

Friends of
NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

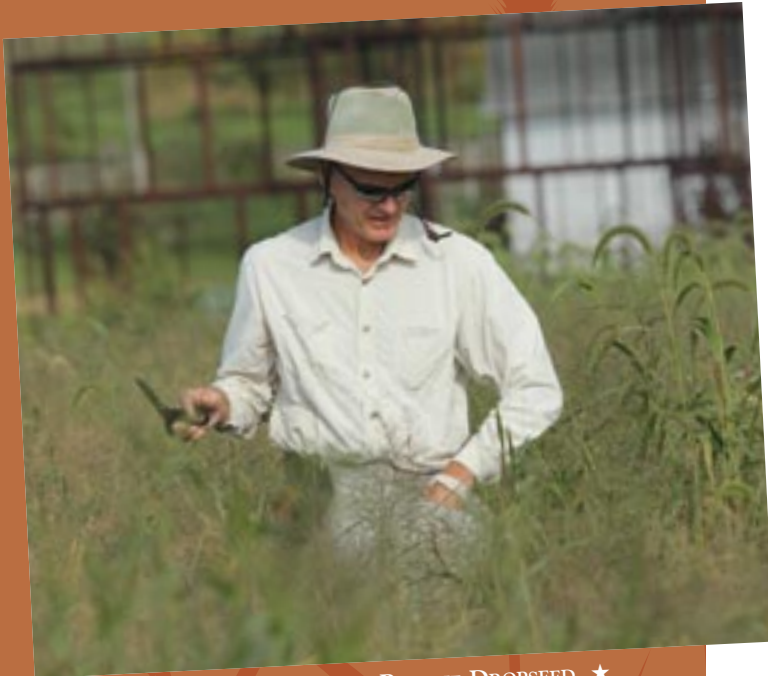


2010 - 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Prai-rie

Noun, often attributive meaning a land in or predominately of grass.
From old French prairie, from Vulgar Latin prataria and from Latin prata, meadow.



BERNIE BUCHHOLZ HARVESTING PRAIRIE DROPSEED ★

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
Board of Directors

Mike Adolph 2013
Hank Hartman 2012
John Heneghan 2013

PRESIDENT: Bernie Buchholz
VICE PRESIDENT: Alan Meier
TREASURER: David Crites
SECRETARY: Mary Meier

Message from the President

Midwesterners may enjoy the change of season. But those restoring prairie are acutely conscious of the annual cycle of growth and decline. We watch and feel and listen as plants and animals change from week to week. This rich awareness of “now” is a great gift - the chance to be totally present in our work.

Whether it's harvesting native seed before it scatters in the wind or clearing weeds before they generate another cadre of intruders, we witness the cycle of nature changing every day. Consider prescribed burns, for example. Seasonal changes in temperature, humidity, or wind, and the presence of animals like ornate box turtles and grassland birds dictate when and where we can burn the landscape.

Yes, for everything there is a season. But nature's seasons come and go without regard for human plans. We are in charge of our efforts, but not in control of the prairie. Our seasonal aspirations often exceed the time allowed. Nature is in charge but always grants us the chance to experience this moment...and the next one.

The Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (Friends) made great use of its year of seasons. This annual report, the first at this level of detail, is appropriate for this young but growing collaboration. Our progress and gifts of the past year are amazing.

Consider just two highlights. First, our gifts this year to the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment exceeded \$31,000. Second, in a program that has the power to change how we think about prairie, we awarded our first two science grants to graduate students from Southern Illinois and Northern Illinois Universities.

Take a moment to celebrate the wonderful work that you are part of. And let your keen awareness of nature's seasons plant you fully present in the beauty that is Nachusa Grasslands.

Bernie Buchholz
October 2011
President, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



ORNATE BOX TURTLE ★

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



FEMALE WIDOW SKIMMER ↓

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

The Nature Conservancy (the Conservancy) owns and operates Nachusa Grasslands. The Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (the Friends) is a 501(c)(3) not for profit registered organization founded in 2008 by volunteers dedicated to providing for the long-term care and management of the project.

Over the past twenty-five years, hundreds of concerned people have invested thousands of hours protecting and restoring remnant prairie at Nachusa Grasslands. Although many more years of effort lie ahead, Nachusa is already one of the most successful restorations in the world. We have now begun to guarantee its long-term survival.

"The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it and to foster its renewal is our only hope." ~WENDELL BERRY

Mission

Our mission is to keep prairie alive in the Prairie State so that others can walk through waves of prairie grasses, enjoy the native flowers and hear the grassland birds that give Illinois its special character.

We feel strongly that through encouraging volunteerism and supporting science, we can accelerate the pace of restoration - literally protecting this treasure for the generations that will follow. The goals of the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands are to:

Build an Endowment

In 2009 the Conservancy and the Friends established the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (the



JOHN SANTUCCI PRESENTS
A GIFT TO FRIENDS ★

Endowment) to provide for the long-term management of Nachusa Grasslands. The Endowment is invested and managed by the Conservancy in accordance with its policies and procedures.

Our vision and goal are that this Endowment will provide annual cash to assist in protecting the preserve in perpetuity.

The Conservancy and the Friends are not affiliated, but the Friends strongly support the Conservancy's efforts at Nachusa.

Accomplishment: Friends' gifts to the Endowment this year grew from \$31,096 compared to \$1,050 donated in the prior period. The Nature Conservancy reports a fiscal year end Endowment balance of \$35,530.28 which includes earnings and losses.

Need: The Friends has committed to raise \$100,000 to donate to the Endowment by 2015.

How to Help

- ☞ Become a Member: Volunteer 40 hours annually and make a gift of your choosing; or have contributed 40 hours annually for any three years plus an annual gift.
- ☞ Restoration Benefactor: \$5,000 or more
- ☞ Conservation Champion: \$1,500 or more
- ☞ Supporter: \$1,499 or less
- ☞ Include Friends in your estate plan

To include the Friends in your will, we should be named as: Friends of Nachusa Grasslands, a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under laws of the State of Illinois, with address of 8772 S. Lowden Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031; tax identification number: 26-3303031.

To name the Friends as a beneficiary of your retirement account, use this information for the form:

NAME: Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
ADDRESS: 8772 S. Lowden Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031
TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 26-3303031
RELATIONSHIP: Nonprofit Corporation

Make a designated donation to the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment.



AL MEIER LEADS NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON A WORK DAY TOUR ★

Promote volunteerism

Accomplishments: The Friends has 25 members who volunteer a minimum of 40 hours a year.

Need: Additional volunteers for the weekly Saturday work days that provide opportunities to either be a Steward or assist a Steward on seasonal restoration mission work.

Youth and community groups visit Nachusa monthly, and educational volunteer opportunities abound to help create, lead and inspire the next generation who will be the Stewards of prairie restoration for years to come.

Spring and Fall are prescribed burn season on the prairie, and there is a need for more trained and dedicated volunteers.

There are several hundred acres of land awaiting Stewardship in order to begin restoration.

Several of the activities described in this annual report, including work days, prescribed burns, and youth stewardship opportunities, are offered and overseen by The Nature Conservancy. Except for specific Friends-sponsored events, such as the annual Prairie Potluck, all Nachusa visitors and volunteers are under the auspices of The Nature Conservancy. Friends provides information about The Nature Conservancy programs to help fulfill our goals of promoting volunteerism, science, and education, but Friends is not responsible for these activities.

"I am the grass. Let me work."

~ CARL SANDBURG, "GRASS, 1918



DICKISSEL ♣

Encourage science and education

Accomplishment: In 2011, Friends awarded two \$500 Scientific Research Project Grants to Michael Saxton and Kimberly Schmidt.

Michael is pursuing a Master's degree in Geography at Northern Illinois University. For his thesis, he is studying the restoration success of oak savanna by quantifying herbaceous species diversity in managed and unmanaged savanna units at Nachusa Grasslands.

Kim is studying for her Master's degree in Zoology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. Her research focuses on the presence, population characteristics, and habitat use of ornate box turtles in Nachusa's restored tall-grass prairie, remnant prairie, and oak savannas.

Need: Increase amount of individual research grants awarded annually and/or increase the number of grants awarded in order to further the science being conducted at Nachusa.

Build a Citizen Scientist program for species monitoring and data collection such as amphibians, birds, bees, butterflies and dragonflies.



MIKE SAXTON EXPLAINS HIS RESEARCH PROJECT AT THE FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING ♣

KIM SCHMIDT WITH TEAM MEMBERS AND SPECIAL PERMITTED TURTLE HUNT DOG ☺



A Year in the life...

Fall



FOG BEFORE SUNRISE ❖



BROWNING GRASS DOMINATES THE MAIN UNIT ★



SEED ROOM OVERFLOWING WITH THE FALL HARVEST ★



GRASSLAND SPLENDOR IN EARLY FALL ❖



PRAIRIE GENTIAN ★



COYOTE POINT ♥



PLANTING IN THE SNOW ♥



WINTER WORKDAY BREAK TIME ★



BRUSH PILE FIRE ★

Spring



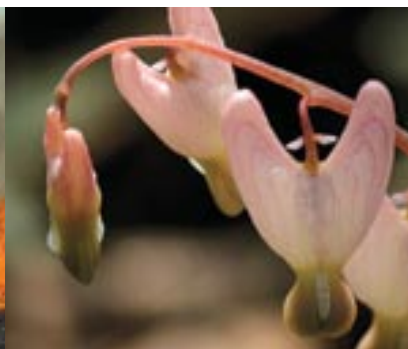
SAND BOIL IN THE FEN ★



PAUL SODERHOLM AT PRESCRIBED BURN DEBRIEFING ★



PRESCRIBED FIRE ★



DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES ⚓



WES GIBSON PHOTOGRAPHING PASQUE FLOWER ★



ROUGH BLAZING STAR ON DOUG'S KNOB ★



CINDY BUCHHOLZ IN THE PRAIRIE DROPS EED GARDEN ★



SALLY BAUMGARDNER ENJOYING CONEFLOWER ABUNDANCE ★



COMMON YELLOWTHROAT ⚡



JAY STACY WEEDING GOBBLER RIDGE PLANTING ★



PRAIRIE SPECIES FLOURISHING ON THELMA CARPENTER RESTORATION ★

July 2010 - June 2011 Donors to the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands and the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment via the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

SUPPORTERS (\$1 TO \$1,499)

Mike Adolph
Keith Anderson
Ellen Baker
Bob Bartles
Sally Baumgardner
Katie and Rich Beilfuss
Leon Bernstein
George Bouska
Bruce and Beth Boyd
Bernie and Cindy Buchholz
Laura Hotchkiss Capaldini
Alan Carpenter
Gary Chipman
Kathy Cole
Damian Considine
Douglas and Elizabeth Considine
Ron Cress
Jonathan and Emily Dempsey
Conrad and Carol Fialkowski
Michaela Friedrichova
Jan Grainger
Hamill Family Foundation on
Behalf of Nancy C.H Winter
Hank and Becky Hartman
Ann Haverstock
John Heneghan
Don Homer
Carolyn Hotchkiss
Nancy Hotchkiss
Jim Hoyt
John Huck
Tan Fui Lian and Robert Inger
Bill and Susan Kleiman
Char Knudten
Lisa Marie Lanz
Patrick Lessner
Judie Leonard
Laura Hostetler and Mark Liechty
Lee and Janice Lockwood
Dennis and Charlene Loescher

Tricia Lowery
Alan and Mary Meier
Jeff and Joan Meiners
Steve and Mary Meiners
Diane Moore
Morrison Family Foundation on
Behalf of Bruce and Beth Boyd
O. Ruth Najacht
Oregon Healthcare Pharmacy Services,
Inc., Marc Mongan, *President*
Sandy Phillips
David Rawlinson
John and Barbara Rutherford
Jim Ryan
Adam Sadkowski
Martha and Zink Sanders
Tim Sherck
Mary Scott
Bob Shone
Judy Snyder
Rebekah Snyder
Paul and Carol Soderholm
Daniel Thompson
Jim and Mary Vieregg
Gerry Voelliger

SUPPORTERS – IN MEMORY OF ROXANA HUCK

Tim Bixler - Credit Suisse HOLT
ELL Special Education Department
Minneapolis Public School System
Gladys Manzur de Tomala
Ann Gornick
Donna Kodet and Debbie Hopper
Peter J. Huck
James and Lynn Huck
Frank and Amy Huck
LMS and LMS Coordinates of
La Grange School District 105
J.P. and Martha Kastens
Kathleen Keenan

Charles and Betty Laliberte
Theresa Lechner
Anthony and Michele Lefebvre
Nori Lopez
Catherine D. Lucas
McDonalds Corporation on
Behalf of Frank Huck
Minneapolis Speech Language Clinicians
Trish and Tim Murphy
Netrix, LLC
Kathleen Petrak
Michael and Lynn Petrak
Pillsbury Public School Staff
Mary Rohlicek
Susan Rossi
Schafer School Faculty
Glenn and Julia Schlichting
Laura and Keith Schreiner
Seventh Avenue School Staff
Ronald L. Skwarek
Susan Snowden
Nick and Julie Stay
Denise Struve
Julie Stukel
Gladys A. Tomala
Maria Tomala Hamelin
James and Susan Trapskin
Kari Trapskin
Candy Vanthorpe
Pierre and Grace Younan

CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS (\$1,500 TO \$4,999)

Dave Crossett and Mary Walsh
Dale Shriver

RESTORATION BENEFACTORS (\$5,000+)

Anonymous (2)



BLOODROOT ⚓

BUDGET AND ACTUAL RESULTS

	2012 BUDGET 7/1/11 - 6/30/12	2011 ACTUAL	2011 BUDGET 7/1/10 - 6/30/11	2011 VARIANCE
BEGINNING CASH BALANCE	\$ 5,712.15	\$ 3,882.51	\$ 3,881.51	\$ 1.00
REVENUE				
Cash Donations	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 37,208.68	\$ 8,580.00	\$ 28,628.68
Donations in Kind	\$ 0.00	\$ 63.56	\$ 0.00	\$ 63.56
CRP Annual Payment	\$ 13,633.00	\$ 9,794.00	\$ 9,794.00	\$ 0.00
CRP Cost Share	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,070.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,070.00
Total Revenues	\$ 46,633.00	\$ 49,136.24	\$ 18,374.00	\$ 30,762.24
Total Cash Revenue	\$ 46,633.00	\$ 49,072.68	\$ 18,374.00	\$ 30,698.68
DISBURSEMENTS				
Gifts to TNC Endowment	\$ 44,400.00	\$ 31,096.00	\$ 12,251.00	\$ (18,845.00)
Government Fees	\$ 25.00	\$ 82.50	\$ 98.00	\$ 15.50
Insurance	\$ 295.00	\$ 297.00	\$ 275.00	\$ (22.00)
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ (10,000.00)
PayPal Fees	\$ 0.00	\$ 6.36	\$ 0.00	\$ (6.36)
Development	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,409.93	\$ 950.00	\$ (459.93)
Science Grants	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$ (500.00)
Miscellaneous	\$ 400.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
CRP Herbicide	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,351.25	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,351.25)
Total Disbursements	\$ 49,170.00	\$ 47,243.04	\$ 16,374.00	\$ (30,869.04)
ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$ 3,175.15	\$ 5,712.15	\$ 5,881.51	\$ (169.36)
Cash Accounting Method				

BALANCE SHEET 6/30/11

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 5,712.15
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 10,000.00
Total Assets	\$ 15,712.15

LIABILITIES

Liabilities	\$ 0.00
Funds Balance	\$ 15,712.15
Total Assets	\$ 15,712.15



TIGER SWALLOWTAIL ↓

"...the joy of prairie lies in its subtlety. It is so easy—too easy—to be swept away by mountain and ocean vistas. A prairie, on the other hand, requests the favor of your closer attention. It does not divulge itself to mere passersby."

~SUZANNE WINCKLER

(2004, PRAIRIE: A NORTH AMERICAN GUIDE, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA PRESS, IOWA CITY, IA, P. XI)



AUTUMN PRAIRIESCAPE ★

To Learn More

Reading

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
Miracle under the Oaks, The Revival of Nature in America by William K. Stevens
Nature's Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm by Steven Apfelbaum
Of Prairie, Woods & Water edited by Joel Greenberg
Prairie Restoration Handbook by Packard & Mutel
Prairie, A Natural History by Candace Savage
Where the Sky Began by John Madsen

Resources

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
www.nachusagrasslands.org
 The Nature Conservancy
www.nature.org
 Prairie Enthusiasts
www.theprairieenthusiasts.org
 Chicago Wilderness
www.chicagowilderness.org



JAN GRAINGER IDENTIFIES A SPECIES ★

How to Contact Us

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



BEE ON PALE PURPLE CONEFLOWER ↓

Special thanks to our contributing photographers & donors...

Thank you to all our photographers who contributed to this Annual Report by capturing the beauty of Nachusa Grasslands through the seasons. Each copyrighted photo is marked with a symbol indicating the photographer's name.

Front Cover: CONEFLOWERS ON DOT'S KNOB, *Nachusa Photo Archives*
 Back Cover: HEATHER B. MARSHALL SEARCHING FOR LADIES TRESSES ◆

- ❖ Ron Cress
- ↓ Wes Gibson
- © Aaron Gooley
- ★ Kirk Hollowell
- ♥ Hank and Becky Hartman
- ✦ Bill Kleiman
- ✧ Heather B. Marshall
- ◆ Kim Schmidt
- ❖ Robert Shaw

THANK YOU AS WELL TO THE TWO ANONYMOUS DONORS WHO UNDERWROTE THE COST OF THE ARTWORK AND PRINTING OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT AND TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WRITE AND ASSEMBLE IT.



"Then I discovered the prairie, and a slow healing began."

~STEPHEN R. JONES, *THE LAST PRAIRIE* (2000), Ragged Mountain Press, Camden, ME

nachusagrasslands.org



"A passion builds inside anyone
who spends time on the prairie."

— D. SHOWALTER

2007, *Prairie Thunder: The Nature of Colorado's Great Plains*
Skyline Press, Pueblo, CO

Yes, I wish to support THE 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 as applies to make my donation:

- In Honor of: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 I would like my gift to be listed as anonymous
 I would like my gift to be undesignated, to be used as most needed
 Designated for: Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment
 Scientific Research Grants at Nachusa
 Please contact me about including THE FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS in my estate planning
 Please contact me about volunteering at Nachusa

PLEASE PRINT

NAME (as you wish it printed in the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Annual Report)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE & ZIP CODE

DAYTIME PHONE

EVENING PHONE

EMAIL

Enclosed is my check to FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS for:

\$ _____

Please mail check to:

FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS
8772 S. LOWDEN ROAD
FRANKLIN GROVE, IL 61031

You can also make a
credit card gift online at:

www.nachusagrasslands.org