

PRAIRIE SMOKE

Nachusa Grasslands Newsletter

Issue 34

May 1999

Harold Walkup 1900-1998

[Clarence Mitchell, a friend of Harold's for 75 years, was interviewed for this article by Susan Kleiman and Thelma Dahlberg]

Harold Walkup, featured in the March 1998 issue of this newsletter, passed away in November. Harold generously donated a part of his estate to Nachusa Grasslands. Some of this donation has already been used to purchase our red, 1994 four-wheel drive truck—fondly referred to as “Harold.” Another portion will be put toward our new stewardship barn/headquarters. Most of his donation, however, will be used to purchase additional habitat.

We have named a hill “Walkup Mound” on the Hook Larson Prairie in Harold's honor. His name will also be added to our Recognition Rock on the hill overlooking the main visitor entrance.

Harold was born in 1900 in Pine Creek Township, Ogle County. His family's farm was near where Ridge Rd. crosses Pines Rd. He graduated from Oregon High School and attended Northwestern University for a time before enlisting in the Army during WWI. He stayed stateside in the 7th Calvary (made famous by Custer 40 years earlier, in 1876). After the war Harold settled in Mt. Morris and took a job with the Kable Printing Company. His first duties were tending the shop furnace—shoveling coal and removing the ashes. Harold was talented and quickly became an electrotyper (using electricity to etch the print onto copper plates for long press runs). Clarence Mitchell, his friend, thought he could have risen to the upper levels of management, but instead chose to stay with his craft. Harold worked at Kable for nearly five decades.

In 1930 Harold built his own log cabin on seven acres,

with a fireplace and excellent interior cabinetry. He lived in his cabin in Rockvale Township until he moved to Pinecrest Manor nursing home late in life. He was mechanically adept and created several “inventions” to aid in his home-life.

Harold practiced careful land management. He always had a supply of firewood and maintained a home for the diversity of plants and animals living on his land. Songbirds, flying squirrels, rabbits, and many other denizens of the woodland and prairie benefited from his efforts.

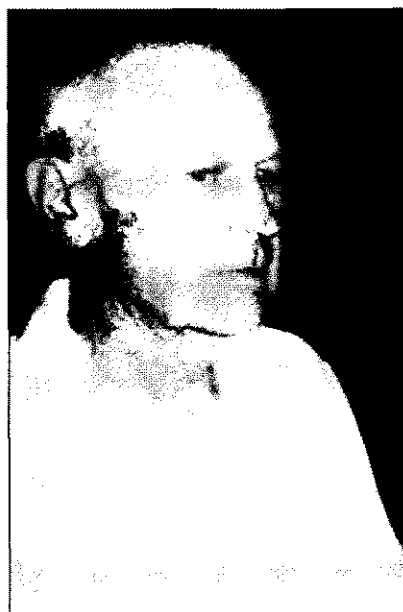
Harold always had a vegetable garden. He enjoyed hunting and fishing since he was a young boy. He tied his own flies, fished the local Leaf and Rock Rivers, and went as far as Canada to shoot big game. He was an excellent shot, sometimes hunting squirrel with a Colt Woodsman pistol. He even taught sharp-shooting in the Army during WWII.

Harold, known as “Duke” to his close friends, was a quiet man; talented, organized, and hard-working. Clarence said, “Duke lived frugally and simply because he didn't want much. To my knowledge his one extravagance was a membership in a duck hunting club on the Illinois River. Duke was highly

thought of by those who knew him. I felt he lent an air of respectability to me when I was with him.”

Harold's love for the land and his desire to see some of it preserved for the future led him to include us in his estate. Harold was most comfortable living simply, surrounded by nature. As his friend, Clarence, put it, “The Duke understood the mission of The Nature Conservancy and appreciated the work at Nachusa Grasslands.”

Everyone connected to Nachusa Grasslands wishes, once again, to say thank you to Harold Walkup—“Duke,” our friend.



Harold Walkup

WALK SOFTLY AND CARRY A BIG SMILE

(Nesting Henslow's Sparrows 1998)

by Ann B. Haverstock

There has been some cautious excitement these last two summers at Nachusa Grasslands. Nachusa has had several breeding Henslow's sparrows. The staff, stewards, interns and interpreters have big smiles on their faces. These people, who have saved and are committed to this piece of land and who do the back breaking work of restoration, seldom receive the credit deserved for

their services. These birds may be their laurels.



Henslow's
Sparrow
(*Ammodramus
henslowii*)

by Robert F. Eschenfeldt

It is a well known fact among grassland experts that the Henslow's s p a r r o w (*Ammodramus henslowii*) is one of the fastest declining grassland bird species in the nation. According to research begun in 1966, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, the Henslow's sparrows have declined over 91%¹ throughout their range. Shocking, when historical records in Illinois revealed that Henslow's sparrows were "exceedingly common or even abundant."² Even more provoking is the thought that they were as abundant as our red-winged blackbirds are today.³ There is not a steward on a site in Illinois who does not recognize a red-winged blackbird, but few will ever know a Henslow's sparrow.

Jim Herkert,⁴ of the Illinois Endangered Species Board, wrote that factors causing the Henslow's sparrow decline in Illinois are the loss of larger patches of grassland (135 acres⁵ or more), and management practices favoring mowing or burning. Even with a grassland as large as Nachusa, Henslow's sparrows need a dense under layer of dead vegetation (thatch) within a thick stand of grass. For the past two years at Nachusa Grasslands, the staff and volunteers have been managing with Henslow's sparrows in mind-leaving large areas unburned where the birds have been sighted.

The Henslow's sparrow is a cryptic species, spending its life low in these dense, thick grasses. With the exception of singing males you may never know of their presence. Its insect-like "tsi-LICK" song is more like a soft hiccup, so ambient noise like wind or machinery muffles it. It is a wonder that any female sparrow hears a male's

song. All of this makes it difficult to find the scattered and patchy populations. The good news is that Henslow's are known to sing on and off during the night, and a recent paper⁶ suggests the possibility of doing night surveys. This should make it easier to estimate their populations.

Last summer (1998) at Goose Lake Prairie (Grundy Co.), where Illinois' largest population of Henslow's sparrows are found, a site fidelity study was initiated. Researchers attempted to net and color band Henslow's sparrows. Dennis DeCoursey,⁷ of the Chicagoland Bird Observatory, said the project was most difficult. Although they had 80-90 singing males, they were able to band just three of them. This species has been so historically difficult to band, that only 900 of them have been banded since 1908.⁸ DeCoursey said, "Nests were difficult to find, and when we were too late to tag nestlings, the new fledglings were peeping underfoot, out of sight, and impossible to net." Further research suggests that some ephemeral habitats, such as airports and reclaimed strip mines, are creating population sinks-attracting breeding birds with little hope of successful breeding.⁹ Land managers of large pieces of grassland need to understand the nuances of site fidelity for species whose habitat requirements contradict a yearly burn. The Goose Lake Prairie study, when completed, will be extremely valuable to grassland managers.

There is another sparrow of the same genus singing at Nachusa Grasslands: the grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). If you do a little homework, you will see and hear that the paler grasshopper sparrow is more common at Nachusa. Although they are of similar size and profile, the Henslow's sparrow has chestnut on its wings and small streaks on its breast.

I have been fortunate to have monitored the birds of Nachusa Grasslands. Over the years I have had the privilege to watch some of the varied and amazing behaviors of our birds. None has been more gratifying than to see the Henslow's sparrow finally nest here. Come, listen, walk softly. This is a bird to be savored.

1 Blom, Eric. 1998. "Grassland Birds" The BWD Skimmer December.

2 Ridgway, R. 1889. The Ornithology of Illinois. Vol.1 Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History. 520p.

3 Swengel, Ann & Scott 1997. "Where the Henslow's Are" Bird Watcher's Digest. July/Aug. 70-76.

4 Herkert, J.R. 1994. Status and Habitat Selection of the Henslow's Sparrow in Illinois. Wilson Bulletin 106:35-45.

5 Herkert, J.R. 1998. Effects of Management Practices On Grassland Birds: Henslow's Sparrow. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, N.D. 14p.: Home Page, <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/henslows/henslows.1> (version 160CT98)

6 Heller, S., and K. Hughes 1997. "Song Activity of Henslow's Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow Over A 24-Hour Period," Indiana Audubon Quarterly 75(2):61-67.

7 DeCoursey, Dennis. The Chicagoland Bird Observatory. Phone conversation 4 Feb. 1999.

8 The Cardinal News, 1998. Illinois Audubon Newsletter, Spring Vol.35-4.

9 Blom, Eric 1998. "Grassland Birds" The BWD Skimmer. December.

DISCOVERY OF A NEW WORLD

by Cristina Canales

[Editor's note: Cristina was an intern with us last summer and autumn. She is from Spain. She has worked with the Field Museum in Chicago and is now on an internship with Pro-Natura in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. She was enthusiastic, a quick study, and a hard worker. We enjoy her friendship but, miss her companionship.]



The first time I came to Nachusa was a warm sunny mid-April day. As I was getting there the only living thing I saw (oh! how ignorant I was then) was a cow, looking at me saying "what in the world are you doing here?" I went for a hike by myself since everybody was busy with some kind of meeting that I later knew was the HLP acquisition that took place that very same day. I walked towards a knob on what I thought was a desolate landscape. No beautiful colors, no sounds. Hardly any trees and the few I could see were either burnt or had twisted shapes as if trying to scare me. Where was the prairie everybody talked about? What about those beautiful pictures in the magazines? I

had to agree with the cow, I was not very sure what was I doing there.

Today, eight months later I laugh at all that. The desolate landscape that I first saw transformed into a paradise of flowers, waving grasses, birds and many others. Even the twisted and tortured oaks seemed peaceful, in harmony with everything else, emerging as giants, like grandmothers looking after their children. And the oceans of bluestem grass, changing colors as the sun wished...

But Nachusa is not just about plants, birds and landscapes. It's also about people. People that make a difference. People that love and live for nature and think about it as a way of understanding life. They taught me how to love and care for every little aspect of it: a colorful flower, a singing bird, a tiny seed or even weeds (not bad, just in the wrong place!). They opened my eyes and cleared my ears to an amazing world that is out there and we ignore and take for granted.

Even today, on a cold winter day, I realize that the desolate landscape that welcomed me last April, wasn't desolate at all but, had plenty of life, just resting after an exhausting effort and getting ready for the next one.

Now, as I drive away from Nachusa Grasslands I see that same cow standing at the same place. Probably things have not changed much for her. They sure have for me.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1998 AT ROLLING THUNDER PRAIRIE

by Sally Baumgardner

[Editor's note: Sally and Max Baumgardner own land adjacent to Nachusa Grasslands. A large portion of their land is in conservation easement with The Nature Conservancy and will always remain undeveloped. Sally and Max are the stewards of their land and an adjacent portion of the Grasslands, both sites are managed collectively as the "Rolling Thunder Prairie" Unit.]

Winter:

* In keeping with my "philosophy" of reducing potential cowbird perches, agreements were made with family and volunteers to reduce to kindling wood two large multi-trunked silver maple trees at the road, and numerous black cherries surrounding the pine plantation. All became useful cut firewood and much will heat my new restoration workshop and Max's woodworking shop. Efforts to give away the pines for wood pulp have, unfortunately, been fruitless and frustrating.

Spring:

* One of the benefits of living so close to our unit was that the seeding and planting of native species could be timed to take place just before predicted rains. Most of the time, this was successful. For example, mature Prairie Smoke plants obtained from the yard John Holbo had sold, were lovingly moved to the hill west of our home. Then it rained.

* Several knees from work pants were worn out and patched, in efforts to protect the endangered prairie bush clover, *Lespedeza leptostachya* (Les lep), from bird's foot trefoil (BFT) encroachment. Work on Les lep Hill began after

a spring burn, when BFT emerged, and well before Les lep came up. Garlon brand herbicide in a small soup can was carried in a wide bottomed bucket (if the can spilled, the product would be contained within the bucket). The herbicide was applied with an old toothbrush, from a kneeling position, hence, the worn-out knees. Annual monitoring is a must.

* Naturally occurring aerations of soils are made by large native mammals (woodchuck, fox, badger, coyote). These diggings are used as opportunities for seeding.

Summer:

* Flowering golden Alexander's lured me close to marvel over them, and then I discovered six kittentails, two of which were in bloom. My on-going restoration notes reveal the seeds were sowed in that location in summer of 1995.

* Repairs to our septic field in 1996 resulted in a gaping hole. Deep brown, sandy soil from under the historic H.I. Lincoln Building in Franklin Grove was obtained to fill the hole. (This soil had been buried for 140 years and was unearthed during the building's restoration.) A mesic seed mix was raked in. This summer of '98 we found: angelica, sweet Indian plantain, foxglove beardtongue, New England aster, Canada wild rye, tall coreopsis, yellow coneflower, blue vervain, and (Oh No!) Canada thistle. This burst of growth may have been the result of a lack of root competition. And since this small area of wonders and weeds grows next to a path, the alien thistle is doomed to a short life. Four of our other patches of Canada thistle have been shrinking and a fifth disappeared due to careful herbicide application and competition from native plants we have sown.

>>Continued on Page 7>>



Box Elder - Before



Box Elder - After

JOHN SCHMADEKE AND THE BATTLE OF THE BOX-ELDERS

by Jay Stacy

[Editor's note: John may be moving to New Jersey this summer. Well, that's enough bad news for now.]

One fine day a couple of years ago (I forget exactly when, it seems like he's always been a part of us) over the horizon like a blustery wind came a heavy-set mountain of a man with a twinkle in his eye. "I'm John Schmadeke," he said. "I'm here to volunteer." Always ready with an opinion on absolutely any topic, John soon astounded us with the first of his legendary sayings (we've begun to formally catalogue them) when asked one morning which "job" he preferred doing. He said, "I don't really care. There's not a job out here that I like. They all stink!" And yet at least twice a week, month after month, winter and summer, he faithfully makes the long drive out from Lisle - and has given us the privilege of knowing him for the complex, sensitive and remarkable person that he is. "I like the people out here," he says.

Last fall I sawed out a dozen or so box-elder trees from the edge of the West Heinkel woods, bucked them and piled them. "A nice little piece of work," I thought to myself. Feeling under-appreciated for some reason and in need of praise, I drove John out after lunch and showed him what I had done. He looked at the opening where the box-elders had been, he looked at the brush-pile, then he looked at me, cocked his head, and said, "You're nuts! You'll be 90 years old and still getting nowhere if you keep this up. What you oughta' do is drop 'em, chain 'em out whole with the tractor, pile 'em and burn 'em." I knew instantly he was dead right. I drove him to an area of horrific woody encroachment, a "forest" of box-elders on what our 1939 aerial photo shows as open prairie pasture. If we were to be faithful to our mission, these trees needed to be removed. "It can be done," he said. I looked him in the eye and saw the twinkle; when I heard him say, "Uh, oh...me and my big mouth..." I knew the deal was sealed and the battle of the box-elders had begun.

We mapped out an area twice as large as I thought we

could finish, and went to work. The job took 14 work-days; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., once a week, throughout the late fall and winter. I did the sawing, with the help from many quarters (when we encountered trees posing special problems, we leaned on the advanced skills and gusty resourcefulness of Preserve Manager, Bill Kleiman; young philosopher-ecologist Bill McCarthy did a tour of duty; and Ron Ingraham unleashed his formidable skills as a sawyer to help us finish). John did the tractoring—and we soon realized that nobody does it

better! Many of us took a try at it, and discovered that it's no easy proposition to wrestle the butt ends of whole trees together, chain them, sling the cut stumps up into the tractor loader bucket, haul out the entire assemblage, then lift and stack the trees into huge piles, as if they were matchsticks!

John kept a daily tally to insure that our production levels stayed up to snuff; our record day came in early February when we hauled out 70 trees. Beneath his nimble skill with the machinery, I soon noticed in

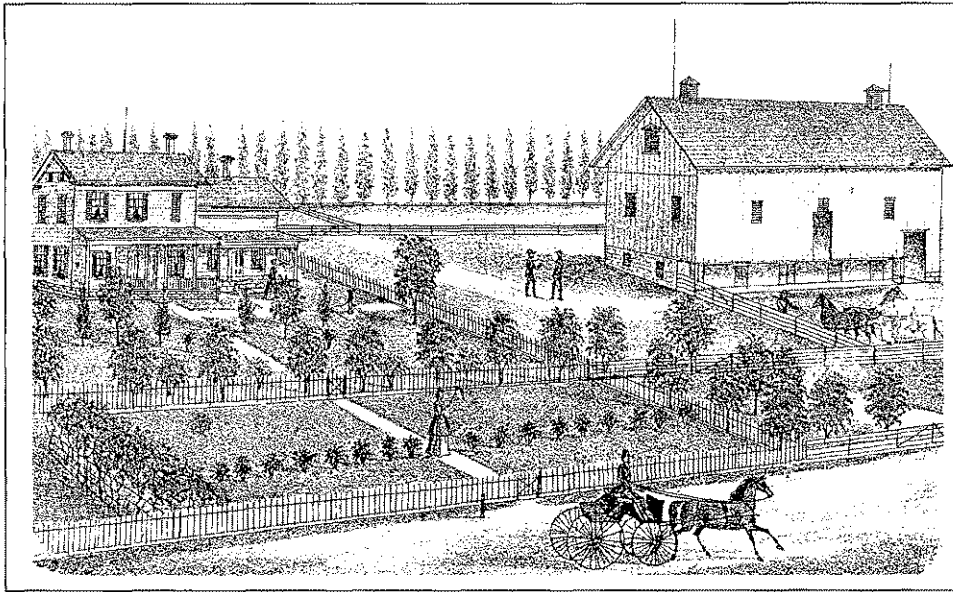
him a current of command and confidence, and the "can-do" attitude which seems to be part of the make-up of a former U.S. Marine. When we suffered setbacks (there were several) he shrugged them off with a shake of his head and said, "We'll finish this job." I remember in particular one day in mid-January, in a blizzard and two-foot snow drifts—we stopped for a coffee break, looked at each other covered in mud and snow, clacked our cups together in a toast, and smiled the easy smiles that winning brings.

Springtime has arrived at the Grasslands, the "smoke" has cleared and all that remains, along the little creek, are several large bur oaks that were there long before the box-elders encroached. Some day people we may never know will sit in the shade of a bur oak savanna and find peace and joy amidst the natural beauty of a quiet stream. It's a hope and a dream...thanks to you John.

John Schmadeke: a Nachusa legend, a beloved and unforgettable character. Semper Fi. We salute you.



John Schmadeke (at right) with Jay Stacy



N a c h u s a Grasslands will be relocating an historic barn from nearby Ashton to the preserve this summer and fall. The barn is an 1868 timber frame, bank barn. It's in beautiful shape. It

Get ready for an exciting and rewarding summer and fall by making your plans for participating in some of the following Barn Work Days:

May 29
 June 12 & 26
 July 17
 August 14 & 28
 September 25
 October 9 & 30
 November 13 & 27
 December 11

will have a workshop for equipment repair, storage for equipment, vehicles and seeds, meeting room, resource room for field guides and herbarium, restrooms, break room, and the preserve office. The drawing above is the barn as shown in the 1872 Lee County Atlas.

Most work days will be from 9:30-3:30 with a break for lunch (bring your own or you may choose to eat at the Lincoln Way Café in Franklin Grove).

We are in search of volunteers. We need help preparing the barn for relocation to the preserve. Also, to do much of the detail work after the professional timber framers get the barn up and roofed.

This will be one of the most rewarding projects you have ever been involved with. The barn will ultimately be here to serve yours and Nachusa Grasslands needs well into the 21st century.

Wish List

- Volunteers - weekdays or weekends (see calendar or call 815-456-2340)
- Research Projects (graduate research opportunities!)
- Audio/Viewer Projector (box with slide carousel on top that projects image from the inside onto the box's screen and has audio cassette capability)
- Donation for a walk-behind heavy duty mower (\$1600)
- Chest of drawers/Dressers for intern housing
- Donate your old vehicle for trade-in
- Snowmobile (1990 or newer)
- Reference books for Stewards reference library
- An Office Volunteer

COMING ATTRACTION

This Spring there will be a new self-guided trail on the prairie created by volunteer, Dwight Heckert. It will start at the visitor entrance and have numbered guide posts and a guide map to help you locate some very interesting prairie plants. Stop by the visitor entrance around the first of June and see what's blooming.

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS LIMITED EDITION ART PRINT FOR SALE



Art Sinden painted the hills of Nachusa Grasslands in their autumn colors with a northern harrier and oak saplings in the foreground. We had 400 prints made. They are signed by the artist and have the words 'Nachusa Grasslands 1999' in the border below the painting.

For **\$25** you can have this beautiful print sent to you (unframed) in a special mailing tube (post paid).

For **\$100** you can have it mounted with glass and framed in antique barn wood. You can pick it up at the preserve anytime or at the next Autumn On The Prairie (Sept. 18, 1999).

Call the preserve to order one: (815) 456-2340

The money from the print sale will go toward the building of our Stewardship/Headquarters Barn.

Thanks to Jeff Meiners and Crest Foods, Inc. for commissioning the painting and covering half the cost of printing.



Meadow Beauty
by H. Reuter '99

IT'S NOT TOO LATE !!! TO GET YOUR NAME ON THE BARN BUILDERS PLAQUE

Yes, I can help with the historic barn building project. Enclosed is my check for \$____.

I understand that for a donation of \$50 or more I can have my name or designated name(s) on the plaque. The name(s) I want on the plaque is (up to 36 characters including spaces):

My name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

CLIP & MAIL!

Mail to:
Nachusa Grasslands
2055 Lowden Rd.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
THANK YOU!

DONATIONS TO THE BARN FUND-RAISER

The following are additional donors to the Barn Fund-raiser (names with an asterisk have offered volunteer labor).

Kenneth L. Cramer

Toni Neff

Bob and Joyce Shone

Warren and Harriet Ann Badger

Kenneth Nelson*

THANK YOU!



Jay Stacy cutting brush

Meet Jay Stacy, Steward of the West Heinkel Unit

by Bill Kleiman

Jay Stacy is unique. An individual who, delightfully, grows on people. Jay is much like the Odd Couple's Oscar Madison with Jesuit training and a Chicago northshore upbringing. Jay, with red "Garlon" herbicide stains on his shirt and a bit of sandwich hanging from a day old beard, can expound on the ways the Bible (which he reads in Hebrew and Greek) relates how caring for the creation is in God's plan.

Jay is Volunteer Steward of the West Heinkel Unit at Nachusa Grasslands. As a volunteer he does enormous amounts of stewardship; volunteering about 30 hours a week and supporting and motivating other volunteers along the way. Jay's strategy welcomes you into enthusiastic discussion of various political, philosophic, and religious topics. Then he weaves a path to the importance of restoration. When you inevitably show interest, he offers you a part of his unit. Of

course, he offers his time to work with you towards its restoration.

On the east end of his unit Jay has help twice a week, from Ron Ingraham, the physically-fit-retired-accountant. Together they have made large piles of felled honeysuckle, cherry, box elder, elm and buckthorn to begin restoration of an oak savanna.

Also each week, Jay works with John Schmadeke, former Marine and marketing executive. Together they have cleared box elders which had severely shaded a former wet prairie and bur oak savanna.

The clearing process started with Jay, and then me (I can't say no to his enthusiasm either) felling box elders on Thursday mornings. We cut about 40 to 60 large trees and let them lay for a day, no limbing or bucking was done. Fridays, John and Jay dragged the trees out with the tractor and pushed them into a huge pile with the tractor loader. John looks forward to huge brush-pile burns this Spring.

Gene Miller, another volunteer, has worked with Jay once a week for the last four years on various projects. They have harvested an amazing amount of seed—perhaps matching the seed harvest of stalwart stewards Gene St. Louis and Sally Baumgardner.

Jay's unit borders the Main Unit where Mike Adolph is the steward. Mike, unwittingly, mentioned that after five winters of brush clearing he was getting near the bottom on his unit. Jay solved Mike's "bottoming out" by giving him part of West Heinkel's woodland to thin. You can find them out cutting on Tuesday mornings.

Jay also has provided much support to our new Roadside Stewards, Tom and Jenny Mitchell. With Jay's assistance and guidance, Tom and Jenny have done more than pick up roadside litter. They have mapped out plant community types on the roadsides, managed against several weed species, harvested seed from the preserve's remnant habitats, and planted collected seed along Stone Barn Road.

Jay a whirlwind—energetic, enthusiastic, engaged—a believer. Thanks Jay, from all!

and/or helped in some aspect of stewardship. The total number of participants here was over 300.

* In late 1990, Earleen Hinton, at the Ogle County Republican Reporter, suggested we submit monthly "news" from Nachusa Grasslands. We did. The column has expanded to include fourteen area newspapers today. Subjects cover the full range of local "nature;" from birds to butterflies, from flowers to fires, from seasonal changes to our valuable volunteers.

* Residents of The Meadows in Franklin Grove, a retirement facility, continue to hand process seeds for the restoration of Rolling Thunder Prairie. Before I had good photographs to show them, their comments often were, "I never saw anything like that." (They really did not know many of the Illinois wildflowers.) Now that I have large, full color laminated photographs of the plants whose seeds we are processing, the comments are more likely to be, "Oh, isn't that pretty?" "Where does it grow?"

Funny isn't it? All of us are growing; from fifth grade students to senior citizens - and definitely us, the stewards at Nachusa Grasslands.

ROLLING THUNDER PRAIRIE

<<Continued from Page 3>>

Autumn:

* Massive amounts of many species of seed were hand collected and planted before October. Yet, by December, when Max and I sealed off the barrels of unplanted seeds, we realized we still had eight barrels for cold, dark storage.

* Two caterpillars of Monarch butterflies were reared in captivity this year; and turned out to be Master Teachers. One chrysalis opened outdoors in a screened terrarium while a fifth grade class from Oregon was on a hike. Returning students were astounded at "the change" that happened in only an hour. The other chrysalis *opened right before our eyes* - the eyes of fifth graders from Rochelle.

Other Highlights and Notes:

* Thirty-one groups of school-age children came to tour this unit, and most of them became hands-on restorers of these dry-upland prairie fields. About 150 adults visited

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS STEWARDSHIP CALENDAR 1999

June

5 Sat: East Heinkel Unit
6 Sun: West Boundary Woods
12 Sat: **POTLUCK GATHERING** at *Genesis Nursery (emphasis on sedges), meet at 9:30 a.m. at Stewards' Barn if you want to carpool.* AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
13 Sun: Dot & Doug Wade Unit
19 Sat: Main Unit
26 Sat: Schafer Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.

July

3 Sat: East Heinkel Unit
10 Sat: Clear Creek Unit and from 5:30 PM to dark, **ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND POTLUCK**
17 Sat: West Boundary Woods. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
24 Sat: Schafer Unit
25 Sun: Clear Creek Unit
31 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit

August

7 Sat: West Boundary Woods
14 Sat: Rolling Thunder Prairie Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
21 Sat: West Heinkel Unit seed gathering
28 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
29 Sun: Schafer Unit

September

4 Sat: Roadsides and West Heinkel Unit seed collecting
5 Sun: West Boundary Woods
11 Sat: **Preparation for Autumn On The Prairie and POTLUCK GATHERING** 9:30 AM - 4 PM
18 Sat: **AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE** - 10 AM TO 5 PM
25 Sat: Schafer Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
26 Sun: Hook Larson Prairie Unit

October

2 Sat: East Heinkel Unit
9 Sat: Hook Larson Prairie Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
16 Sat: West Heinkel Unit seed collecting
17 Sun: Main Unit
23 Sat: National "Make A Difference Day" - Rolling Thunder Unit (seed collecting) and Kittentail Unit
24 Sun: Schafer Unit
30 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.

November

6 Sat: Roadsides
7 Sun: West Boundary Woods

13 Sat: Schafer Unit and **PRESCRIBED FIRE WORKSHOP** (registration required). AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.

14 Sun: Hook Larson Prairie Unit
20 Sat: **STONE SOUP SEED PROCESSEING PARTY AND POTLUCK GATHERING** 9:30 AM - 4 PM
27 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.

December

4 Sat: Main Unit
11 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit. AND Barn Workday 9:30-3:30.
12 Sun: Schafer Unit
18 Sat: Hook Larson Prairie Unit

January 2000 !!

8 Sat: Dot & Doug Wade Unit
15 Sat: East Heinkel Unit and **POTLUCK GATHERING**
22 Sat: Hook Larson Prairie
29 Sat: Schafer Unit

STEWARDSHIP WORKDAYS mainly involve brush clearing, weed removal, and seed collecting and planting. Often there is a hike afterwards. All workdays and events start at 9:30 and end about 1:30 unless otherwise noted. Bring a lunch or snack. Meet at the Stewards' Barn at 2055 Lowden Rd. Extreme weather conditions will sometimes cause a steward to cancel a workday.

BARN WORKDAYS last from 9:30-3:30 with a break for lunch.

POTLUCK GATHERINGS start at 9:30 with stewardship or learning and then food is shared at noon.

We have on-going stewardship crews **DURING THE WEEK** throughout the year (usually Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays). Also every weekday in the **SUMMER**. These all start at 8 am.

To arrange to start volunteering with us just show up on these dates and/or call Bill or Susan Kleiman at the preserve office at (815) 456-2340.

Editor	Susan Kleiman
Associate Editor	Thelma Dahlberg
Associate Editor	Dot Wade
Associate Editor	Bill Kleiman
Associate Editor	Gerald McDermott
Manager of Mailing	Ellen Baker
Mailing List Manager	Chris Pfoutz (Crest Foods, Inc.)

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS UNIT STEWARDS

STEWARDS

Clear Creek Unit

Prairie Preservation Society
of Ogle County

Dot & Doug Unit

Gene St. Louis

East Heinkel Unit

Mike Crowe

Fen Unit

Kevin Kaltenbach

Hook Larson Prairie Unit

Dave Breen

Jay Meiners Wetland Unit

Jeff Meiners

Kittentail Unit

West Chicago

Prairie Stewards

Main Unit

Mike Adolph

Roadside Stewards

Tom Mitchell

Rolling Thunder Unit

Sally Baumgardner

Schafer Unit

David Edelbach

West Heinkel Unit

Jay Stacy

West Boundary Steward

Bill McCarthy

Science Stewards:

Bird Monitoring

Butterfly Monitoring

Herbarium Steward

Outreach Volunteers:

Publicist/Educator

Autumn On The Prairie Chair

Youth Stewards Leaders

Workday at Hook Larson Prairie



Back row from left: Jay Friberg (Co-Steward), Jay Stacy, Mike Adolph, Bill McCarthy, Rob Wise. Front row from left: Dave Breen (Steward), student of Dave's, Susan Kleiman, Gene St. Louis

CO-STEWARDS

Mary Blackmore
Terri Clarke

Barb Regan

Todd Bittner

Jay Friberg

Steve Meiners

Mel Hoff

Bob Shone

Jenny Mitchell

Max Baumgardner

Gerald McDermott

Gene Miller,
Ron Ingraham

Ann Haverstock
Mike Adolph
Dwight Heckert

Sally Baumgardner
Mike Adolph
Howard Fox
Hazel Reuter
Ron Ingraham
Mike Adolph
Sally Baumgardner

NACHUSA GRASSLANDS SUPPORT THANK YOU TO:

Jeff Meiners and Crest Foods, Inc. — for commissioning a new painting of the grasslands and for covering half the expense of printing 400 copies.

Sally Baumgardner — for writing and sending Autumn On The Prairie press releases and regular news articles on Nachusa Grasslands and for giving a presentation, at the Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop, on how people of all ages help us with restoration.

John Schmadeke — for donating hundreds of his slides of Nachusa Grasslands' plants, animals, landscapes and people.

Gerald McDermott — for organizing all of John's slides and for staffing our booth at the Sauk Valley Career Fair.

Sterling Morton Library at the Morton Arboretum — for a donation of a large number of books for our reference library (Thanks Rita Hassert!).

Greg Wermers — for a \$\$ donation.

Todd Bittner — for writing a professional paper and giving a presentation on prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*) at the Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop and for helping with a herp (amphibian and reptile) survey.

Tonya Bittner — for leading a herp survey and for helping Todd prepare his presentation on prairie bush clover.

Ron Ingraham — for a donation of chains for chain saws and a \$\$ donation.

Katie Green and Rich Beilfuss — for bookshelves for the office.

Hugh Sakols — for slides and photos of Autumn On The Prairie, flowers, and landscapes.

Howard Fox — for building a box of wood to hold the A.O.T.P. lamp-post banners.

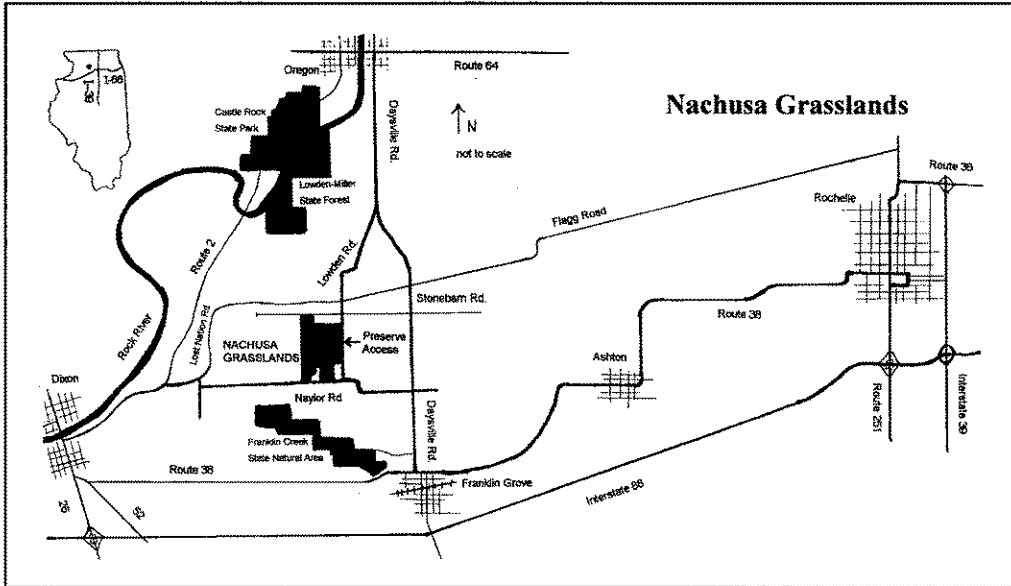
USFWS — for grant support for restoration of Schafer Unit wetland.

Illinois DNR/C2000 — for grant support for purchase of local genotype seed for restorations.

Jay Stacy, John Bivens, Mike Adolph, Tom Mitchell, Ellen Baker, Sally Bowers and her friend Carol — for helping with the Spring Bird Count

Gerald McDermott, Gene St. Louis, Tonya Bittner — for helping staff our fund-raising booth at the Northern Illinois Prairie Workshop

Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter, and for everyone who participates in the stewardship and support of Nachusa Grasslands.



From Route 64: At eastern edge of the city of Oregon, turn south on Daysville Rd. (towards Lowden-Miller State Forest). Travel approx. 2.4 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (angle) still following State Forest sign. Travel south approx. 5.3 miles (past State Forest) to a 4-way stop at Flag Rd. Continue south another 2 miles, the preserve entrance is on the right (west).

From Dixon: Option 1: Take Rt. 38 East into Franklin Grove then turn left (north) on Daysville Rd. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd., turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (north) and go 1 mile to preserve entrance on the left (west).

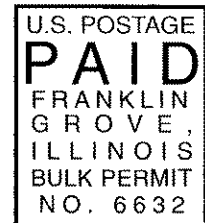
REACHING NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

From I-88 (East-West Tollway): Exit at Rt. 251 North (Rochelle), to Rt. 38 West. Travel through Ashton and into Franklin Grove (approx. 16 miles), turn right (north) on Daysville Rd. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd., turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd., turn right (north) and go 1 mile to preserve entrance on the left (west).

Option 2: Take Rt. 2 North (approx. 2.3 miles from Rt. 26/Galena Ave.), turn right (east) on Lost Nation Rd. Go one mile to Maples Rd., turn right, then left immediately onto Naylor Rd.. Go east for 3.5 miles to Lowden Rd. Turn left (north) and go one mile to preserve entrance on left (west).

The Nature Conservancy

Nachusa Grasslands
2055 Lowden Road
Franklin Grove, IL 61031
(815) 456-2340



To Our Friend Below or the Current Resident:



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.