



PRAIRIE SMOKE

Nachusa Grasslands Newsletter

Issue 26

January 15, 1996

Rebirth of a Wetland by Todd Bittner (Seasonal Restoration Technician)

Cattails rustle in the wind. Chorus frogs and Spring peepers announce their presence. Migrating blue-winged teal take to the wing. The sweet smell of marsh marigolds fills the air. Are these the sights, sounds, and smells that some of our ancestors might have observed when they first glimpsed Illinois' vast wetlands? Or are they an inkling of the wonders that Nachusa Grasslands has in store in the very near future? Answers to both questions can only be speculation, but early indications are that this summer's wetland restoration work will yield great benefits.

Between the knobs and ridges at Nachusa lies a flat and poorly drained landscape with a clay hardpan below the surface, approximately 2 to 4 feet down. This hardpan is almost impermeable to water. All of the ground water that comes from the surface or percolates through the knobs and ridges and seeps onto it must pass horizontally above this hardpan toward lower elevations and streams. This movement of water probably took months historically, and the saturated conditions throughout the year allowed a wetland community to become established and thrive.

In the 1950's Nachusa's wetland met the same fate as many other wetlands have, it was tiled and drained for agriculture. An estimated three miles of clay tile was laid in the mucky soil in an elaborate maze of criss-crossing and branching lines, with some extending a couple hundred yards. The tiling created a parsimonious route that allowed the water to move in days rather than months. After heavy rains the tile system would be a silt filled geyser emptying into the normally clear running Wade Creek. The annually plowed crop field no longer functioned as a wetland.

Enter The Nature Conservancy. In 1991 the wetland field was allowed to go fallow. Years later wetland plants began appearing instead of weeds. No, it was not the doing of those tenacious volunteers, it was the seed bank. The seed

(continued on page 5)



Winnetka School Children Raise \$2,800 for Nachusa Grasslands

Students from Hubbard Woods School in Winnetka have donated \$2,800 to The Nature Conservancy of Illinois for land acquisition at Nachusa Grasslands in Lee/Ogle counties. The Conservancy acknowledged the generous gift on Wednesday, October 25th, with a presentation at Somme Prairie Nature Preserve in Northbrook, where some of the students are involved in the Mighty Acorns youth stewardship program.

The school raised funds last year through an Ecology Fair, launched by teacher Mary Lind, and chose Nachusa Grasslands as the beneficiary. Located near Dixon in north central Illinois, Nachusa Grasslands is a 1,000-acre prairie preserve owned by the Conservancy. Because of its relatively large size, Nachusa harbors many grassland bird species, butterfly species, and large animals such as badgers that need space to survive.

"Someday we will protect and restore enough habitat at Nachusa Grasslands to provide a home for the rare marsh hawk and the shy Franklin's ground squirrel," Preserve Manager Bill Kleiman told the children. "You will see that day, and will know you have helped to make it possible."

Hubbard Woods School is also involved in the Conservancy's Mighty Acorns youth stewardship education program, which connects urban youth with nature through direct experiences in the forest preserves throughout Cook County. Mighty Acorns is a public/private partnership between The Nature Conservancy, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and the US EPA Great Lakes National Program Office. Since its inception in 1993, Mighty Acorns has grown to involve over 1,400 3rd-7th graders from thirty schools and youth organizations around Chicago.



From the Preserve Manager-Bill Kleiman Sampling of preserve work accomplished:

Kittentail Unit: West Chicago Prairie Stewards cleared cherries and multiflora rose from a wide swath between their unit and the Fen. For those asking why clear brush when fire could do the work for you? One answer is fire works wonders at keeping brush from invading an area but brush is slow to remove with fire. Typically the fuels from leaves under the brush do not allow fire to carry and so the area continues to be shaded with little ground cover.

We like brush when it is comprised of native plants like hazelnuts, Illinois rose, elderberry, ninebark, chokeberry, New Jersey tea, red-osier dogwood, prickly ash, wild gooseberry, oak shrubs, ... Some native plants like box elder, eastern red cedar, and black cherry are over-abundant due to a lack of fire for 150 years. For instance, no cherries, cedars, or box elder are on the 1839 survey notes but now these trees crowd some of our oak woodlands to the point that the oaks don't regenerate and the groundlayer plant community is much reduced or missing. The 1839 surveyors did note lots of oaks, walnuts and hickories on the west end of the preserve.

Schafer Unit: New stewards David Edelbach and Gerald McDermott enthusiastically removed numerous cedar trees from the prairie remnant. Cedar trees shade-kill prairie. In the future the occasional prescribed burning will keep the flammable cedars off this dry prairie. Where did we find the native eastern red cedars in this area a few hundred years ago? Along cliff edges and rocky bluffs where fire could not reach. Also helping were Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Mark Forster, Donna, Ray Derksen, the Darin brothers. David and Gerald also harvested and planted seed from Schafer knob to the surrounding areas. The Weekday crew thinned under the oaks at the south knob of this unit.

Clear Creek Unit: Clearing multiflora rose by cutting and burning root corm. Multiflora rose is a weed from Asia imported for improved fence rows years ago. Terri Clark, Dave Fortner, Francis Henry, Mary and Keith Blackmore and Mike Crowe.

Northeast Unit (to be renamed Rolling Thunder): Several hundred yards of fenceline removed and brush thinned by Jay Stacy and Gene Miller. Harvesting of numerous plants and weed control with Sally Baumgardner coordinating.

East Heinkel Unit: Cleared and girdled a young pine plantation that was shading out the original little bluestem prairie. Mike Crowe, David Edelbach, Rich Markeloff, Bill K. Mike Crowe and others planted various wondrous seeds in the woods, the open knobs and wetland.

Meiners Wetland Unit: Weekday crew created five shallow depressions by removing reed canary grass patches with a backhoe. Used dirt as parking lot fill for

the Meiners roadside pullover. We also worked at sculpting the wetland oxbow that was excavated two years ago. We pushed the edges in to have a taper that is more like a wetland pool.

Main Unit: Mike Adolph, and new costeward Bob Schone, Laura Busch and others thinned cherries from various areas. Hundreds of dead multiflora rose can be viewed, spot sprayed by Mike and friends.

Fen Unit: Weekday crew did a massive thinning under the oaks on the east side of Wade Creek. Left standing are beautiful and large bur and Hill's oaks, elderberry, wild plum, walnuts. Removed were cherries and box elders and mfr (multiflora rose). Stumps were spot herbicided and the area seeded lightly. Go have a look.

Prairie Potholes Unit: Wetland restoration work.

See cover story.

Coneflower Unit: Hazel Reuter and Mary Ann Hoeffliger and others harvested numerous seed (pounds of purple prairie clover). All the hand harvested seed was processed at Stone Soup which had 16 folks bagging combined seed, running electric mulchers, chopping vegetables, and some clearing cedars at Schafer's.

West Heinkel Unit: Weekday crew clearing the boundaries to allow prescribed fire to be easily managed on the entire unit.

Weekday Crew work: On Monday and Wednesday morning and Thursday afternoons we have been having very productive workdays that consist of volunteers, NIU students, and seasonal stewardship techs. The crew this Summer and Fall has been Jay Stacy, Gerald McDermott, Gene Miller, Todd Bittner, Rodd Schick, Eric Thomas, Lisa Smith, Carla Hollister, Serena Teipel, and others. All are welcome to join us for a day of good work. Dress for the weather and bring a bag lunch. You can RSVP to Bill at 815-456-2340.



Workday brush clearing with David Edelbach, Gene St. Louis, Dean Weidman, & 2UHs (unidentified helpers!)

I Remember Thelma ...

Who walked and loved to explore and botanize all of nature at Lorado Taft Campus with me.

Who walked the woods, prairies and country roads in search for birds for our White Pines Christmas Bird count with me.

Who walked the Michigan Dunes and discovered "The Clearing" at Door County, a naturalist's dream with me.

Who walked to the library every day and with her love of books always found the just right books for me.

Who walked the forests, the prairies, and the wetlands with a deep passion and love, will always be remembered by me.

Who's love of knitting will always be a part of me as the warmth will linger on through the beautiful knitwear she knitted for me.

So many memories of Thelma, my friend since 1952.

--Vivian Maxson

Thelma

Deep within protective tangled thorns
A hurt bird finds her haven
Emerging finally to soar
Sunward toward heaven.

She stays just long enough
To hear High Words
Then reels back to tell us yet again
Parameters of life for Earth,
Life's existence needing saving.

--Betsi McKay

I miss not calling Thelma on the phone whenever I have something I would like to share with her. She always enjoyed hearing about some interesting wildflower I had seen. Her fantastic memory always conjured up places and times when she had experienced seeing the same thing.

After she moved to her apartment for her last year where she enjoyed watching the waterfowl on the river, she kept me up to date on their activities.

When she no longer felt like hiking as much as she wanted, she asked me to bring her a bouquet of one stem each of any prairie flower I could find on my hillside. She wanted to see if she could identify them. Of course she knew them all.

I miss her friendship. She set an example toward which all of us have been striving.

--Dot Wade

Thelma Carpenter

It has been said that first impressions are the most lasting, and this certainly proved true with Thelma. My foremost about her was my admiration for her honesty. There was no pretense, no "make-believe" in anything she said. Anyone hearing her speak would know that she appreciated the beauty and wonder of nature, admired the talent of the artists who had provided paintings in the library, liked simple foods such as honey, homemade whole wheat bread, and she did not like to mix in crowds.

My husband and I were grateful for the friendship that developed between Thelma and us. We were with her only a few times but each meeting was memorable. Also, she introduced us to people, events and bits of history, that we enjoyed meeting and knowing, for she was generous and kind, as well as being honest. Unfortunately, her terminal illness and her desire for privacy in her decline cut short our association with her. We lost a friend whom we admired and respected, and liked very much.

Thelma Dahlberg



Thelma Carpenter 1924-1995

Thelma would agree with Aristotle, "In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous!"

I've learned a lot from Thelma, some of it while she was living, but much of it since she has passed away.

I've learned about dreams. Although considerable vicarious joy can be gained from the mental concept, realizing a dream is another wonder altogether. Make them happen as you go along, instead of saving them all for a distant day that may not come. Go see that mountain and listen to that ocean.

I've learned about both letting go and tenaciously hanging on. It's hard to make the choice sometimes. Even when the opponent seems bigger than the world, winning is possible. Branigar was pretty big, I thought, but Thelma sent them packing. It's the little stuff that is hard to let go of though, but you are so free once you do.

I've learned about luck. She once said that I had a lot of it. She declared that there were only two worthwhile men in this world - Doug Wade and Keith Blackmore - and I was "damn lucky" to be married to one of them. While I'd disagree with her numbers, I'd not contest her assessment of my luck. Included in that is my luck to have known her.

--Mary Blackmore

Thelma Carpenter bequeathed a significant amount of her estate to Nachusa Grasslands for habitat protection. Her gift is one of the largest made to the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy by a single person. Thelma Carpenter was a librarian who lived frugally, loved the nature of this area, and left us all the gift of more protected habitat for marsh hawks to hover over in search of prairie voles, for rare plants like the kittentails, prairie bush clover, and fame flower; and for us to plant and harvest seed, to enrich the land with our labors.

AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE THANKS

from Chairman Mike Adolph

We estimate that about 700 people were guests at AOTP. The day included a great children's tent, numerous tours, porkchop sandwiches, music, and displays. Next year's event will mark ten years of effort at Nachusa. We hope to add a few new events to the celebration. Anyone with a comment or suggestion or offer of help should contact Mike Adolph at 708/897-4792.

AOTP 1995 volunteers: (Big kahunas of AOTP)

Mike Adolph - Chairman, Gene St. Louis - Tours coordination, Bill Kleiman - Grounds preparation, Tom & Marilyn Moltz-Hohman and Susan Kleiman - Welcome tent, Sally Baumgardner - Children's tent, Gene and Diane Rod for golf cart tours, Dot Wade & Larry and Ellen Sheaffer - selling nature books and donating the profits, Gene St. Louis - building display signs, Mike Adolph - New self guided plant ID tour., Chris Bronny - Historic reproduction of Plains Indian teepee, Ann Haverstock - Birds of Nachusa display, John Yunger and Lynda Randa - small mammal display and demonstrations, Tom Grimes - Indian artifacts, Thelma Dahlberg - Seed grinding in the Children's tent, Sheila and John Holbo - art displays, Alyssa Rod - plant display, Jim Kanas - Acoustic music, Gene Miller - Parking, Andy Jackson - Publicity of event

Welcome tent volunteers: Gerald McDermott, Reed Nelson, Laura Busch, Rodd Schick, Todd and Tanya Bittner, Rich Markeloff & Jeanine Esmond, David Edelbach, Dan Eads, Hazel Reuter, Dean Weidman, Kelly Webster, Gene Miller.

Tour leaders: Mel Hoff (who gave a special 3 hour tour), Hazel Reuter, Mary Ann Hoeffliger, Al Roloff, Gary Tollekson, Dean Weidman, Sally Baumgardner, Chris Bronny, Kevin Kaltenbach, Rodd Schick, Todd Bittner, Bill Kleiman, Cathy Motto, Chris Matson, Dennis Lubbs, Mike Adolph, Susan Kleiman.

Grounds preparation: Jay Stacy, Gerald McDermott, Rodd Schick, Todd Bittner, Dan Eads, Max Baumgardner.

Raffle donations:

Numerous arrangements of native plants by Fran Lohman - Enders Greenhouse in Cherry Valley, Gene St. Louis, Jack Kleiman, Dan Eads, Max Baumgardner and Chris Bronny, Dennis Lubbs and Cathy Motto, Sheila Holbo, John Holbo, Mike Adolph, Todd and Tanya Bittner, Dot Wade, Bill Mayes ...

Dan Eads 9/95



Thelma Dahlberg teaching a child to grind corn.



Jim Kanas entertaining the crowd with acoustic music.

Dan Eads 9/95



Chris Bronny in character as a plains Indian demonstrating the use of the bow.

Rebirth of a Wetland continued...

bank is nature's insurance against catastrophe. A seed bank consists of decades of seeds that have been deposited in the soil and lie dormant. Wetland seed banks are known to be able to last up to one hundred years in some cases! It is a hedge against the variable hydrologic conditions that are so vital to a wetland.

Although the landscape was slowly revealing its past glory, to revive the entire wetland community the hydrology of the system needed to be restored. Earlier this summer the resources and expertise came together with the will, and the wetland restoration began. The idea was very simple, remove the tile. However, the means is always a little more tricky. Breaking the tile in spots still allowed the water to drain within unbroken sections after passing the bottleneck. Plugging the main outflow would not work either. Placing a dam near the end of the tile system with a dike extending on both sides was considered, but it would still allow the upper areas of the wetland to be drained and would have created an artificial pond.

One way to completely restore the hydrology was to dig up every foot of tile we could find and fill in the trench again. Although this method caused some disturbance, remember that this was a farm field 5 years ago and that it had been farmed for the last four decades.

The Takuchi 2500 was the marvelous machine that we used to dig up the tile. The operators were Nachusa volunteers or employees, and were trained in the field to operate this sophisticated earth excavator. It had 6 controls to move the bucket, arm, and tracks which means it could move 12 different ways. All the flexibility of this machine proved very useful, especially when it found itself submersed in wetland. The untiling work progressed at a steady pace for eight weeks this summer. It was easy to comprehend that the area was a wetland from the amount of water that poured through the 6" wide tile during this years' dry August. Each recently excavated tile line immediately became a small stream 2 - 4 feet deep. Frequently the tile line would be submersed in water before all the dirt was completely removed and the tile broken, which made the job of excavating it that much more difficult. The most laborious part of the restoration was trying to locate new lines. Sometimes we were able to locate a line after 10-500 probes with a tile probe (a metal stick with a handle, pressed into the ground about 3 feet until exhaustion). Other tile locating techniques included muddying oneself at the bottom of a recently excavated trench feeling the muck for anything resembling a tile line. A third technique was called luck.

Queen of the Prairie, one of the rare wetland plants in the original prairie potholes.



By late August the wetland area at Nachusa looked like a labyrinth of trenches. We guess that about 80% of all the tile line was removed and the rest we hope was rendered dysfunctional. We filled in the trenches with a bobcat on tracts (a small, highly maneuverable tractor) and the excavator. The filled-in trenches were packed down with the bobcat by repeatedly driving over them to lessen water flow and decrease the possibility of erosion. Water will still flow along the filled-in trenches for the near future until they become even more compact, but it will be significantly less than in a tile system. Before we had completed filling in all the lateral lines feeding into the main tile line, we noticed that our work was already producing surface water. Small ponds were forming in the lower elevations along the main line, and this was in the driest part of the year with no rain in weeks! Unfortunately the timing could have been better, because we now had to race the water to complete filling in the lines. Fortunately we were able to complete the work one step a head of the increasing water.

Due to all the surface water, we were very concerned about erosion. We created a meandering stream channel so that the water would not run through the unconsolidated soil where the main tile line had been. Most of the water went where we pseudo-engineers designed it to move, and the rest formed ponds or braided stream channels, which was fine with us (it looks more natural and we couldn't have done it better anyway). The final touches included putting down erosional netting and small rock check dams to control the flow of water and reduce erosion.

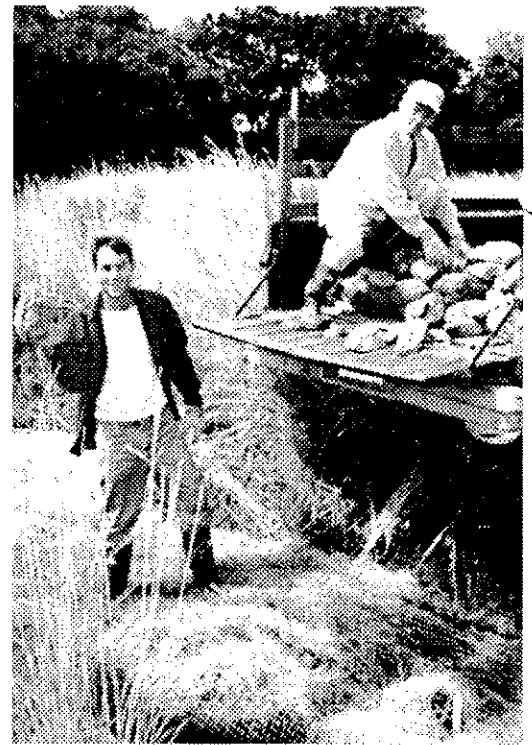
In the recent weeks it has been harder and harder to drive our service vehicles back through the wetland. The soils are becoming saturated with water throughout the wetland and not just limited to the areas immediately surrounding the old tile lines as it was in September. And this is only the beginning! If you plan to visit the new wetland next spring you should bring your knee-high rubber boots.

Don't be surprised if cardinal flowers, sensitive ferns, gayfeathers, and cord grass among others spring up from the seed bank in abundance in the near future, or that sedges and rushes will be plentiful under foot. And as quickly as the plants return, the wildlife won't be far behind either. Sandpipers are already feeding from the pools of water and other waterfowl are sure to follow. Maybe we will even have a sandhill crane stay for more than a few minutes next year. It is amazing what a little water can do.

WETLAND RESTORATION CREW: RODD SCHICK, ERIC THOMAS, KARLA HOLLISTER, JAY STACY, GERALD McDERMOTT, SUSAN KLEIMAN, BILL KLEIMAN, & TODD BITTNER.



Aerial view of the wetland restoration showing lateral tile lines coming off the main tile lines. Oak woodlands and fen at bottom.



Jay Stacy (below) and Gerald McDermott creating check dams on top of erosion fabric in the former main spillway of the tile system.



One of the drainage tile lines dug up. The dirt is pushed back in with the bottom of the layer going in first and then the top soil. This field may change from a mesic to wet-mesic prairie restoration.

Wish list for Nachusa Grasslands:

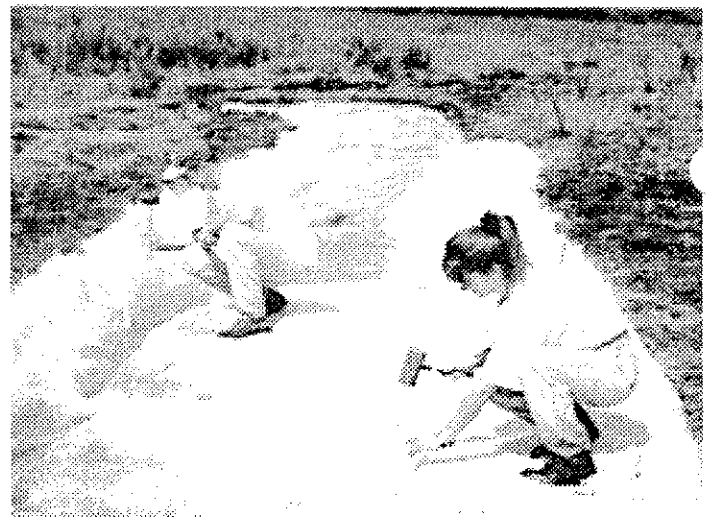
- four wheel drive vehicle in good condition
- hay rack

Donations are tax deductible & greatly appreciated.

Thanks to donors for:

- √-1960s Combine - Ed Ulrich
- √-3 big Water coolers - Gene St. Louis
- √-Cash donations
 - Dillon Foundation of Sterling
 - Henry Nehring
 - Dennis Lubbs
 - Anonymous
 - In memory of Frank Svoboda, husband of Georgia Svoboda
 - In memory of Edna Vogl, mother of Bob Vogl

[-6-]



Rodd Schick & Karla Hollister nailing down erosion cloth in the former main tile line.



Gerald McDermott on back hoe.

Nachusa Grasslands Calendar

January 1996

- 15 Winter Prairie Smoke mailed
- 21 Sun: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 27 Sat: Travel to workday at Doug Wade prairie in Ogle County, meet at Steward's barn or at site.

February

- 1 Spring Prairie Smoke Submissions due. Editors meet this week
- 17 Sat: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 18 Sun: Woodland Restoration Workshop with Bill Kleiman & Todd Bittner
- 24 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis

March

- 2 Sat: Workday on Clear Creek Unit with Mary Blackmore
- *9 Sat: All Stewards' Day on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 10 Sun: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 16 Sat: Workday on Rolling Thunder (formerly Northeast Unit) with Sally Baumgardner
- 23 Sat: Prescribed Burning Workshop with Bill Kleiman, \$10 Weather permitting. RSVP.
- 30 Sat: Three choices!: Workday on Main Unit with Mike Adolph, or on Big Woods unit with Earl Thomas, or Hike with conservationist Tim Keller on the annual Skunk Cabbage Tour.

April

- 1 Mail Spring Prairie Smoke
- *13 Sat: All Stewards' Day on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 20 Sat: Earthday Seed Planting - Workday on Main Unit with Mike Adolph - Workday on Rolling Thunder Unit with Sally Baumgardner with potluck following at Sally and Max's. Afternoon Workday (burning?) on RT unit.
- 27 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis

May

- 4 Sat: Workday on East Heinkel Unit with Mike Crowe
- 11 Sat: Workday on Main Unit with Mike Adolph
- 12 Sun: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 18 Sat: Workday on Northeast Unit with Sally Baumgardner
- 19 Sun: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 25 Sat: Weed Control Workshop/Fieldtrip with Bill Kleiman
- 25 Fall Prairie Smoke submissions due. Editors meet this week.

June

- 1 Sat: Workday on Clear Creek Unit with Mary Blackmore
- 2 Sun: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 8 Sat: Workday on East Heinkel Unit with Mike Crowe
- 15 Sat: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach. Followed by a 3rd annual summer-icecream social-potluck-barbecue at Bill & Susan's.
- 23 Sun: 1:00 to 3:00 Stewardship Sampler
- 29 Sat: Savanna Plant Identification Tour with Dennis Lubbs

July

- 13 Sat: Workday on Clear Creek Unit with Mary Blackmore and Workday on Main Unit with Mike Adolph
- 14 Sun: Workday on East Heinkel Unit with Mike Crowe
- 20 Sat: Workday on Northeast Unit with Sally Baumgardner
- 21 Sun: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 27 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 28 Sun: 1:00-4:00 Prairie Plant Identification Tour with Dennis Lubbs

* All Stewards' Days are an opportunity to bring Unit Stewards together in a workday setting as a way of sharing stewardship skills and discussing the management planning for the unit. These workdays are hosted by the steward noted and are also open to anyone else. Bring a bag lunch.

August

- 1 Fall Prairie Smoke mailed-10 year anniversary issue!
- 10 Sat: Workday on Northeast Unit with Sally Baumgardner
- 11 Sun: Workday on East Heinkel Unit with Mike Crowe
- 17 Sat: Hike and Seed Collecting Tour with Bill Kleiman
- 18 Sun: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 24 Sat: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 31 Sat: Kittentail Unit w/West Chicago Pr. Stewards

September

- 8 Sun: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 14 Sat: Workday on Big Woods Unit with Earl Thomas, seed harvesting.
- 21 Sat: 7th Annual Autumn On The Prairie followed by Party On The Prairie for volunteers. Nachusa Grasslands 10 year anniversary.
- 28 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis

October

- 5 Sat: Workday on Main Unit with Mike Adolph
- 12 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 19 Sat: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach or Prescribed Burning Workshop with Bill Kleiman, \$10 Weather permitting. RSVP.
- 26 Sat: National Make A Difference Day - Workday on Northeast Unit with Sally Baumgardner

November

- 1 Winter Prairie Smoke submissions due. Editors meet this week.
- 9 Sat: Annual "Stone Soup" and Seed Blending Party 9:00 - 3:00
- 16 Sat: Workday on Northeast Unit with Sally Baumgardner
- 17 Sun: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach
- 23 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 30 Sat: Workday on Main Unit with Mike Adolph

December

- 7 Sat: Workday on Dot and Doug Unit with Gene St. Louis
- 8 Sun: Woodland Restoration Workshop with Bill Kleiman
- 14 Sat: Workday on Schafer Unit with David Edelbach

There are ongoing Weekday Workdays.
Call Bill K. for details.

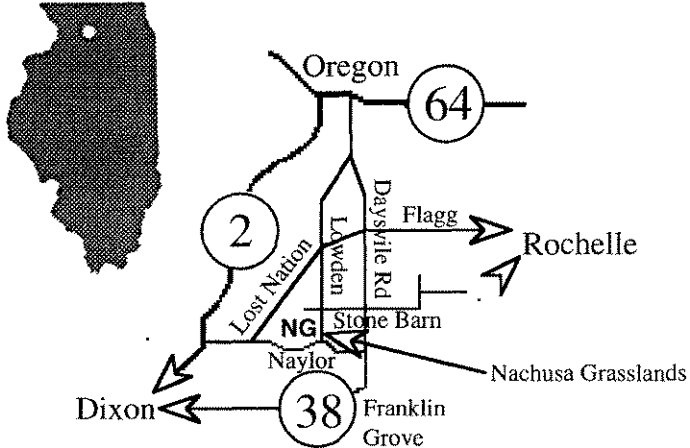
Nachusa Grasslands is protecting and restoring a mosaic of native Illinois grassland, woodland, and wetland by returning the missing ecological processes and species.

In the winter we thin brush, during the spring we plant seed and do prescribed burns, during summer we control weeds and then harvest seeds into the late fall.

All workdays and events start at 9:30 and end at 1:30 unless stated otherwise. Feel free to bring a lunch or snack. Workdays meet at the Steward's Barn at 2055 Lowden, field trips leave from the main entrance on Lowden. Extreme weather conditions will sometimes cause a steward to cancel a workday. Late comers can catch up by following the map posted on the barn door.

Editor-Publisher _____ *Earl Thomas*
Associate Editor _____ *Dot Wade*
Associate Editor _____ *Bill Kleiman*
Associate Editor _____ *Laura Busch*
Associate Editor _____ *Thelma Dahlberg*
Manager of Mailing _____ *Ellen Baker*

Mailing Crew: Hazel Reuter, Dorothy Yokum, Vi Meyers, Darlene Hanson, Dolores Reynolds, Ebbie White, Dorothy Shinzer, Helen Flowers, June & Rus Group, Maxine Simpson, & Dorothy Voss.



NACHUSA GRASSLANDS UNIT STEWARDS

STEWARDS

Jay Meiners Wetland Unit

Jeff Meiners

Fen Unit

Kevin Kaltenbach

Big Woods Unit

Earl Thomas

Dot & Doug Unit

Gene St. Louis

Northeast Unit

Sally Baumgardner

Coneflower Unit

Mary Ann Hoeffliger

Main Unit

Mike Adolph

East Heinkel Unit

Mike Crowe

Clear Creek Unit

Prairie Preservation Society

of Ogle County

Kittentail Unit

West Chicago

Prairie Stewards

Schafer Unit

David Edelbach

Science Stewards:

Bird Monitoring

Butterfly Monitoring

Project Ecologist

COSTEWARD

Steve Meiners

Chris Matson

Jim Lahman

Max Baumgardner

Hazel Reuter

Bob Schone

Mary Blackmore

Terri Clark

Mel Hoff

Gerald McDermott

Ann Haverstock

Mike Adolph

Dennis Lubbs

From the Editor(s):

If you know something about Nachusa Grasslands, but no one else knows because you didn't share the information, then you are *GUILTY* of keeping secrets! Send us articles, photos, drawings, poems, cartoons, calendar dates (items of interest to the friends of Nachusa Grasslands). Articles on computer disk encouraged!



Nachusa Grasslands is owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy, a private non-profit group whose mission is to protect plants and animals by protecting the land and water they need to survive.

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