



A  
**PRAIRIE**  
*Vocabulary*



FRIENDS OF  
NACHUSA  
GRASSLANDS

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT



*“In due time, perhaps, you will absorb something of the land. What you absorb will eventually change you. This change is the only real measure of a place.”*

*—Paul Gruchow, *Journal of a Prairie Year**





In his book *Landmarks*, author Robert Macfarlane observes, “What goes unnamed...goes unseen.” Conversely, the more we can name, the more we see.

Naming is powerful. You can look out a pickup truck window and see a “field.” Or you can marvel at an “eastern upland tallgrass prairie.” You might spot a “big tree” or observe an “open-grown bur oak.” Same tree, but recognizing the bur oak and naming it tell a far more interesting story. The difference is naming—or vocabulary—and the information the words convey.

A rich vocabulary opens the door to wonder. It invites us to wander. It gives us a literacy of the landscape we call home. The more we know about the natural world, the more we can appreciate and share it with others. There is also a direct connection between what we know about the natural world and our desire to protect it. Conservation and a rich vocabulary of the natural world are intertwined.

Our theme “A Prairie Vocabulary” for this year’s Annual Report reveals the beauty and complexity of the grasslands we cherish. The words in our prairie vocabulary carry both the memories of our developing nation advancing through Midwestern grasslands and what we’ve learned in our effort to conserve it.

Vocabulary can build common understanding and reinforce purpose. But without care, vocabulary can also become jargon, raising eyebrows rather than opening doors. Sometimes “coneflower” is more helpful than spouting “*Echinacea pallida*.” The trick is knowing what words to choose. And when to use technical vocabulary and when to use more general terms.

In this issue of the Annual Report, we consider a few of the words that help tell the story of Nachusa Grasslands. You might be surprised to realize how much you know about prairie; how rich your vocabulary already is. My hope is this: That you may also learn a few new words that help you see even more.

—Bernie Buchholz  
President, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

# MESSAGE


*from the*

# PRESIDENT

“Nachusa A to Z”







**angelica:** As I trek through the Sedge Meadow looking for dragonflies, it's impossible not to notice great angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*) towering over my head. These alien-esque, hollow-stemmed plants, with their globes of umbels, populate the calcareous wet areas of Nachusa and serve as perches for red-winged blackbirds during the warmer season. Small bees nectar on the blooms. Throughout history, angelica has been a valued medicinal plant. I enjoy it for its unusual appearance.

—Cindy Crosby, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



**bison:** Bison, or buffalo as most people know them, were extirpated east of the Mississippi River in 1832. Pete Dupree rounded up some calves on the Grand River near the Black Hills in Dakota Territory in 1880. He pastured them with his herd of cattle. When Dupree died around 1900, James “Scotty” Philip bought his herd. Philip fenced off several thousand acres on the bluffs along the Missouri River just north of Ft. Pierre, South Dakota. Here, he kept the pure bison

and sold off the “cattalo” as the bison-cattle crossbreeds were then called. In 1925, the bison from this herd were distributed to parks and reserves. They joined other animals saved by the American Bison Society, formed by zoologist William Hornaday, in 1905. The bison you see at Nachusa are descended from these herds.

—Joe Richardson, steward





**conservation:** The act of conserving derived from two Latin roots: *con*, meaning “together,” and *servare*, meaning “to keep.” At Nachusa, we care for prairie remnants. We also work to bring other parcels of land back to health. In this way, we construct a large, diverse, and dynamic biological community. It’s like what many of us try to do to “keep it together”—protect our core and constantly work to rebuild, improve, and maintain the rest.

—Mary Vieregg, steward



**dickcissel:** The dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) is typically described as a small American seed-eating bird in the cardinal family. Of course, that description fits many of our common birds. The dickcissel, however, is no common little bird! It is a “tallgrass prairie specialist.” Although it travels extensively in huge flocks, wintering in Venezuela, it rarely breeds outside the tallgrass prairie environment, where it is a ground forager for insects and spiders in addition to seeds. The dickcissel nests in the thick vegetation, near the ground, once or twice during May through August. There are usually three to six eggs in each brood. The male is easy to recognize with its yellow eyebrow and chest and rusty shoulders, but the female’s coloring is similar to that of a house sparrow.

For me, the most memorable characteristic of the dickcissel is its unique sound. It has been described as onomatopoeic: dick-dick-dick-SISS-SISS-suhl. For those of us at Nachusa Grasslands, it is significant that its song is known as “the classic sound of a healthy tallgrass prairie.”

—Betty Higby, board of directors, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



## eastern prairie fringed orchid:

Most populations of the eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) suffer from a lack of stewardship. Not at Nachusa! This federally endangered species is thriving here, representing one of the largest populations in the state with close to 500 blooming plants. The success of this plant is a good reminder that natural areas need our help. Removing invasive weeds and brush and implementing fire have provided the eastern prairie fringed orchid with ideal habitat to flourish. Without such stewardship efforts at Nachusa, this species would slowly disappear here.

—Cody Considine, restoration ecologist, TNC



**fire:** There are few natural phenomena that rival the beauty and power of a fire sweeping across an open landscape. Propelled by winds and encouraged by favorable humidity, undulating flames lick and jump as the advancing force follows the curvature of the land, races uphill, passes over a shrub thicket, envelopes a wet spot, and rushes around a grazing lawn. The head fire literally roars, audible from afar. The spectacle is humbling, nature on full display. Fire is not only beautiful and captivating, it's necessary, too. Invasive woody plants get knocked back; nutrients are cycled through the system. Left behind is a patchy, varied mosaic of little niches and hideaways that creates crucial refuge for critters of all kinds. I often tell people that fire season is the best part of my job. Usually I get called a pyromaniac but I think that misses the mark. A "pyromantic" sounds about right to me.

—Mike Saxton, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands





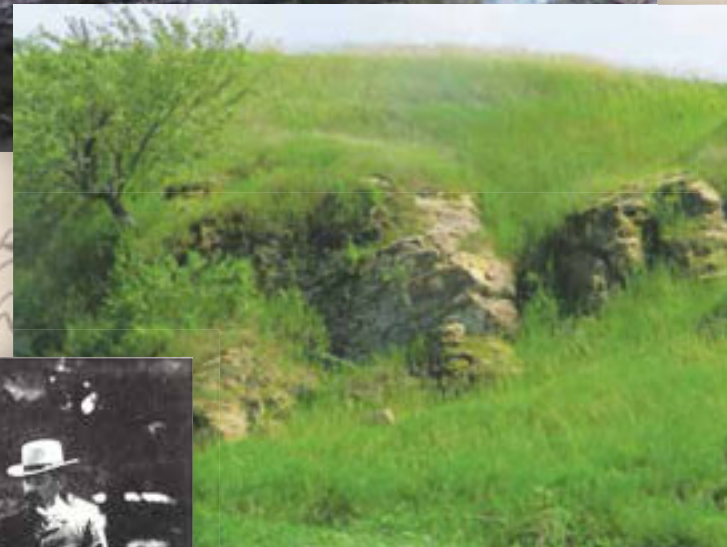
**geology:** Nachusa Grasslands' bedrock was formed some 1.5 to 2.5 million years ago when Illinois was the floor of a tropical sea. After the land rose, it was carved by glaciers and the runoff as they receded. Nachusa's geology consists mainly of intermixed layers of St. Peter sandstone and limestone, along with dolomite. When you visit, you will see the underlying rock exposed on the preserve's many knobs. Due to the makeup and close proximity of rock to the surface, several seeps, spring fed ponds, and a variety of wetlands have formed, along with a sinkhole or two. This results in everything from bogs to fens; sedge marshes to prairies. Geology. Its evidence is everywhere at Nachusa Grasslands.

—Joe Richardson, steward

## William Temple Hornaday (1854-1937):

Fearing their imminent extinction, Hornaday collected bison in 1886 for taxidermy display and shortly thereafter for a hugely popular live display at the Smithsonian. In 1889 he published *The Extermination of the American Bison* which built public support for a last-ditch protection effort. Hornaday, a hunter and ardent conservationist, enlisted the support of Teddy Roosevelt to bring the few remaining bison to the Bronx Zoo. From here, bison were reintroduced to the Wichita National Forest in 1905 and later, other preserves. Nachusa's bison are direct descendants of the animals Hornaday protected.

—Bernie Buchholz,  
president, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands





**indefatigable:** To transform a cornfield, a pasture, or a woodland clogged with invasive plants into a diverse landscape home to native plants and animals takes a dedicated and sustained effort. Stewards labor hours in adverse and challenging conditions to restore the native communities that once dominated the “Prairie State.” Volunteers sweat on hot and humid days as they collect seeds to enrich the health of a unit. The summer staff goes to bed with sore muscles and blisters after a day of pulling weedy sweet clover. Winter snows show the footprints of stewards who piled and burned the cut branches of invasive shrubs and trees. These men and women, students and retirees, photographers and artists, are determined, tenacious, industrious, and resolute in their efforts to make the earth a bit healthier and more beautiful. It takes commitment, perseverance, and years of toil to make a vision a reality—to restore a prairie or a savanna. It takes the indefatigable power of the volunteers, stewards, and staff of Nachusa Grasslands.

—Mark Jordan, steward



**Jack in the pulpit:** Whether it’s hunting for the “preacher in the pulpit” in the spring (flowers contained in a spadix covered by a hood) or searching out the bright red berries in the autumn, Jack in the pulpit (*Arum maculatum*) is always a delight to discover. Have you seen it? Go for a hike in Tellabs or another wooded area of Nachusa during the warmer seasons and search for this intriguing plant.



—Cindy Crosby, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



**knob:** The rocky, hilly outcroppings—or “knobs”—at Nachusa Grasslands jut throughout the landscape in unexpected places, offering scenic vistas from the top and photographic opportunities to visitors who pass through each year. Yet, the knobs of Nachusa are much more than this. They are the salvation of our original tallgrass prairie remnants. Because the rocky knobs were difficult to plow, farmers avoided cultivating these areas. In these knobs remain our hidden jewels—the prairie grasses and wildflowers that became the foundation of our 4,000 acre preserve today.

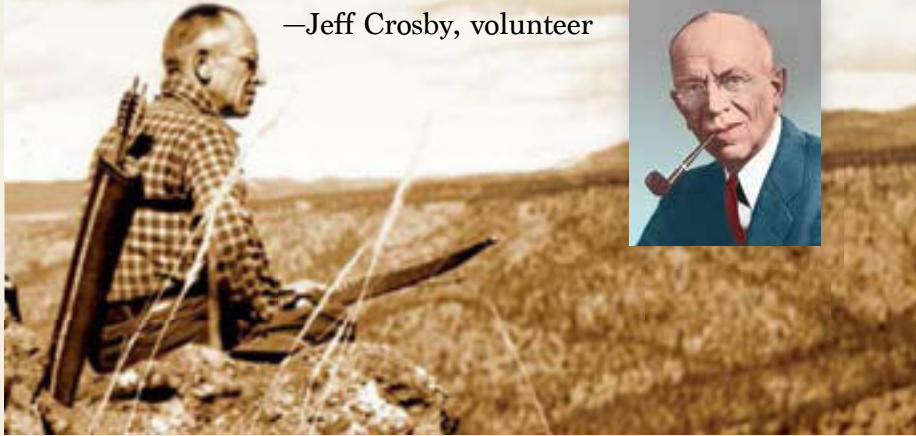
—Cindy Crosby, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



## Aldo Leopold (1887-1948):

In his landmark book *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold wrote tellingly and prophetically: “We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” Since its establishment in 1986, Nachusa Grasslands has fostered a Leopold-like ethic for so many who see the land—its grasses, bison, ornate box turtles, and much more—not as a commodity, but as a community. And through the care of that land, vibrant community between people emerges. Leopold, writing from his small, nondescript chicken-coop-turned-shack in Wisconsin, would no doubt applaud the work being done on this patch of land less than three hours south.

—Jeff Crosby, volunteer



**monarch butterfly:** Every autumn, Nachusa’s last brood of monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) begins the long flight to the high altitude forests of Mexico. We watch for their descendants who make the return flight to appear in April, following the growth of milkweed plants, which their larvae depend on as their sole food for sustenance. The monarchs’ bright colors and flight patterns enliven the prairies until fall, when the cycle begins anew.

—Cindy Crosby, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

**Nachusa:** The word Nachusa in “Nachusa Grasslands” comes from Native Americans (likely Sac or Fox), meaning “white hair.” This referred to the hair of “Father” John Dixon, who arrived in 1830 and ran a ferry across the nearby Rock River, and for whom the city of Dixon, IL, is named. The name “Nachusa” is also given to a village just east of Dixon and a township in Lee County, IL.

—Cindy Crosby, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands





**Odonata:** Odonata is the order of insects that includes the dragonflies and damselflies—colorful, often showy, flying predators found throughout Nachusa Grasslands. The “odes” are a delight to watch in their rainbow of colors as they fly at each other defending territories, or patrol for prey. Volunteer monitors walk established routes at Nachusa each summer, documenting the species of Odonata they observe. On a typical route through the prairie, catching a glint of blue signals a common green darner high above, while a flash of white and black reveals a widow skimmer flushed from its perch low in the grasses. It’s fun to anticipate what tiny treasure may be around the next corner perched on a leaf, flitting over the water, or soaring overhead.

—Joyce Gibbons, dragonfly monitor



**pale purple cornflower:** This iconic, showy flower (*Echinacea pallida*) of Nachusa’s drier prairies is a real show stopper in mid to late June. Our best remnant knobs have them in profusion. Many of the prairie plantings dazzle our eyes with acres of blooms waving on two-foot high stems in colors ranging from pink to magenta, and even white.

I enjoy learning species’ scientific names: *Echinacea* is from the Greek for hedgehog, alluding to the prickly nature of the flower receptacle, the “cone” part. This reminds me of *Echinoderms* (sea urchins) and *Echidna* (the spiny anteater). *Pallida* is Latin for pale.

—Susan Kleiman, volunteer

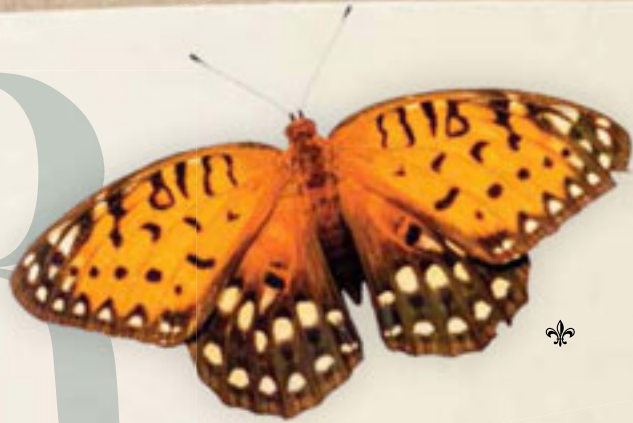


**questions:** Questions abound at Nachusa: Where can we find an elusive rare species? How can we best manage invasive shrubs? Who will lead the next workday or tour? What is the weather forecast for tomorrow’s burn? Why do these weeds keep coming back in the same place year after year, even though we pulled or clipped every single one last summer? When should we collect the seeds of a certain plant?

We always have plenty of questions, and often some answers. As we work to restore the land at Nachusa, we continue to enhance our understanding of this amazing grasslands community.

—Mary Meier, secretary,  
Friends of Nachusa Grasslands





**regal fritillary butterfly:** Have you met this member of the “royal family”? A regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) is an icon of the tallgrass prairie. “Regal” means “resembling a monarch,” or as one person has quipped, “a monarch dipped in chocolate.” It’s difficult to miss these large orange butterflies with black spots on their wings as they flutter through the damp meadows of Nachusa’s south ridge from June to August.

The life of these majestic adults begins when females lay eggs on the leaves of bird’s foot violet (*Viola pedata*), which then nourishes the larvae. Regals love nectaring on thistles, wild bergamots, and milkweeds. Come out to Nachusa and introduce yourself to our “royalties”! No curtsy needed.

—Tim Ngo, volunteer

**savanna:** What is it about a savanna that draws us in? There are few places that seem more inviting. Perhaps it’s the open structure, the understory drenched with sunlight and a rich, robust ground flora. The woods so open and expansive, yet close and comforting all the same. Perhaps savanna gives us a sense of safety among the trees and at the same time freedom in their spacious extent. Or maybe, for some of us, it’s the contradiction in savannas that holds the allure. For these ancient oaks—sturdy and sprawling, weathered by the elements, seemingly immune to the perturbations of time—there is now fragility and vulnerability underpinning the system in which they exist. Reduced to .02% of its historic range, savannas depend on us to set fires and control brush. Our choices determine their future. Each autumn acorns offer the chance for redemption.

—Mike Saxton, v-p, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



**tallgrass:** Tallgrass prairie, once vast, then vanquished. Slowly being reassembled. Fires set, brush cut, weeds pulled. One small ornate box turtle makes it way along the prairie, finds a mate, lays a nest of small cream eggs. A rare creature ready to continue in this semblance of a sea of grass and flowers.

—Bill Kleiman, project director, TNC



**Umbel:** An umbel is a cluster of flowers spreading from a common point on a stem, sometimes resembling the ribs of an umbrella. The name comes from the Latin word *umbella*, which means parasol or sunshade. Umbels can have flat or rounded tops, so their appearance differs from species to species.

High quality umbel seeds that we collect and sow at Nachusa Grasslands include shooting star (*Dodecantheon meadia*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium albidum*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), nodding wild onion (*Allium cernuum*), prairie parsley (*Polytaenia nuttallii*), wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), and golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*).

However, not all umbel species are welcome on the prairie. We try to eradicate wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), noxious invasives that flourish when untended. In addition, Queen Anne's lace (*Daucus carota*) is a weedy non-native umbel that often persists in our remnants and restorations despite our efforts to control it.

So . . . a humble umbel can be either a blessing or a curse at Nachusa. It's just one of the many flower shapes that bring variety and texture to our prairie landscape.

—Mary Meier, secretary, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



**vervain:** Nachusa's three vervain species (hoary, blue, and hairy white) are common throughout Illinois, often growing in old grazing pastures or historically disturbed areas, but also found in higher quality habitats. Each plant has many purple, violet, white, or blue flowers, depending on the species. Only a few flowers display at any one time, serving as a relatively long-term source of nectar for pollinators. The leaves are usually bitter and often hairy, so most mammals avoid eating them. This makes them an excellent species for pollinator gardens.

—Kaleb Baker, crew boss, TNC



**water:** Water orchestrates the show at Nachusa—falling, seeping, rising, flowing, pooling, cooling, warming, standing, flooding, dripping, eroding, knob-sculpting, nutrient-carrying, soil-forming, rut-cutting, root-encouraging, root-rotting, community-defining, egg-protecting, larva-bathing, fish-sustaining, bison-hydrating, evaporating, humidifying, disappearing. Sometimes silent, sometimes gurgling, sometimes invisible; water writes the music and directs the symphony that is Nachusa.

—Mary Vieregg, steward







**woodland phlox:** *Phlox divaricata* always elicits a smile of recognition, or perhaps of appreciation. After disappearing completely the previous summer, it has returned! In a world that is often anything but simple, this delicate, finely-haired little gem, with its clear, blue, five-petaled flowers arranged in a loose cluster, is a literal breath of fresh air. Phlox blooms in April and May. It prefers rich, moist woodlands, shady meadows, or even rocky bluffs. The petals, rather than forming a cup shape, create a little tabletop to welcome tiny insect visitors. Look for its fresh presence in the spring before it quietly slips away again.

—Betty Higby, board of directors, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

**zizia:** Heart-leaved meadow parsnip's (*Zizia aptera*) heart-shaped basal leaves are exquisite. Look closely. Each of the lower leaves contains the most stunning shades of green with networks of veins contrasted throughout. Some leaves may have a brilliant spot of purple where the petiole meets the base of the leaf. This combination of colors and shapes overloads my visual senses, easily making this my favorite early-blooming prairie plant at Nachusa.

—Cody Considine, restoration ecologist, TNC



**yellow flowers:** Nachusa boasts dozens of flower species with yellow blooms of varying sizes. Dwarf dandelion (*Krigia virginica*), which can be found on the sandy knobs in June, is barely two inches tall, whereas prairie dock (*Silphium terebinthinaceum*) towers above the prairie in September, reaching heights of eight feet or more! In August carpets of yellow coneflowers (*Ratibida pinnata*) and goldenrods cover many plantings. During any growing month you're bound to find at least one yellow flower at Nachusa.

—Leah Kleiman, volunteer crew, TNC





**In 2017, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands awarded \$32,000 in research project grants to:**

**1. Laura Adamovicz**, DVM, PhD graduate student, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “Continued Health Assessment of Nachusa’s Ornate Box Turtles.” Dr. Adamovicz is continuing her 2016 work assessing the health of the ornate box turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) at Nachusa. This work will help direct conservation strategies for the species at the preserve. It will also provide baseline data for use with other populations of this species in other preserves. This grant will specifically pay for the measurement of hemoglobin-binding protein levels which is a measure of trauma, inflammation, and infection. (\$2,673)

**2. Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar**, PhD graduate student, Rutgers University. “Effects of Bison on Plant-Pollinator Interactions at Nachusa.” Over the last four 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 continue using that data set to study the effects of bison reintroduction on species-specific plant pollinators by comparing pollinator interactions in prairie with bison to prairie without bison. (\$5,000)

**3. Linda Curtis**, MS, independent consulting botanist. “Sedges of Nachusa Grasslands.” Curtis is conducting a survey of Nachusa sedge species using a digital micro-imaging technique. The goal is to provide a collection of sedge images to assist stewards in the identification and seed collection of Nachusa sedge species. (\$2,000)

**4. Kirstie Feller**, MS graduate student, Northern Illinois University. “Evaluating the Effects of Excluding Coyotes on Small Mammals and Vegetation in Restored Prairie.” Ms. Feller is studying the impact of coyotes on prairie communities including the consequences of predator exclosures in restored prairie. Specifically, she is quantifying the diet of coyotes as well as measuring cortisol and carbon-to-nitrogen ratios (measures of fear) in prey (small mammals) in areas both inside and outside the predator exclosures to in turn measure how that is reflected in litter quality and microbial decomposition. This study will provide useful information on possible unintended consequences of exclosures and may provide insight into coyote predation on the state-listed ornate box turtles and Blanding’s turtles. (\$1,500)

**5. Megan Garfinkel**, PhD graduate student, University of Illinois at Chicago. “Can Bird-Provisioned Pest Control Integrate Agriculture and Prairie Bird Conservation?” This grant is supporting Ms. Garfinkel’s ongoing study of the pest control services and disservices prairie birds provide on nearby farms. The goal is to determine whether the

bird conservation value of Nachusa’s prairie restorations can be enhanced by demonstrating to nearby landowners that “wildlife-friendly” management practices can be economically beneficial. Specifically, Ms. Garfinkel is (among other techniques) tracking birds to determine where they eat, setting up bird exclosures over crops to prevent bird predation of insects, and using molecular techniques to identify the insect prey of birds through DNA in the birds’ fecal samples. This grant will help support the unique and novel DNA analyses being developed at UIC for this study. (\$2,000)

**6. Sean Griffin**, PhD graduate student, North Carolina State University. “Effects of Ecological Restoration on Native Bee Population Structure and Genetic Diversity.” This study is focusing on the effects of restoration and habitat connectivity at Nachusa on the gene flow and genetic diversity of three species of native bees in order to determine whether restoration improves the genetic health and overall viability of these bee populations. Genetic diversity is important for long term sustainability of any species, but it has not been studied in most plants and animals in restorations. This study, using DNA analysis techniques only recently developed at Pennsylvania State University and North Carolina State University, will provide insight into whether or not restoration efforts at Nachusa are effective in connecting bee populations and enabling gene flow across the landscape. (\$5,267)

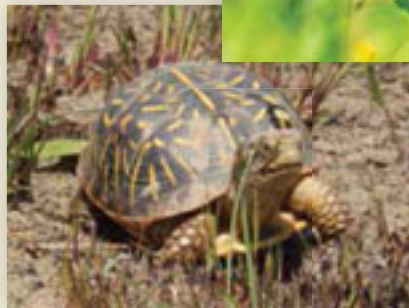
**7. Heather Herakovich**, PhD graduate student, Northern Illinois University. “Grassland Birds’ Response to Restoring Historic Tallgrass Prairie.” This is the fourth year of a study of grassland bird nest density, nest success, and



species composition 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. (\$3,200)

**8. Sheryl Hosler**, MS graduate student, Northern Illinois University. “Dung Beetle Functional Traits Related to Restoration Management Practices.” This project is examining how restoration management practices like prescribed fire, grazing, and mesopredator (coyote, raccoon, etc.) exclosures affect dung beetle functional traits. The results will provide insight into how management techniques inhibit or promote dung beetle functioning within the ecosystem. This study is part of the ReFuGE Project initiated by researchers at Northern Illinois University encompassing long-term ongoing research at Nachusa. (\$1,000)

**9. Richard King**, PhD, Northern Illinois University; **Thomas B. Anton** and **David Mauger**, independent researchers. “Developing Blanding’s Turtle Management Strategies at Nachusa.” This research is building on the previous work done by this team at Nachusa which documented occurrence, habitat use, and nesting by the state endangered Blanding’s turtle. This year’s work focuses on developing on-the-ground management strategies focused on nest protection (to promote juvenile recruitment) and movement in the landscape (to identify both wetland and upland areas in need of protection). (\$5,000)



**10. Wayne Schennum**, PhD, independent scholar. “Survey of Remnant-Dependent Butterflies at Nachusa Grasslands.” Dr. Schennum is documenting the number and relative abundance of butterfly species restricted to tracts of remnant and restored prairie, savanna, and wetland at Nachusa Grasslands. His survey results will be compared to those of a survey conducted thirty years ago at the preserve’s inception. He is also analyzing the vegetation composition and structure relative to the butterfly populations he finds which may lead to new management choices. Additionally, he is developing a method for tracking trends in remnant-dependent butterfly species as management continues into the future. (\$2,000)

**11. Nicholas Steijn**, MS, Northern Illinois University. “Effects of Management on Small Mammals and their Resource Bases.” Mr. Steijn is investigating the effects of invasive plant removal via herbicide application on



the abundance and diversity of small mammals and seed density. The study will provide insight into how this management technique may change community composition and population dynamics of these primary consumers in the ecosystem. (\$1,500)

**12. Katherine Wenzell**, PhD graduate student, Northwestern University. “Pollination Ecology and Genetics of Downy Yellow Painted Cup in Illinois.” This study—done in conjunction with the Chicago Botanic Garden—is examining the pollination ecology, reproductive success, and genetic diversity of the state-endangered downy yellow painted cup (*Castilleja sessiliflora*) in Illinois. By comparing a restored population at Nachusa Grasslands with a natural population in northeastern Illinois, this study will shed light on the success of the Nachusa restoration in supporting this endangered wildflower species. Specifically, this grant supports the DNA analysis of samples collected at Nachusa. (\$860)

—Compiled by Mary Viereg, science grants chair





# FRIENDS *of* NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

## OUR MISSION

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

## 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 give programs and lead hikes. Others share their photography, art,

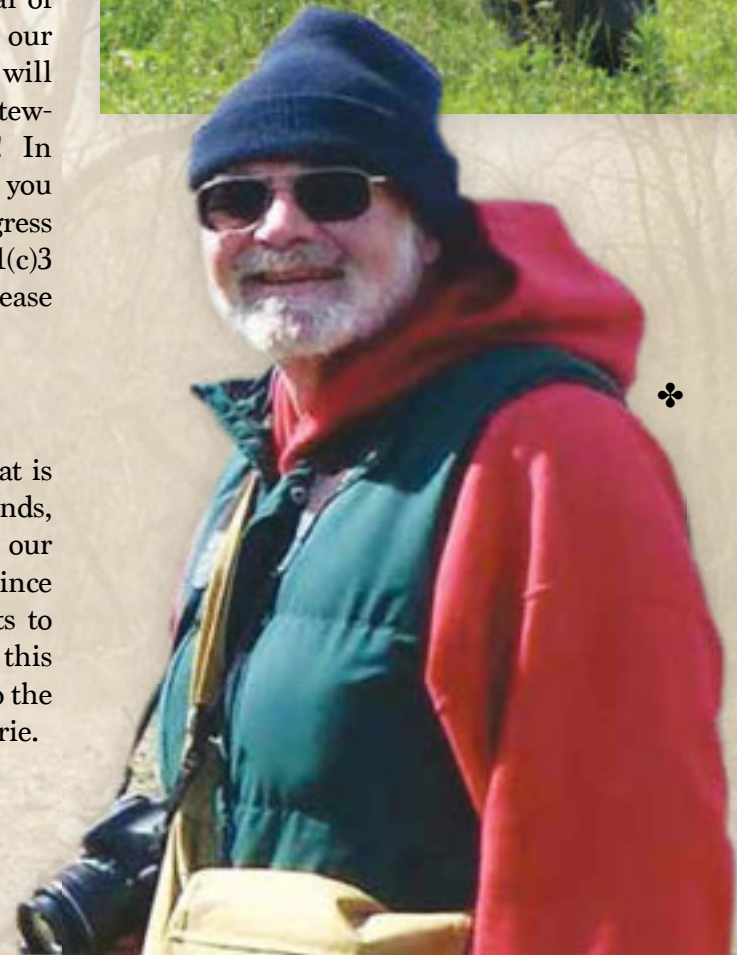
or writing. E-mail us at [nachusagrasslands@gmail.com](mailto:nachusagrasslands@gmail.com) for a volunteer opportunity that will both fit your passion and have an immediate impact.

## Build Endowed Funds

We are approaching one-half of our goal of three million dollars in principal for our two endowments. The endowments will permanently help defray the costs of stewardship. We can't do it without you! In return for your support, we will send you our Annual Report detailing the progress you make possible. Friends is a 501(c)3 organization. For more information, please visit [nachusagrasslands.org](http://nachusagrasslands.org).

## Support Education and Scientific Research

We support critical scientific research that is expanding our understanding of grasslands, savanna, and wetlands, and improving our management and restoration practices. Since 2011 we have awarded \$84,000 in grants to researchers. We will award \$40,000 more this year. We believe that research is crucial to the long-term protection of the tallgrass prairie.





# HERITAGE HEROES

## Ira Johnson

*From:* Morgan Park, Chicago

*Education:* University of California, Berkeley, MS, Landscape Architecture

*Career:* Graphic designer and landscape architect; currently principal of Rainscape Design, specializing in custom residential projects with an ecological landscape design.

*Commitment to restoration:* Ira has been inspired by growing things throughout his life. His interests have evolved from home gardens to his studied integration of native plants in his architectural designs. Ira frames his commitment to Illinois prairies as the “island and bridges of nature to sustain our ecosystems.”

## Steve Diller

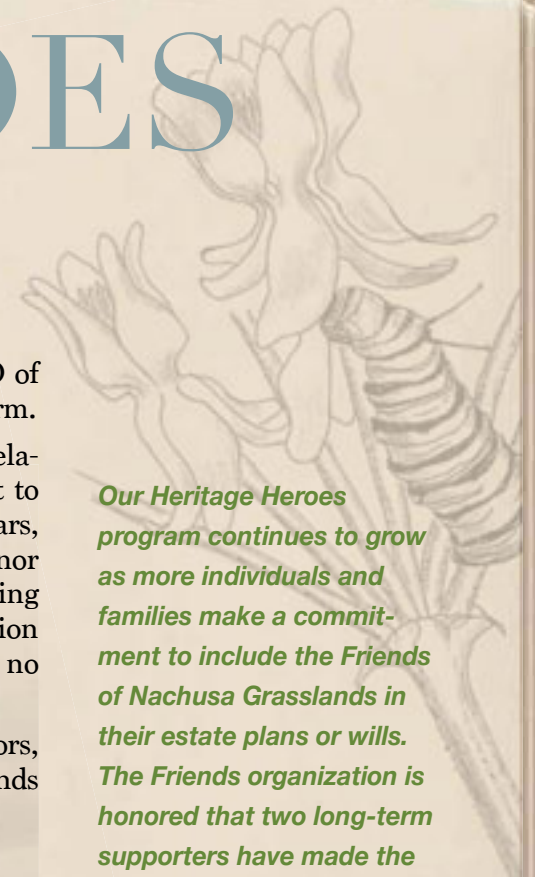
*From:* Rogers Park, Chicago

*Education:* The University of Chicago, MS, Public Policy

*Career:* Strategist, educator, author; currently CEO of Scansion, Inc., a customer-centered innovation firm.

*Commitment to restoration:* Steve established his relationship with Nachusa 26 years ago as he sought to explore more of his native Illinois. Over the years, Steve has continued to support Nachusa as a donor and volunteer. Steve shares, “I can’t think of anything more important to contribute to than the restoration of threatened ecosystems. If that doesn’t happen, no other charitable giving will matter.”

—Kirk Hallowell, board of directors,  
Friends of Nachusa Grasslands



*Our Heritage Heroes program continues to grow as more individuals and families make a commitment to include the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands in their estate plans or wills. The Friends organization is honored that two long-term supporters have made the decision to become Heritage Heroes this year.*

*In the coming year, we will be working in concert with the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois to provide additional information on how to make this lasting commitment. If you have an interest in learning more or becoming a Heritage Hero, please contact Bernie Buchholz or Kirk Hallowell.*





# OUR DONORS

July 1, 2016  
to June 30, 2017

## \* 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

Bobolink Foundation\*  
*c/o Wendy Paulson*

Bernie and Cindy Buchholz\*+

Mary Walsh and Dave Crossett\*

DeWayne and Donna Fellows\*

Jewish Communal Fund

*Henry Paulson, director match, at the recommendation of Bloomberg Philanthropies*

A. Charles and Lillemor  
Lawrence Foundation  
*c/o Kathy Lawrence*

*Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2016  
Science Symposium Sponsors*

Don and Espie Nelson\*

Jay Stacy\*

Tawani Foundation

*Friends of Nachusa Grasslands  
Science Challenge Sponsors*

Jim and Mary Vieregg\*

Fred and Martha Wetzel\*

*In memory of Irene V. Santee*

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

Max Baumgardner+

*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Alan Carpenter\*

Ira Johnson and Steven Diller\*+

Jan Grainger\*

Jerry and Linda Hartz\*

Jeff and Joan Meiners\*

Panoptic Solutions\*

*Friends of Nachusa Grasslands T-Shirt  
Sponsors, Mike Carr and David  
Crites, employee matches*

Susan and Don Panozzo\*

Scott Baker and Sara Parikh\*

Daniel and Tami Rezin

T. Luke Savage Family Foundation

Tim Sherck+

Dale Shriver

Paul and Carol Soderholm\*

Daniel Thompson\*+

Vanderpoel Conservation  
Foundation\*

## SUPPORTERS

**\$1 to \$1,499**

Michael Adsit\*

Joseph Albee

*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Elise Albert

*In honor of Bethanne  
Bruninga-Socolar*

John Albright\*

Jim Armstrong\*

Robert Armstrong

Marge and Roger Asplund

*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Deb Bacigalupo

Patricia McMillen  
and Samuel Bader\*

Kris and Joe Bajko

Ellen Baker\*

Heather Baker\*

John and Jane Balaban\*

Nicholas Barber

Mark and Gillian Batterman

Renate and Werner Baur\*

Katie and Rich Beilfuss

*In honor of the hard working Kleifolk  
and all the great Nachusa volunteers*

David Bendlin\*

Cordelia Benedict\*

*In memory of Al and Thelma Dahlberg*

Mary Beth Bengtson

Pat and Polly Benton

Best Buy

*Bryan Burke, employee match*

William F. Bianco

Margaret Birke

Van Bistrow

Todd and Tonya Bittner\*

Blackhawk Garden Club of  
Ogle County, Illinois

*In appreciation for a tour  
led by Joe Richardson*

Books on First

*c/o Larry Dunphy*

*In honor of Pat Dunphy*

George and Kathy Bouska\*

Barbara Bowers\*

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

Wilbert Boynton\*

*In honor of Betty Higby*

Jan Bradford

*In appreciation for a Sierra Club tour  
led by Cindy Crosby*

Laura G. Brooks

Carol Jean and Bernard Brown\*

*In honor of Jackie Brown, Rebecca  
Loew, and Vreni Naess*

Christopher Brown

*In honor of Carol Jean and  
Bernard Brown*

Brad Buchholz\*

Tom Budlong

Angie and Bryan Burke

Anna Bussian



Alice Buyers

*In memory of Charles Buyers*

Ryan Campbell

Laura and Mark Capaldini\*

Timm and Jill Carlson

Wayne Carlson

Ashley Carol-Fingerhut

Mike and Marilyn Carr+

Karen Hayes and Jim Coffin\*

Barb Coglianesi

*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Kathleen Cole\*

Leslie Coleman\*

Mary O. Coleman\*

Jessica Collingsworth

Sean and Kristen Collins-Stapleton

Lisa Connell

*In honor of Steve Toole*

Kathy and Alan Cooper\*

Susan and Brent Coulter\*

*In honor of Mary and Jim Vieregg*

Ashley and Slain Covell

Preston and Barbara Crabill\*

David, Laura and Michelle Crites+



Michele and Don Cronin  
 Cindy and Jeff Crosby\*  
*In memory of Lois Page and  
 in honor of Carolyn Strafford*  
 George Crossett\*  
 Loretta Crow  
 Jill Crozier  
 Diane Nelson and Gary Cygan\*  
 David Davidson\*  
 Ann Dervis\*  
*In honor of Mary Vieregg*  
 Kathryn Despain  
 Ron Deters  
*In honor of Jay Stacy  
 and Dee Hudson*

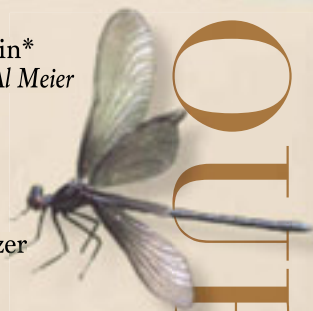
Brenda Dorsey\*  
*In honor of Mary Vieregg*  
 Lynne and Greg Ekdale\*  
*In honor of Alan and Mary Meier*  
 Evil Eye Mercantile  
*c/o Kristen VanDyke*  
 Exelon Dollars for Doers Program  
*In honor of Pete Oliver*  
 George and Marylou Farnsworth+  
 Sally Bowers and Howard Fenton\*  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*  
 Conrad and Carol Fialkowski  
 Ralph Frank  
 Jocelyn Frazelle  
 William D. Fruin\*

Dick and Pam Gambrel  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*  
 Martha Garcia\*  
 Lorraine Gawlik\*  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*  
 Thomas Peterson and  
 Susan Glad-Peterson  
 Candice Glover\*  
 Roger A. Golec  
 Brian Gordon  
 Sue A. Goudy  
*In memory of John R. Engstrom*  
 Cynthia Gray\*  
 John and Jan Gundy\*  
 Kirk and Katie Hollowell\*+  
 Hamill Family Foundation  
*On behalf of Nancy C.H. Winter*  
 Michael Hansen\*  
*In memory of Carl and  
 Betty Hansen*  
 Ann Haverstock  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*  
 Nick Head  
 Heritage Square  
*c/o Bonnie O'Connell  
 Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2017  
 Science Symposium Sponsors*  
 James and Betty Higby\*  
*In memory of Oscar A. Kerchner*  
 Mark Hinueber\*  
*In honor of Rita Hinueber*  
 Mark and Cecilia Hochsprung\*+  
 A. Anne Holcomb  
 Donald R. Homer\*  
 Sara Hostetter  
 Carolyn Hotchkiss\*  
 Eugene Hotchkiss\*  
*In honor of Nancy Hotchkiss*  
 John and Ingrid Hotchkiss\*

Terry and Janie Houchin\*  
*In honor of Mary and Al Meier*  
 Catherine Hu  
 Ronald D. Ingraham\*  
 Robert Jacobs  
 Stephen and Anne Janzer  
 Janice Johnson  
 Rosanne Kaletka-Johnson  
*In memory of Caroline Colton Kaletka*  
 Mariah Karson  
*In honor of Suzy and David Lipsey,  
 Michael Saxton, and Emelyn Karson*  
 Keith Kauffmann\*  
 Tim and Carolyn Keller\*  
*In memory of Isabel Johnston*  
 Holly Keltner\*  
 Jack and June Kiburz\*  
 Roberta Killeen  
 Bill, Susan, and Leah Kleiman\*  
 Mickey Collins and Aki Knezevic\*  
 Pat Kohler  
*In honor of Hank Hartman*  
 Mark and Noreen Kruijs\*  
 John and Toni Landgraf  
 J. Gregory Langan  
*In honor of Betty Higby*  
 Amy Lardner  
 Emmylou Studier  
 and Charles Larry\*  
 Larry Larson  
 Tom Lawson\*  
 Lee County Homemakers  
 Education Association  
 Datuk Dr. Robert F. Inger  
 and Datin Tan Fui Lian\*  
 Laura Hostetler and  
 Mark Liechty\*+  
 Courtney Little  
*In honor of Laurie Bollman-Little*

# OUR DONORS

July 1, 2016  
 to June 30, 2017





# OUR DONORS

July 1, 2016  
to June 30, 2017

Paul Little  
*In honor of Laurie Bollman-Little*

Ann Lowry\*

Clark and Pam Lumsden\*

Mayslake Nature Study  
& Photography Club  
*In appreciation for a tour  
led by Dee Hudson*

Nancy Maze\*

William McEniry, DVM

Greg and Kay McKeen  
*In honor of Mary and Jim Vieregg*

Lou Ann McMillion  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Alan and Mary Meier\*+  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Joel Gentes and Alison Meier  
*In honor of Mary Meier*

Paul and Linda Meier\*

Jean Mendoza  
*In honor of Ed and Barbara Paine*

Kristen Menke

Lisa and Gerald Moore\*

Harold M. and Adeline S.  
Morrison Family Foundation  
*On behalf of Bruce and Beth Boyd*

Morrison Garden Club  
*In appreciation for a tour  
led by Mark Jordan*

Penny Moser\*  
*In memory of Don Moser*

Trish Murphy  
*In honor of John and Katherine Huck  
and John's retirement from his La  
Grange School District 105 friends*

John and Katherine Huck\*

Peter W. Nichols MD\*

Kevin and Linda O'Neill\*

Ogle Jolly 4-H Club

Oliver's Corner Market  
*c/o Patty Oliver*

Pete Oliver\*

Ann and Ralph Orland\*

Joan Polacheck and  
Jonah Orlofsky\*

Joseph and Margaret Pasteris\*

Jennifer Payton

Pella Rolscreen Foundation  
*Michael Winfrey, employee match*

Sandy Phillips\*  
*In memory of our Conner,  
McGonigle, and Fagan Families*

John and Trisha Plescia

Joseph S. and Dona M. Popp

Prairie Planters Garden Club

Nancy Rasey  
*In honor of Mike Adolph*

Steven and Robin Read\*

Renae Rebechini\*  
*In memory of June Decker*

Resurrection Lutheran Church  
of Bloomington, Illinois  
*In honor of Mary Meier*

Joe Richardson

Christopher Rockwood

George B. Rose\*

Nicole Roseberry

Laurel Ross

Edwin and Barbara Rossow\*  
*In honor of Jim and Mary Vieregg*

John and Barbara Rutherford\*

C. Rutkoske\*

Cassandra Saari

Connie Salamone

Salvation Army  
of Rockford, Illinois  
*In appreciation for a tour  
led by Joe Richardson*

Martha and Zink Sanders\*

Kate and Ron Saxton\*

Michael Saxton\*+  
Walter and Carola Schäfer

John Scheele

Bruce and Ellen Scherger

John and Cindy Schmadeke  
*In memory of Sally Baumgardner*

Richard Schoenberger

Juergen and Meredith Schroeer  
*In honor of Sherrie Snyder*

Richard Schutter\*

Charles and Carol Scidmore

James and Ronda Shotsberger\*  
*In honor of Kathleen Shotsberger*

Jack and Terry Shouba

Mr. Tan Ket Sing and Family

Kathy Siperly  
*In memory of John R. Siperly, Sr.*

Rebecca and Brad Smith  
*In honor of Emmylou Studier  
and Charles Larry*

Marvin and Colleen Smitherman

Judy Snyder

Sherrie and Bill Snyder\*

Bethanne Bruninga-Socular  
and Jacob Socolar

Susan Steijn

Stewards of the Upper  
Mississippi River Refuge

Susan Stillinger

Mrs. William Strafford  
*In honor of Cindy Crosby*

Michael Studier  
*In honor of Charles Larry*

Jeanie and Tim Sullivan

Julia and Paul Sutter  
*In honor of Carol Jean  
and Bernard Brown*

Paul Swanson\*

Les and Pat Szewczyk\*

Sherrie Taylor

Jim and Karen Timble

Kathleen Tollaksen\*  
*In honor of Michael Adolph*

Connie Tometich  
*In memory of Harold Divine*

Charles Turner

United Methodist Church  
of Steward Senior Social Connect  
*In appreciation for a tour  
led by Dick Gambrel*

US Cellular\*  
*Jeff Cologna, employee match*

C J Vanderkolk\*

Bruce and Kathy Vickrey\*

Jon and Ann-Marie Viganò\*

Mary Voldan

Bryon Walters

Clara Orban and  
Elliot Weisenberg\*

Jason Willand  
*In memory of Robert "Kip" Heth*

Margaret Williams

Gail and Michael Winfrey

Nancy C.H. Winter

Lucinda Winterfield\*

Evelyn Young\*  
*In honor of Alan and  
Mary Meier*

Dan Zellner\*

Sarah Zera  
*In honor of Steve Zera*

Catherine Ziglar

Robert Zimmerman\*

**HERITAGE HEROES  
NOT LISTED ABOVE**

Harriet Choice+

Robert J. Miller, Jr.+





RESULTS	2017		2016	
	7/1/16-6/30/17		7/1/15-6/30/16	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 25,393</b>		<b>\$ 23,379</b>	
<b>Revenue</b>				
Cash Donations	204,551	77%	180,652	73%
CRP Annual Payment	50,000	18%	50,000	20%
CFNIL Endowment Income	5,233	2%	2,086	<1%
Grant Income			15,000	6%
Amazon Smile Income	110	<1%	73	<1%
T-Shirt Revenue	5,135	2%	0	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>265,029</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>247,811</b>	<b>100%</b>
Direct Gifts to Endowments	14,178		8,340	
In Kind Donations	249		270	
CFNIL Matching Grant	50,000		50,000	
<b>Total Support from all Sources</b>	<b>329,456</b>		<b>306,421</b>	
<b>Disbursements</b>				
<b>In Direct Support of Our Mission</b>				
Gifts to TNC Endowment	45,000	17%	65,000	26%
CFNIL Nachusa Endowment	170,000	63%	128,000	52%
Science Grants	32,871	12%	20,000	8%
Nachusa Operations via TNC	5,233	2%	2,086	<1%
Stewardship	1,852	<1%	16,969	7%
Grants to other Organizations	1,242	<1%	2,450	1%
Subtotal	256,198	95%	234,505	95%
<b>Expenses</b>				
Banking Fees	526	<1%	367	<1%
Government Fees	70	<1%	28	<1%
Insurance	3,422	1%	3,514	1%
Development	7,194	3%	7,382	3%
T-Shirt Expense	1,383	<1%	0	
Subtotal	12,594	5%	11,291	5%
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>268,792</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>245,796</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$ 21,630</b>		<b>\$ 25,393</b>	

## ENDOWMENT FUND BALANCE June 30, 2017

Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (TNC)	\$ 654,729
Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands (CFNIL)	\$ 628,794

**Total Endowment Funds \$ 1,283,523**

## ENDOWMENT DISTRIBUTIONS June 30, 2017

**Cumulative since inception \$ 29,820**

*Distributions primarily fund operations at Nachusa.*

## BALANCE SHEET June 30, 2017

Assets		Liabilities	
Cash	\$ 21,630	Liabilities	\$ 0
		Funds Balance	\$ 21,630
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 21,630</b>	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 21,630</b>





# LEARN MORE

## SAVE THE DATES

**Friends Science Grants Announcements:** February 1, 2018

**Friends Prairie Potluck:** June 16, 2018

**Friends Annual Meeting:** July 28, 2018

**Autumn on the Prairie:** September 15, 2018

## RECOMMENDED READING

*A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold

*Buffalo for the Broken Heart* by Dan O'Brien

*Flora of the Chicago Region* by Gerould Wilhelm and Laura Rericha

*Journal of a Prairie Year* by Paul Gruchow

*Landmarks* by Robert Macfarlane

*Nature's Second Chance* by Steven Apfelbaum

*Prairie: A Natural History* by Candace Savage

*Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers* by Doug Ladd

*The Tallgrass Prairie: An Introduction* by Cindy Crosby

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

*The Tallgrass Prairie Reader* edited by John T. Price

*Where the Sky Began* by John Madson

## CONTACT US:

**Friends of Nachusa Grasslands**

8772 South Lowden Road Franklin Grove, IL 61031

708-406-9894 nachusagrasslands@gmail.com

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

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

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

✦ Kaleb Baker

✦ Cindy Crosby

▲ Joyce Gibbons

⊛ Betty Higby

❖ Dee Hudson

♣ Charles Larry

✿ William McBride

■ Sharon McLane

✓ Tim Ngo

◆ Gabriella Pardee

★ Joe Richardson

**ILLUSTRATOR:** Betty Higby

Front cover photos: Cindy Crosby, Joyce Gibbons, Dee Hudson, and Charles Larry

Back cover photos: Cindy Crosby and Charles Larry

Graphic designer: Cindy Kiple

Managing editor: Cindy Crosby

Printing: Georgene Meyers and RGM Graphics

## DIRECTORS

Mike Carr (2016-2018)

Betty Higby (2016-2018)

Kirk Hallowell (2017-2019)

## OFFICERS (2017-18)

Bernie Buchholz, president

Mike Saxton, vice president

Cindy Crosby, vice president

David Crites, treasurer

Mary Meier, secretary





Nachusa Grasslands' new visitor center (shown under construction in the photo above) on Lowden Road was dedicated on October 11, 2017. The pavilion includes more than 50 feet of interpretive panels designed to engage and connect visitors with the tallgrass prairie community.

*“If we continue to preserve and manage remnant landscapes, one can hope that if nascent generations and generations yet unborn develop an abiding empathy for the free-living world of nature, perhaps there will be enough diversity to begin to knit together and reclaim lands around us with much of their comely diversity and complexity. Perhaps, one day, children could grow up, seeing themselves as part of nature, in an environment so beautiful and composed that it can inspire not only the healing of the landscape but the nourishing of the human soul as well... .”*

*—Dr. Gerould Wilhelm,  
Flora of the Chicago Region*





"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](http://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



FRIENDS OF  
NACHUSA  
GRASSLANDS

Please send your gift to:  
FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS  
8772 S. LOWDEN ROAD  
FRANKLIN GROVE, IL 61031

Thank you for your support!





FRIENDS OF  
NACHUSA  
GRASSLANDS  
[nachusagrasslands.org](http://nachusagrasslands.org)

