It was this grand topography that first attracted me to steward this magnificent unit, for I love to climb the slopes to the top and take in the astounding countryside views.

To enjoy an incredible panoramic display, just look to the north restoration planting in springtime. First the shooting stars blanket a large expanse with their tiny pink blooms. Then soon

to follow are the yellow and purple blooms of the wild lupine and heart-leaf golden Alexander.

Turning . . . remnants, I see exposed rock outcrops that create a very scenic picture on one of the hills. Glancing . . . below, I marvel how the sandy slope is dotted with the small native leadplant bush, amidst the delicate-looking plains grass-leaved goldenrod and pasture rose. Another hilltop, covered in little bluestem, features pale purple coneflowers that appear to dance in the breeze. Finally, one of my favorite remnant displays include the tufts of elegant prairie dropseed grass, interspersed with the purple spikes of the rough blazing star and the yellow-colored showy goldenrod. These floral displays are only some of Thelma's treasures.

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The animal kingdom in the unit is also quite spectacular. My favorite has to be the digging specialist, the badger, who is quite at home on the sandy slopes. The striped face of this carnivore is adorable, while the sharp claws deserve respect.

Finally, many small creatures have caused me to interrupt my stewardship and admire nature. As I was about to remove a non-native tree, I spotted a real live “tree-hugger”; a cute little tree frog nestled on the branch. Its presence saved the tree for another season. Then there was the time the two-inch wasp landed on the nearby plant and turned its head to look at me. The stinger of this cicada killer wasp was quite formidable, so I respectfully kept my distance. From the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly flitting about all summer long, to the chubby orange sphinx caterpillar munching on grapevines, I delight in all the beauty Thelma Carpenter Prairie has to offer.



PRAIRIE RELATIONSHIPS, BEAUTIFULLY SIZED

BY BETTY HIGBY, VOLUNTEER STEWARD

◆ Against the white of winter's snowy skies, the bur oak, up to 80 feet tall and equally wide, captures our attention with its complex, massive structure. Its trunk hollows and fire-resistant bark provide nooks where wildlife shelter. Last autumn, the mature oak produced thousands of acorns, providing critical calories well into winter to fuel prairie mammals, birds, and insects. Its dead leaves provide a home for predators who keep decomposers and diggers in check.

● In spring, the oak continues to radiate stability and strength with a freshness that belies the tree's age, which can span centuries. It extends its role as a prairie keystone species, its large-lobed leaves sustaining moths and caterpillars, who then become bird food. These same leaves exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide and simultaneously shade an understory of comparatively diminutive plants.



Blue-eyed grass blooms April through June. This 4-to-10-inch slender-leaved non-grass has dainty blue-to-white flowers that appear to dance with every breeze, attracting early pollinators.

Violet wood sorrel blooms April through June and September through November. Only four inches tall with oval-heart leaflets, when nectar is scarce, its bell-shaped flowers are native bee favorites.

Wild lupine blooms May through June with spires of unique pea-like, bluish-purple flowers. This 1-to-2-foot plant is the only known host for caterpillars of the endangered Karner blue butterfly.

Wild columbine blooms May through June. Its elegant flowering coincides with the emergence of queen bees and migrating hummingbirds, providing much-needed pollen and nectar. The threatened rusty patch bumblebee has been



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seen perforating columbine spurs for nectar.

We cannot readily see the prairie's root zone, another marvel of biodiversity. Here the tiniest species do some of the biggest jobs! Plant roots trade photosynthesis-produced sugars for essential elements supplied by soil microbes that have broken down and recycled plant and animal remains. Plants such as native orchids support mycorrhizal fungi that in turn use their superfine filaments to secure otherwise inaccessible distant nutrients for their hosts. Scientists are using DNA to explore these awesome microbiome symbiotic relationships, where there can be a million distinct bacteria species in one gram of soil!



HIDDEN PRAIRIE

BY CHRIS HELZER,
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

In late January, 2018, I walked into Lincoln Creek Prairie, near my home in Aurora, Nebraska, and put four flags in the ground, marking out a square meter of prairie. Over the next year, I visited that small plot 46 times, trying to photograph as much beauty and diversity as I could within that tiny space. When I conceived of the project, it was simply a way to create content for my blog. It ended up becoming one of the most significant and influential endeavors of my career.

The portion of Lincoln Creek Prairie I chose for my photography project was a skinny strip of

restored grassland between a patch of trees and an open mowed area by the city's dog pound. It's a decent little prairie, but very comparable to many small restored prairies around the central U.S. That was the point.

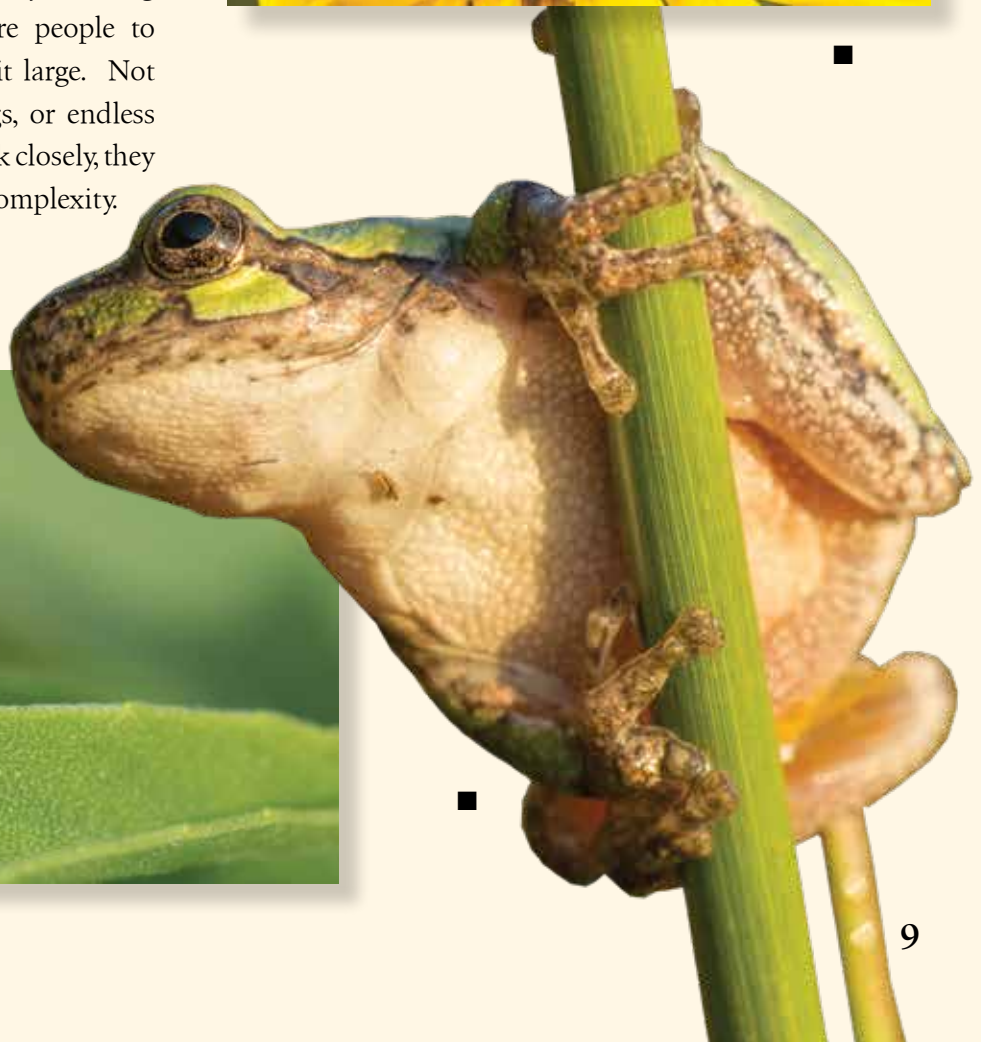
By January 2019, I had photographed 113 different species of plants and animals within my square meter plot. More importantly, I had accumulated a batch of images that showcased the kind of intricate beauty that exists in all prairies. I had been exploring and studying grasslands for more than 25 years and paid special





attention to the small-scale prairie organisms and stories. Even so, I found myself amazed and inspired by what I was able to find by simply staring intently at a tiny square of prairie. Every time I visited, I found something new to photograph. Sometimes the subject matter jumped out at me (literally), but it often took me many minutes of quiet observation to notice a minuscule fly or an attractive arrangement of leaves or flowers.

My square meter was no more special than any other square meter of prairie. By focusing on a tiny area, I hoped to inspire people to think differently about prairies writ large. Not all prairies have bison, prairie dogs, or endless expanses of grassland, but if you look closely, they all have extraordinary beauty and complexity.



ON FAME FLOWER KNOB

BY CINDY CROSBY, NACHUSA VOLUNTEER

There are few places at Nachusa Grasslands which offer the splendor of a 360-degree view as does Fame Flower Knob. I always look forward to the climb.

Reach the top, and to the north, restored prairie. Look east, and see the restored prairie meet farmland: two worlds colliding. To the west, bison graze the restored prairie, edged with houses. Look to the south, and Clear Creek runs cold and fast, full of springwater dancer damselflies. Ruby-throated hummingbirds sip nectar from blooming orange jewelweed that lines the banks. Clear Creek Knolls is in the far distance, a prairie restoration that seems to go on forever until the tallgrass melds with sky.

Look up. A vast spread of blue is punctuated with puffs of cumulus clouds. Look down. So many tiny mosses, lichens, and wildflowers — some with blooms no larger than your fingernail. Everywhere, there is something to marvel at. Everywhere, there is wonder.

I sit for a while, taking it all in. The breeze brings with it the smell of “green” — something fresh and alive. These craggy knobs — small hills too difficult to farm — saved this precious remnant and others like it from obliteration by agriculture. In Illinois, only about 2,300 acres of original, high-quality prairie, untouched by the plow, remain today. This place is a survivor!

Hundreds of years ago, Native Americans likely climbed this knob and saw prairie spread out below. They were unaware of a future in which we’d seek to replicate the past. When the winds blow through the little bluestem on Fame Flower Knob, you sense the spirit of this place. Something deep. Ancient. Our presence here is as fleeting as the shadows of the clouds.

As I take in the view on Fame Flower Knob, it’s difficult to not think of grandeur. Majesty. Glory. All easy clichés for something as magnificent as this. But when we stand at the highest point at Nachusa Grasslands, all words eventually fail. It’s a moment to be cherished. And we’re grateful.



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SCIENCE GRANTS

LAURA ADAMOVICZ, DVM, PhD,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“Health Assessment of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) Using Blood Ceruloplasmin, Lactate, and Hormone Analysis.”

Dr. Adamovicz is continuing her last four years’ work assessing the health of the ornate box turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) at Nachusa. In addition to directing strategies for protecting this state-threatened species at Nachusa, this work provides baseline data for protecting other ornate box turtle populations elsewhere. This grant will specifically help pay for testing blood ceruloplasmin, plasma lactate, and hormone levels in captured turtles to assess long-term inflammation, stress levels, and egg presence, respectively. (\$2,441)

SHAWN BROWN, PhD,
University of Memphis.

“Impacts on Belowground Microbial Communities with Herbicidal Control of the Invasive *Lonicera maackii* (Amur Honeysuckle.)”

Amur honeysuckle is a problematic invasive species at Nachusa. Both stewards and staff have spent innumerable hours using herbicide



to eradicate it with no knowledge of how those treatments are affecting soil microbial communities so vital to the healthy soils required for above-ground community restoration. Dr. Brown will study this question to determine what effects, if any, herbicide treatments are having on below-ground soil communities. (\$2,790)

BETHANNE BRUNINGA-SOCOLAR, PhD,
University of Minnesota.

“Monitoring Nachusa’s Wild Bees.”

This grant will support the ongoing monitoring of Nachusa’s wild bees first begun by Dr. Bruninga-Socolar and Dr. Sean Griffin in 2013. It will also support the use of new monitoring methods to specifically identify habitat specialist and dietary specialist bees and bumble bees, which are bees of high conservation interest. The long-term goals of this study include assessing the effectiveness of restoration and management for conserving wild bee communities, describing bee community and population dynamics over time, and analyzing the impacts of climate change on Nachusa’s wild bee community. (\$10,000)



ANTONIO DEL VALLE, MS candidate,
Northern Illinois University.

“Breeding Bird Communities: Impacts of Bison Reintroduction, Prescribed Fire, and Restoration Chronosequence at Nachusa Grasslands.”

Mr. Del Valle will be conducting breeding bird surveys and vegetation structure analysis along fixed-width transects in units with different grazing (bison/no bison) and fire (burned/unburned) histories to determine if bird species and their numbers vary with management regimen. He will also be comparing the survey data he collects in the South Bison unit with bird survey data collected along identical transects between the years between 1991 and 2012. (\$2,710)

ELIZABETH ESSELMAN, PhD
and JOSEPH STUMBO, MS candidate,
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

“Mycorrhizal Fungal Associates of the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid (*Plantanthera leucophaea*)”

The eastern prairie fringed orchid is a federally threatened species which at one time was common in wet prairie habitats throughout the upper Midwest. This grant supports the goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Plan to create larger populations of the orchid that can survive long-term. The money will be used to identify the specific fungal associates required by the orchid’s seeds to germinate, perform seed germination experiments, and re-introduce successful seedlings in the protected wetland habitats of Nachusa, where they can be monitored. (\$9,350)



PETE GUIDEN, PhD,
Northern Illinois University.

“What Happens to Seeds Sown in Bison Wallows?”

What can stewards do with abandoned bison wallows? Can they be reseeded with rare plants which might thrive in the lower competition environment? Does the fire history around the wallow affect the outcome of over-seeding? This study will first use satellite imagery to map Nachusa’s existing wallows, both active and abandoned. Then Dr. Guiden will conduct experiments measuring the removal of sown seeds (of different sizes) from wallows in areas with different fire histories and exploring the role of invertebrate and vertebrate granivores in removing seeds from the wallows. (\$1,302)

RICHARD KING, PhD,
Northern Illinois University, and
THOMAS B. ANTON and DAVID MAUGER,
independent researchers.

“Head-Starting: A New Phase in Blanding’s Turtle Management at Nachusa Grasslands.”

This 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 will enter a new phase this year. In addition to continued monitoring of the Blanding’s population and tracking of females to their nesting sites which can then be protected, forty “head-start” turtles from eggs collected in 2019 will be released and tracked to obtain data on survival, movements, and habitat use. (\$6,884)



SCIENCE GRANTS

DESIRAE KLIMEK and WESLEY D. SWINGLEY, PhD, Northern Illinois University.

“Linking Soil Geochemistry with Microbial Communities in Restored Tall Grass Prairie Following Native Grazer Introduction.”

This grant will support the geochemical analysis of soil samples collected during 2013 and from 2015 to 2019 with the goal of investigating how prescribed burning, bison introduction, microbial composition, and prairie restoration each affect soil carbon and nitrogen concentrations. (\$2,350)

JENNIFER KOOP, PhD and TED BURGESS, PhD, Northern Illinois University.

“Effects of Bison Management and Age of Prairie Restoration on Tick Populations at Nachusa Grasslands.”

This project will determine what tick species are present (species richness) and how many of each species are present (abundance) in order to calculate various indices of tick species diversity at Nachusa. Then the questions of whether tick richness and/or abundance vary with restoration age and/or the presence of bison will be explored. About 20 species of ticks inhabit the state of Illinois, but no definitive study of ticks living at Nachusa has been done. (\$2,940)



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ERIN ROWLAND, PhD candidate,
Northern Illinois University.

“Quantifying Burns: Using Drones to Numerically Assess the Success of Prescribed Burns.”

This multi-year study will use drone imagery 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. Additionally, the ongoing monitoring of small mammal populations in those areas will shed light on the impact of prescribed fire on animals dependent on specific land cover. (\$3,545)

JENN SIMONS, MS candidate,
University of Wisconsin-Madison.

“Five Years of Bison: The Effects of Grazing at Nachusa Grasslands.”

This grant supports ongoing work to evaluate the grazing effects of bison on both the remnants and the restorations of the preserve. This fifth year of vegetation data will be collected within the 22 permanent bison exclosures in both the north and south bison units which have been burned periodically along with the surrounding acres. The data will then be compared with vegetation data collected in adjacent areas on which bison graze. (\$2,470)

JOSEPH STUMBO, MS candidate,
Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

“The Pollination Biology of the Eastern Fringed Prairie Orchid, *Platanthera leucophaea*.”

This project will attempt to identify the main pollinators of this federally threatened species by carefully monitoring blooming individuals during both day- and night-time hours. Mr. Stumbo will also attempt to identify what insects visit the plant without pollinating it (i.e., nectar thieves). (\$1,000)



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve, protect, and advocate for the restoration of the tallgrass 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 species from blooms to insects to birds. Some volunteers lead hikes. Others share their photography, art, or writing. E-mail us at nachusagrasslands@gmail.com for a volunteer opportunity that will both fit your passion and have an immediate impact.

BUILD ENDOWED FUNDS

We are more than two-thirds toward our goal of three million dollars in principal for our two endowments, which will permanently help defray the costs of stewardship. 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. Friends of Nachusa Grasslands is a 501(c)3 organization.

SUPPORT EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

We support critical scientific research that expands our understanding of grasslands, savannas, and wetlands, and improves our management and restoration practices. Since 2011 we have awarded \$210,000 in grants to researchers, and we will award \$49,000 more this year. We believe that research is crucial to the long-term protection of the tallgrass prairie.



HERITAGE HEROES



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MEET HERITAGE HEROES KATIE AND KIRK HALLOWELL

HOME: Sycamore, Illinois

EDUCATION: Katie earned her Master's in Education from National Lewis University and Kirk earned his PhD in Developmental Psychology from the University of Iowa.

WORK LIFE: Katie served as an elementary school teacher for 30 years and now is happily retired. Kirk's career has focused on corporate leadership education and he currently works for Navistar, where he directs corporate learning.

PIVOTAL EVENTS: Kirk started volunteering at Nachusa in 2010 when he heard about the prescribed burn process. The whole idea of setting things on fire and then putting them out sounded like a great deal of fun and fit with his early aspirations as a firefighter. Kirk later understood the importance of fire and became enamored with the whole tallgrass prairie restoration cycle. Kirk is currently a steward of the Holland Savanna unit and previously served on the Board of the Friends organization.

LEGACY COMMITMENT: The Kirk and Katie Hollowell Charitable Trust is dedicated to supporting environmental leadership and social justice. The trust is a vehicle which will sustain their commitment through their estate planning.

OTHER INTERESTS: Katie as an avid reader and exercise enthusiast. Kirk has dabbled in photography and sailing, and is passionate about a card game called Magic the Gathering.

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OUR DONORS

JULY 1, 2019, TO JUNE 30, 2020



*PRAIRIE PERENNIALS

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

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 U.S. Cellular
Jeff Cologna employee match
 Jim Utley
in memory of Jill Utley-Carlson
 Cindy Skrukud and Tom Van
 Geldern
 Monte Van Kooten
 James Vanderpoel and Alison
 Vanderpoel
 Bruce and Kathy Vickrey*

Jeff and Regina Walk
 Bryon Walters
 Elliot Weisenberg*
 Jean Whipple*
 Wild Birds Unlimited of
 Rockford and Roscoe
 Liesel Wildhagen*
in memory of Ray F Boehmer
 Jason Willand
 Gail and Michael Winfrey*
 Kendall Winter
 Lucinda Winterfield*
 Heather Scott and Geoffrey Yule
*in honor of Bernie and Cindy
 Buchholz*
 Bryan Zera
in honor of Stephen Joseph Zera
 Anonymous (7)
 Anonymous
in memory of Jeanette Ingrasci
**Heritage Heroes
 Not Listed Above**
 Anonymous (2)
 Harriet Choice
 Ron and Monica Cress
 Mark and Cecilia Hochsprung
 Robert J. Miller, Jr.

FINANCIAL RESULTS



	2019-2020 (pre-audit)		2018-2019 (audited)	
Beginning Balance	\$ 18,930		\$132,977	
Revenue				
Cash Donations	324,615	63%	278,746	69%
CRP Annual Payment	50,000	10%	50,000	12%
CFNIL Endowment Income	37,718	7%	26,183	6%
Grant Income	102,000	20%	52,750	13%
Miscellaneous Income	158	<1%	140	<1%
T-Shirt Revenue	1,993	<1%	2,748	1%
Total Revenue	516,484	100%	410,567	100%
Disbursements				
In Direct Support of Our Mission				
CFNIL Nachusa Endowment*	275,000	56%	341,025	65%
TNC Nachusa Endowment**	0	0%	22,000	4%
Science Grants	49,012	10%	38,218	7%
Nachusa Operations via TNC	37,718	8%	52,655	10%
Stewardship	7,057	1%	27,155	5%
Grants to other Organizations	100,500	20%	4,700	<1%
T-Shirt Expense	2,492	<1%	4,571	<1%
Money Market	0	0%	20,059	4%
Other	46	<1%	0	<1%
Subtotal	471,825	96%	510,383	97%
Expenses				
Banking Fees	0	0%	82	<1%
Auditing Fees	7500	2%	0	<1%
Government Fees	138	<1%	78	<1%
Insurance	2,252	<1%	2,156	<1%
Development	9,909	2%	11,915	2%
Subtotal	19,799	4%	14,231	3%
Total Disbursements	491,624	100%	524,614	100%
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 43,790		\$ 18,930	

ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE June 30, 2020

Friends Endowment
for Nachusa Grasslands (CFNIL*) \$1,457,033

Nachusa Grasslands
Stewardship Endowment (TNC**) \$ 715,824

Total Endowment Funds \$ 2,172,857

ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS

(net of fees) June 30, 2020

	Current Year	Since Inception
CFNIL*	\$ 37,718	\$ 87,133
TNC**	\$ 24,816	\$ 81,708

Total Distributions \$ 62,534 \$168,841

Distributions primarily fund operations at Nachusa.

* Community Foundation of Northern Illinois endowment established June 2014; July distribution based on average year end balance over prior 3 years

** The Nature Conservancy endowment established September 2009; June distribution based on average year end balance over prior 5 years

BALANCE SHEET June 30, 2020

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash	\$ 43,790	Liabilities	\$ 0
		Funds Balance	\$ 43,790
Total Assets	\$ 43,790	Total Liabilities	\$ 43,790

LEARN MORE

SAVE THE DATES

Friends Science Grants Announcements:

February 1, 2021

Science Symposium: April 24, 2021

Friends Prairie Potluck: June 12, 2021

Friends Annual Meeting: July 31, 2021

Autumn on the Prairie: September 18, 2021

CONTACT US

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

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nachusagrasslands@gmail.com

DIRECTORS

Heather Baker
(2020-2021)

Mike Carr
(2020-2022)

Heather Herakovich
(2020-2022)

OFFICERS (2020-2021)

Bernie Buchholz, president

Mike Saxton, vice president

Mary Vieregg, vice president

Mark Jordan, treasurer

Mary Meier, secretary



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

ILLUSTRATOR

Betty Higby

PHOTOGRAPHERS

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

* Dee Hudson

◆ Charles Larry

▼ Joyce Gibbons

● Betty Higby

■ Chris Helzer

⊕ Chad Hallowell

❖ Cindy Crosby

★ Elizabeth Bach

❁ Jessica Fliginger

✓ Jocelyn Saxton

* Brooke Bembeneck

⊕ Josh Klostermann

Front and back cover photos: Charles Larry

Editor-in-Chief: Bernie Buchholz

Managing Editor: Dee Hudson

General Editor: James Higby

Graphic Designer: Cindy Kiple

Printing: Georgene Meyers and RGM Graphics



WHAT INSPIRED YOUR FRIENDS TO BE PART OF NACHUSA

Jon Dempsey: *It is so rewarding to see and be a part of such an important restoration project! I look forward for our boys to see Nachusa Grasslands grow.*

Heather Herakovich: *I was inspired by the community of dedicated people and their desire to make the landscape beautiful. I continue to be a part of Nachusa to be a part of a dynamic, thriving landscape.*

Mary Meier: *I first attended Autumn on the Prairie in 2002. I really enjoyed meeting like-minded folks and learning about what happens at Nachusa. Since then, restoring prairie continues to restore my spirit.*

Stew Pagenstecher: *Growing up in the state of Oregon, my parents took us on frequent camping trips to such places as the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Steens Mountain, and Silver Falls State Park. We could not help but love and wonder at what Mother Nature gave us.*

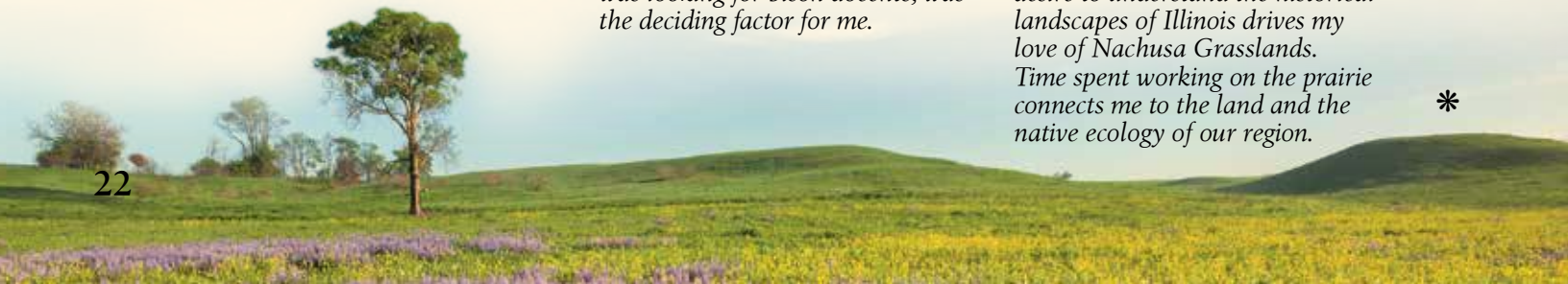
Bernie Buchholz: *AOTP was the attraction 25 years ago. When I volunteered 10 years later, I was inspired by the mission, the people (especially Bill Kleiman and Jay Stacy), and the touch and feel of the landscape.*

Joe Richardson: *An article in the Dixon Telegraph in the spring of 2014, which stated that Nachusa was bringing the bison back and was looking for bison docents, was the deciding factor for me.*

Paul Soderholm: *There are a lot of reasons that Nachusa inspires me. Foremost is the willingness of everyone to share their knowledge and experience when asked. This has been a characteristic of everyone on the "Nachusa Team". We are all members of the team working hard to save what precious little remains of this wonderful creation.*

Charles Larry: *Diversity of landscape in prairie, savanna, woodland, and wetland. Diversity of flora and fauna. Diversity of people. Which all add up to Home, physically and spiritually.*

Dave Brewer: *Bioregionalism, developing a sense of place, and a desire to understand the historical landscapes of Illinois drives my love of Nachusa Grasslands. Time spent working on the prairie connects me to the land and the native ecology of our region.*



STRONG VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

BY PAUL SAY, VOLUNTEER STEWARD

Restoration is an active process, and the people who sustain it transform the landscape when they work together to achieve their goals. Just as the prairie becomes more vibrant and meaningful with the diversity of plants and animals that depend on it, each person through their support brings a resilient and thriving community to Nachusa.

From a dozen volunteers of a few hours to individuals that dedicate years of stewardship to the new and returning visitors, coming together to share the work and experience brings a better prairie to Nachusa.





FRIENDS OF
NACHUSA
GRASSLANDS
nachusagrasslands.org



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

— ALDO LEOPOLD

Yes, I wish to support FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS.

- Restoration Benefactor \$5,000 & Up \$ _____
 Conservation Champion \$1,500 to \$4,999 \$ _____
 Supporter \$1 to \$1,499 \$ _____

Please check and complete whatever applies to your donation:

In Honor / Memory (circle one) of: _____

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

Undesignated, to be used as most needed.

Designated for: Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (held by TNC*)
 Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands (held by CFNIL**) 
 Friends Scientific Research Grants at Nachusa Grasslands

Please contact me about how I can become a Heritage Hero by including the Friends in my estate plan.

Please contact me about other giving options, such as stock, bonds, and mutual funds.

Please contact me about volunteering.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name(s) (as you wish it printed in the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Annual Report) Anonymous

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE & ZIP CODE

DAYTIME PHONE

EVENING PHONE

EMAIL

Please add me to the Friends Prairi-E Updates list.

Enclosed is my check to FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS for:

\$ _____

You can also make a one-time or recurring

credit card gifts online at:

www.nachusagrasslands.org

FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS is a non-profit registered 501(c)(3) organization. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent permitted by law.

*The Nature Conservancy

**Community Foundation of Northern Illinois



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NACHUSA
GRASSLANDS

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8772 S. LOWDEN ROAD
FRANKLIN GROVE, IL 61031

Thank you for your support!