

# **PRAIRIE SMOKE**

**Nachusa Grasslands Newsletter**  
**Issue 14** **August 1992**

**Join the Illinois Chapter of  
The Nature Conservancy & Nachusa Grasslands  
Volunteers at**

**AUTUMN-ON-THE-PRAIRIE**  
**SEPT. 19, 1992**  
**10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM**  
**AT NACHUSA GRASSLANDS**



**Demonstrations - Tours - Displays**  
**Food & Entertainment**

**SPECIAL GUEST TOUR GUIDE**  
**FLOYD SWINK**



**COMPLETE INFORMATION INSIDE THIS ISSUE ON AN INSERT SHEET. PLEASE  
SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS. FEEL FREE TO COPY THE INSERT AND HAND IT  
OUT AND POST WHERE EVER POSSIBLE. WE WANT YOU TO GET TO KNOW AND  
ENJOY NACHUSA GRASSLANDS. CAN WE COUNT ON SEEING YOU THERE?  
EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING!**

**The  
Nature  
Conservancy**

**brings you Prairie Smoke, the Nachusa  
Grasslands Newsletter.  
Illinois Field Office, 79 West Monroe,  
Chicago, IL 60603 -- Phone 312/346-8166**

# BIRDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS: SPECIES CLOSE-UP 1992..... by ANNE HAVERSTOCK

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Each year this grassland offers me a bounty of fresh images. Added to my larder of memories will be: the turkey vulture sitting atop a deer carcass; the female harrier's rocking flight while hunting the grasslands; the mockingbird finally singing for me and throwing in a couple of "whip-poor-will" phrases to make me really laugh; the prairie wolf (coyote) racing across a field; the male scarlet tanager bathing in Wade Creek; a pair of Ron Panzer's gorgone checkerspot butterflies "in copula" on Doug's Knob; and a night sky so dark that the words "star dust" have real meaning. To be a prairie volunteer has its perks.

- Northern Harrier: This was a most exciting season for this state endangered bird. I was able to watch a female harrier hunt the grasslands on at least three occasions during June. On June 13, 1991 I had another birder, Bette Heston, with me. It is important to document the sighting of this species during the breeding season. To my knowledge no male bird was seen in the surrounding area.
- Cooper's Hawk: Sadly, we did not see the return of this state endangered accipiter.
- Northern Bobwhite: It was in mid-June when the first sighting of this species at Nachusa was recorded. My feeling is that some local persons may have released these birds. (I have no proof of this.) Several males are heard calling throughout the day.
- Upland Sandpiper: Only one pair of our state endangered sandpipers returned April 18, 1992 and used the site. Bo Dziadyk observed three birds flying as a family unit on June 19, 1992. This may be proof enough to confirm the successful fledging of at least one young for this pair.

- Black-billed Cuckoo: None were recorded this season, but a yellow-billed cuckoo was recorded near the creek.
- Whip-poor-will: At least 3 males were heard in the evenings throughout the season. Mel Hoff flushed one bird May 11, 1992. It is difficult to confirm its breeding, but the return of the species to the site each year should be a good indicator.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Only sighting of this bird was June 26, 1992.
- Alder Flycatcher: This bird was seen and heard singing on May 24, 1992 at the western fence line.
- Sedge Wren: Not seen this season.
- Veery: This Illinois state threatened bird was seen and heard a couple of times during the breeding season, but for the third year we have not been able to confirm its breeding.
- Northern Mockingbird: This species has been sighted by several people over the last three years, but I always wondered why I never saw or heard it. A pair apparently nested on Lowden road just north of the yellow house and east of Nachusa. This year on July 12th around Benson's road, southern edge of the site, I was happy to hear one sing most of the morning.
- Loggerhead Shrike: No reported sightings of this state threatened bird on or around the grasslands. "The causes for decline are still being debated, but some researchers attribute it to collisions with automobiles, loss of hedgerows, loss of insect prey, use of insecticides, and other factors. A new study in southeastern Alberta suggests that, at least there, the cause may be the loss of tall-grass prairie habitats. Researchers found shrikes breeding in all surveyed areas

where the grass was over 20cm (about 8 inches) tall, and absent from all areas where the grass was shorter." (Bird Watcher's Digest, May/June 1992.)

- **Yellow-breasted Chat:** Nesting around Coyote Point. The brightly colored male has a flight song that is well worth watching. He hangs in the air and drops his feet all the while singing wildly. His song is usually coarse with punctuations of sweetness.
- **Dickcissel:** Present and breeding, but their numbers seem to be fewer this season. Possibly, drought related problems effected the adults. Their diet contains 70% insects (Ehrlich, 1988) and insects were scarce early in the breeding season.
- **Lark Sparrows:** Two, possibly three, pairs were nesting at Nachusa again. One pair on Doug's Knob and the others along the southern edge of the main complex. The first fledging this year was seen on June 23rd. This species has a fine and varied song, its well worth the effort to learn it, so early next spring you can find it.
- **Grasshopper Sparrows:** This was the most abundant grassland species at Nachusa, but the early drought conditions may have slowed them. The number of singing males was down in all my census plots. When I tabulate the census, I'll have a better picture. The fully fledged young of this cryptically colored species has a brighter crisper look to its new feathers than the dull and worn look of its parent.
- **Bobolink:** Three males, all in the restored '91 field, set up and defended territories.

In September for "Autumn on the Prairie" a new updated check list will be available. This list contains all species recorded at Nachusa since 1990. All seasonal data is obtained and contributed by volunteers.

**3** You will notice that months of August, November and December are lacking information. We must be too busy with our families to visit at those times. Maybe, some of us will have to sneak a peek this year.

Contributors to the seasonal data this year are: Sally Baumgardner, Jim Chiropolos, Duane Heaton, Bette Heston, Mel Hoff, Judy Mellin and Marj Walls.

On July fifteenth Sue Bivins, a Nachusa neighbor, saved my hide. She kindly lent her binoculars to this stranger. It is sooooo much easier to do a survey with binoculars.

**Send your observations to me and keep looking up.**

Anne Haverstock  
724 Hawthorne Lane  
Geneva, IL 60134

Gene St. Louis



## AM & PM BIRDWALKS

by Gene St. Louis

Anne Haverstock lead an evening birdwalk on June 25th, and followed up with another the following morning. At least 23 persons attended the evening excursion, one couple traveling from Decatur, IL to attend. The group entered from Stone Barn road and proceeded up Dot's Knob. They then proceeded around the north edge of Doug's Knob, past the massive outcropping to the northwest, and down through the oaks to emerge on the southwest edge of Doug's Knob. They then "mellowed-out" on top of Doug's Knob to take in the sights and sounds of the approaching night. Many of the participants stayed in Grand Detour over night to attend the morning tour.

At 9:00 am the next day, 16 individuals gathered at the main entrance to continue their exploration of the Grasslands. The group proceeded through the main knobs out to Coyote Point, sighting many native plants and birds along the way.

# NEW POPULATION OF PAINTED CUPS ESTABLISHED

by Chris Bronny

The restoration of downy yellow painted cup (*Castilleja sessiliflora*) on "Doug's Knob" from a 1988 spot-seeding attempt is apparently successful!! On Saturday, May 16 during a twilight prairie tour, vigorous young plants with only one or two flowering stems were found growing on the dry gravel northwest-facing slope of Doug's Knob. A follow-up investigation on May 23 confirmed more plants growing on a former small-scale gravel extraction pit on the Knob where seeds were deliberately sown in 1988. According to Dot Wade, she and her husband Doug had never seen downy yellow painted cup growing on that knuckle of gravel prairie in all their visits and inventories to that particular site over the years.

Downy yellow painted cup, a semi-parasitic plant and a "cousin" to Indian paintbrush, is one of the uncommon members of the Nachusa Grasslands flora that makes the preserve so unique and special. It is currently endangered in Illinois.

Up to this time, only one (but healthy) population was known to exist at Schafer Knob in the southeast portion of the preserve. With permission from The Nature Conservancy, it was decided an attempt should be made to increase the existing population. During the summer of 1988, a small percentage of seed (approximately 25% of the existing seed stock) was collected and spot-seeded into areas that were suspected as being appropriate habitat in an attempt to increase the range and population of this species at the preserve (a report confirming this attempt was filed with The Conservancy). Despite droughts and lower-than-normal precipitation over the past four years, the propagules have apparently liked their new "home". The establishment of a new colony at the grasslands is an encouraging sign. Not only does it reflect the increasing ecological

4 health and diversity of the recovering native plant communities, but it also acts as "ecological insurance" against the day when one natural or man-made disaster could conceivably wipe out the entire lone population at Schafer Knob.

Gene St. Louis



Karissa Yengler - seeding for the future

## 1,000,000 +

by Carol Merbach

On Saturday, May 30th, over 1 million seeds were scattered to the winds at the Nachusa Grasslands. Under the direction of prairie restorationists, Dennis Lubbs and Kathy Motto, over fifty people, young and old, participated in this event.

The work began last year when a number of seed gathering work days were held at the grasslands. Seeds were also gathered at a number of sites within the region in order to insure an adequate gene pool for the plants. Over 600 pounds of seeds were used this year to spread over 60 - 70 acres of bottom land that last year had been soybean fields.

Because we were artificially helping Mother Nature with this process, many of the seeds were inoculated or scarified to insure germination. There was over 500 pounds of bluestem varieties planted, as well as bullrushes, June Grass, Prairie Parsley, Indigo, Coneflower, and many more.

Many thanks to all who participated in this event.



## AUTUMN AT NACHUSA

by Debra Carey

As the wedges of Canada geese festoon the sky above Nachusa Grasslands, I marvel at nature's perfect cycle. How intricate autumn is! A time for migration for some species, such as the waterfowl; for others, a time to harvest the abundance of fall for the frugality of winter.

Since I find it easy to get lost on the streets of Rockford, Illinois, the navigational ability of the songbirds who migrate thousands of miles, fills my mind with wonder. Yes, scientists have studied how birds use stars, the earth's magnetic field and such to find their path, but to an amateur like me, it is just plain autumnal magic.

For some, fall is a time of death. The insects, that have faithfully mated and deposited their eggs for the coming year, fade into oblivion. These minute egg cases and cocoons brave below zero temperatures to add diversity to the spring scene at Nachusa Grasslands.

And my favorite, the box turtle, is busy munching on forbs and some of those aforementioned insects as he readies himself for the mystical sleep of hibernation. Could you sleep outside under a scuffle of leaves all winter and then emerge, fresh as a daisy, in the spring? To me, the amphibian and reptile facet is one of the most intriguing parts of Nachusa Grasslands. Those early spring walks would not be complete without the symphony of spring peepers. I'm glad that the frogs and toads and snakes and turtles are always there to greet the April sunshine.

I may add a few groceries to my cupboard as the crisp nights of autumn approach, but it's nothing compared to the preparedness of the chipmunk. As I sit on the rock outcropping across from Doug's Knob, this little fellow is frantically gathering acorns and seeds and carefully stowing them in secret caches. He may store over a bushel of tasty prairie seeds for his gourmet winter menu as he dreams away the bitter spells of snow.

Don't let autumn turn into winter without adding a few hours at Nachusa Grasslands to your busy schedule. Time spent hiking through the sea of grass under the azure sky is time well spent. The sights and sounds of the fall season at Nachusa Grasslands are nature's invitation to autumn enjoyment.

## TOURS

by Ellen Baker

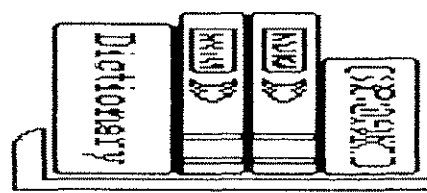
It's been exciting meeting people who are interested in Nachusa Grasslands. Mothers bring their girls for 4-H projects. I hear discussions about wetland restoration from Tim Keller and Ed Collins. I've met U. S. News and World Report reporters from Washington, D.C., and high school friends who want to be a part of the grasslands project when they retire and move back to the area. I meet people, young and old, who share the same interest --- learning, and growing in understanding of how special Nachusa Grasslands are.

The Coneflowers in June weren't as tall and colorful as two years ago. But, Dot's Knob was extremely dry. The penstemon were especially tall and full of blooms in May. Really showy! The fragrance of the mountain mint during the July tour came from those healthy plants that followed the July rains. Seeing the first seeded areas with flowers during that July tour was exciting! Remembering how we all tossed seeds as we walked across the field and saw TV cameras focusing on us. They can focus on the wildflowers now. Do you wonder if the flowers came from one of those seeds you planted or was it just waiting there for years for the right conditions? It's great to share what has and is happening with first time visitors.

I spent a week at the Franklin Creek Headquarters during the Mill Timber-framing Cutting Bee -- over one-half of the inquiries were about Nachusa Grasslands! Have you seen the new road signs with directions to the Grasslands? More and more people are venturing out for visits. We had extra tours this season for birding, photos, boundary, etc.

The sounds of the whip-poor-will is music to my ears...just like old times at Castle Rock. If you haven't experienced Nachusa Grasslands come August 22 and October 17th. Meet at the sign on Lowden Road at 10:00 am. Be looking for you!





# For Your Information

## HAWK'S VIEW OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

by Sally Baumgardner

Did anybody notice a lot of air traffic over the Grasslands on Saturday, August 1? It was a Cessna 172, piloted by Ed Whitford of Rockford, who took eleven of our volunteers and friends on four different flights over the preserve. This was arranged by Max Baumgardner.

On a bright and sunny day, they were treated to a view of the prairie as seen by the hawks and vultures. Sharing the joy (and the cost) were: Jeff Meiners and children Erika and Brandon, Gene St. Louis, Bob Parenteau, Shane Coers, Ed Pleskovitch and his son Erin, Steve Laffey, Ellen Baker and Jeanette Heesaker.

We may have one of Gene St. Louis' photos for the next issue of Prairie Smoke.

Gene St. Louis



## RESTORATION UPDATE

by Chris Bronny

Two flowering plants of wild blue phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) were seen in the recovering oak savanna in the northwest corner of the preserve on May 23. Seeds of this species were collected and broadcast into the area in the summer of 1989.

Question: was this species always there, but unnoticed until now; or was there a seedpool in the degraded sod that found the right time to germinate and return once the cattle were removed; or are these plants the results of successful 1989 reintroduction attempt??

## JOINT TOUR

by Gene St. Louis

Ellen Baker and Bob Parenteau both had tours scheduled for the morning of July 18th, so they combined their respective groups into a single tour for 11 visitors. They started on Lowden Road just north of Wade Creek, and proceeded west up to Doug's Knob. Due to the recent rains, they were able to pass through prairie growth almost as tall as the hikers. They were treated to brilliant stands of Wild Bergamot, Yellow Coneflower, Hoary Vervain, Purple Prairie Clover, and Mountain Mint in full bloom.

## NACHUSA GRASSLANDS EASIER TO FIND

by Sally Baumgardner

Dozens (maybe hundreds!) of potential visitors and volunteers at Nachusa Grasslands will now be able to find their way, because we have permanent directional signs in Lee County! Ron Brandau, Superintendent of Highways, is the man to thank. If you see him, be sure to let him know how much we appreciate his efforts.

An effort will now be made in Ogle County to have directional signs erected north of the Grasslands.

**TOUR**

**HIKERS WANTED - AUG. 21, 1992**

**7:00 PM - Main Entrance of Nachusa Grasslands**

**BLAZINGSTAR TOUR**

**led by Sally Baumgardner**



## THANK YOU!

L. TO R.: Mary Ann Skvara, Joe Skvara, JoAnn Monge, Dave Jagodzinski, Mel Toff, Herm Jensen and Scott Hensey.

Mary Ann, Joe and Dave are from the DuPage Volunteer Stewardship Group, the rest from the West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group.

On May 16, these sturdy volunteers came to Nachusa Grasslands to help Kittentail Knob continue on its road to recovery. Multi flora rose and other weedy woody plants were cut, and herbicided, then a large bag of prairie forbs and June grass was raked in.

We really appreciate these efforts of our "long-distance" friends! Come again and thank you very much!

Gene St. Louis



## BRUSH CUTTING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Gene St. Louis

Ed Pleskovitch has been continuing his attack on the trees, brush, and multi-flora rose encroaching on the Grasslands. On June 6th, he and Steve Laffey began cutting out the fence row to the south of this-year's planting. They were later joined by Max Baumgardner, Bob Parenteau, and Gene St. Louis.

On June 27, Ed and Steve began re-cutting the trail along the West Boundary from Doug's Knob to Kittentail Knob. They continued this work alone on July 11th and finished late in the afternoon of the 18th. Bernie Sexton has also been slicing away at multi-flora rose on the main complex with lopping shears. Ed and Steve put in very long days when they are out here, but our brush problems are overwhelming for a few individuals.

Ed Pleskovitch is one of our finest volunteers at Nachusa Grasslands. He helps burn off the prairie in spring and fall. He is on hand for seed picking, its preparation, and planting. He has been active in planning Autumn On The Prairie since early spring. On top of helping anyone else with their projects, he has chosen to head up one of the largest, most demanding, and most potentially dangerous projects here, tree and brush removal. He deserves much more support from the rest of us. This is a task where an extra pair of

hands can really make a difference, and you don't have to be a lumberjack to help out.

Tasks range from actually cutting large trees to simply snipping off the seed heads of plants we want to discourage. A major task is just piling up the brush cuttings or tree limbs for later burning. One person with a chain saw or power brush wacker can easily keep two stackers busy. Ideally, we should have enough volunteers for several crews working in different areas every weekend. We have over 700 acres to cover, and a couple of people can't do it all.

How marvelous it would be if every able-bodied reader of Prairie Smoke could come out for just one day of brush removal each year. If you are willing to give our Mother Planet that one day, please contact Ed at 815/626-8746, or check the enclosed calendar for scheduled brush days.

Gene St. Louis



Ed Pleskovitch & Steve Laffey

# NACHUSA HOSTS ROCK RIVER BIOREGION CONFERENCE TOUR

by Gene St. Louis

Nachusa Grasslands participated in the Rock River Bioregion Conference by hosting a nature tour on May 17. The tour began at the Jarrett Prairie Center in Byron, IL, under the direction of Mike Crowe. The group visited the Douglas Wade Prairie, the Beach Cemetery Prairie, and the Killbuck Creek prairie area. The participants were then invited to eat their lunches at Dot Wade's prairie style home in Oregon. Afterward, they proceeded to Nachusa for a tour by Bo Dziadyk, an ecology professor from Augustana College who carries out scientific studies at Nachusa. By this time, the group had been reduced to four: Al Roloff, Lisa Sadowski, Kevin Kaltenbach, and Gene St. Louis. Dr. Dziadyk lead the participants through the main complex of knobs, past Coyote Point, and out into a fen west of Wade Creek. Since the group was small, he was able to spend extra time identifying the plants found at Nachusa. In the fen, he demonstrated the movement of the quaking bog located there by jumping on it. It is a rare privilege to be given a tour of Nachusa by such an esteemed expert as Dr. Dziadyk.

Gene St. Louis



Dr. Dziadyk, Augustana College, left, and tour guests inspect one of Nachusa Grasslands' wetlands.

Gene St. Louis



Joanne West hard at work!

## K.A.R.E. LAUNCHES CLEANUP OF TRASH KNOB

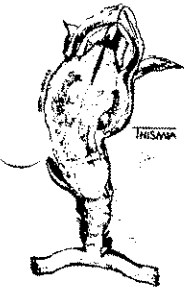
by Gene St. Louis

On June 7th, five members of K.A.R.E., the Kishwaukee Area Residents for the Environment, came to Nachusa from DeKalb to begin the recycling and clean up of Trash Knob. Steve Laffey, Joanne West, Ron and Mary Lou Flenal, and Gene St. Louis spent the afternoon sifting through rubble for glass containers and aluminum cans. Steve Laffey, who had arrived early, sorted out a huge pile of old wood and other rubbish which can be burned. By 4 pm, they had collected 7 trash bags of glass, several cubic feet of broken glass, 1 bag of aluminum cans, and a large number of plastic containers.

These materials were taken back to DeKalb to be cleaned and turned in for recycling. With the fields to the west of Trash Knob now replanted, it's time to begin serious efforts to remove this eye-sore from the midst of our prairie, putting as much material as possible back into use through recycling. Any groups or individuals interested in contributing to this effort are encouraged to contact our volunteer coordinator Sally Baumgardner.



BURMANNIACEAE  
*Thismia americana* N. E. Pfeiffer.  
 THISMIA



## EXTINCT PLANT REDISCOVERED AT NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

by Chris Bronny

This could be a national headline later this summer if our long-shot, "until hell freezes over" hunch proves correct.

*Thismia americana* is one of the most enigmatic denizens of the Illinois flora. There are currently no known populations of this species and is considered extinct, but suitable sites still remain in the Chicago region where this plant was discovered in 1912 by Norma Pfeiffer. Its plant community preference apparently was calcareous wet prairie. Nachusa has a calcareous wet prairie, so conceivably, if the appropriate community type exists, so too could a relic *Thismia* population.

Going back in the not-so-distant past (geologically speaking), did outlier populations of *Thismia* exist south and west of the Chicago Lake Plain Region when that area was under water during the retreat of the last ice sheet approximately 8,000 years ago? If so, why not have relic populations at places such as Nachusa? This is an intriguing botanical mystery, and the reason for holding our own "Thismia Hunt" at the Grasslands.

Join us on Saturday, August 15 as we crawl about the wet prairie in the western portion of the preserve looking for *Thismia americana*. Meet at the "Little Yellow House On The Prairie" at 9:00 am for a brief prep and review of what we are looking for. We will then spend the late morning and early afternoon looking for *Thismia*. While we are in the field, an on-going floristic survey will be conducted as well, so any unusual plants that you happen to come across during your search will greatly add to our knowledge base of what existing species of natives should we begin looking at as we begin the task of restoring our wetland areas at the grasslands. For more information, contact Dennis Lubbs at 815/379-9060, or Chris Bronny at 815/234-3161.

CULVER'S ROOT  
 Bill Rogers '92



## RECIPE FOR HOME-MADE BOGS

by Isabel Johnston

**When I walked on bogs in northern Wisconsin, I thought of a water bed. Bogs are wet and spongy.**

In my town garden is what I call bogs. There are 16 of them. These were parts of black plastic barrels holding soap for an industry. The tops and bottoms were cut off to make 2 wee bogs if the opening was tightly closed, and the center section was dug in around new elderberry bushes to prevent, I hope, their spreading.

A bog in my garden has 4 drainage holes so only the roots of certain plants are very near dampness. Plants that need much water e.g. water plantain, marsh marigold and turtlehead have soil removed from the top of the bog.

Bogs weren't easy to dig into the ground. My first bogs were 12" deep. Later ones were 6" deep. Edges got the soil well tamped - for snakes like cracks in the dirt.

Plants I put in bogs are culver's root, turtlehead, cardinal flower, great blue lobelia, queen-of-the-prairie, interrupted fern, royal fern, marsh marigold, and wild rice. More than one bog was used for some of these.

My bogs were put in the sun. A friend, Elda Goodmiller, has showy orchids, in a shady bog where water is kept by a container of wood and sheets of black plastic.

Between bogs I want shooting stars. So far I have 2 of these plants.

# U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

by Sally Baumgardner

**O**n Saturday April 18, Karen Schmidt, left met with Max & Sally Baumgardner, Dot Wade and Matt Sawyer (not shown) on a burned section of the prairie. Karen is a reporter with U. S. News & World Report. Her fine article on prairie restoration, including Nachusa Grasslands, appeared in her magazine in mid May. Photo by Matt Sawyer.



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AMBOY, IL 61310



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# third annual Autumn-on-the-Prairie at Nachusa Grasslands

SEPT. 19, 1992 ..... 10 AM to 5 PM  
Food & Drink at the site.

## TOURS

throughout the day led by  
Sally Baumgardner, Steve  
Packard, Tim Keller, Chris  
Bronny & Ellen Baker.

## DISPLAYS

Indian Lore  
Prairie Plants  
Prairie Wildlife  
Prairie Art & Photography  
4-H Prairie Projects

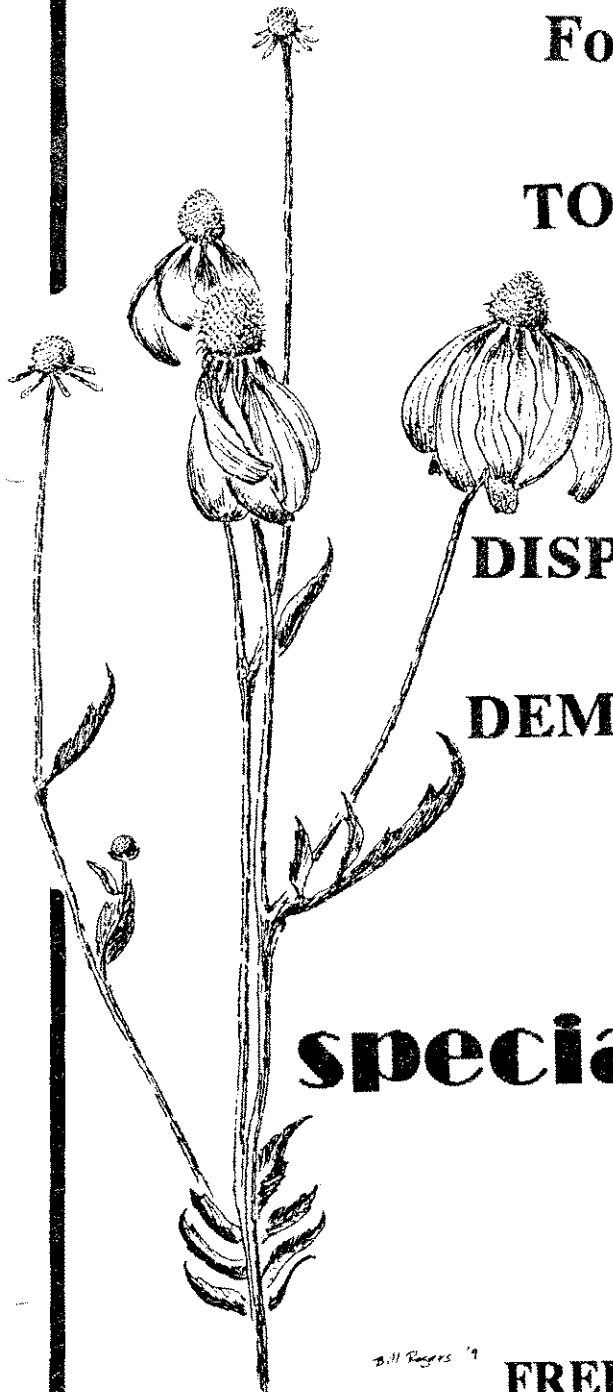
## DEMONSTRATIONS

Prairie Planting - 10:30 am  
Brush Control - 1:00 pm  
Controlled Burn - 2:00 pm

## special .....

# 3 tours led by Floyd Swink

Bill Rogers '9  
FREE ADMISSION AND PARKING



# **AUTUMN-ON-THE-PRAIRIE SCHEDULE**

**10:00 am - Tour led by FLOYD SWINK**

**10:30 am - Prairie Planting Demonstration - Dennis Lubbs  
& Kathy Motto**

**11:00 am - Tour led by Tim Keller**

**11:30 am - Tour led by Chris Bronny**

**12:00 noon - Tour led by FLOYD SWINK**

**1:00 pm - Brush Control Demonstration - Ed Pleskovitch**

**1:30 pm - Children's Tour led by Sally Baumgardner**

**2:00 pm - Controlled Burn Demonstration - Mike Crowe**

**3:00 pm - Tour led by FLOYD SWINK**

**4:00 pm - Tour led by Steve Packard**

**5:00 pm - Bird Tour led by John Bivins**

Our regular tour coordinator, Ellen Baker, will be on hand to lead impromptu tours.

## **NACHUSA GRASSLANDS - 1992 CALENDAR**

AUG. 21 - Tour - Blazingstar - 7:30 am - meet at sign on Lowden Rd. - Sally Baumgardner

AUG. 22 - MFR Brush Cutting - 9:00 am - Ed Pleskovitch - 815/626-8746

Tour of Flora & Seed Picking - 10 am - Ellen Baker & Hazel Reuter

AUG. 23 - Tour to Kittentail Knob - 10 am - Bob Parenteau - 815/235-2091

AUG. 29 & 30 - Prairie Tour - Willowbrook Wildlife Haven Volunteers & Staff

AUG. 30 - Seed Collecting - 10:00 am - Dennis Lubbs & Kathy Motto - 815/379-9060

AUG. 31 - Morton Arboretum Guides Seed Picking & Tour - Sally Baumgardner

SEPT. 6 - Combined Work Day - West Chicago Prairie Stewards & VSN & Nachusa Volunteers

SEPT. 12 - Prep. Day for Autumn-on-the-Prairie - 9:30 am

Cut trees at A-O-T-P site - Ed Pleskovitch

### **SEPT. 19 - THIRD ANNUAL AUTUMN-ON-THE-PRAIRIE**

SEPT. 26 - West Boundary Trimming - 9:00 am - Ed Pleskovitch - 815/626-8746

OCT. 10 - Steering Committee Meeting - Little Yellow House - 9:30 am

Remove Fence at Kittentail Knob - 1:00 pm - Ed Pleskovitch

OCT. 17 - Autumn Splendor Tour - 10:00 am - Ellen Baker - 815/456-2283

OCT. 24 - Remove Fence at Kittentail Knob - 9:00 am - Ed Pleskovitch

Tour - Stone Barn Road to West Boundary - 10 am - Bob Parenteau

NOV. 1 - Deadline for Prairie Smoke input.....articles, photos, etc.

Submit to: TNC, 897 Union Road, Amboy, IL 61310

NOV. 13 - Steering Committee Meeting - Little Yellow House - 9:30 am

(Preparation for 1993 calendar and Volunteer awards)

NOV. 14 - Internal Fence Removal - 10:00 am - Ed Pleskovitch - 815/626-8746

NOV. 15 - Prairie Smoke published

NOV. 21 - TBD - Bob Parenteau

NOV. 28 - TBD - Ed Pleskovitch

DEC. 5 - Second Annual Stone Soup Holiday Gathering and Awards

(10:00 am to 2:00 pm)

DEC. 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS NACHUSA GRASSLANDS VOLUNTEERS

NOTE: All tours meet at the Nachusa Grasslands sign on Lowden Road. Seed Picking parties and Brush cutting parties by Volunteers, Groups, or Individuals are encouraged to be scheduled and held anytime through November, weekdays or weekends! Call Dennis Lubbs 815/379-6090 or Ed Pleskovitch 815/626-8746 if you require details.