

What One Person Can Do

By Tom Mitchell



Bill Kleiman with Mary Scott reminiscing on her last day at Nachusa.

A remarkable run of stewardship at Nachusa Grasslands came to an end in 2008 when Mary Scott relocated to eastern Washington to be closer to her daughter's yurt. I remember her first day as a volunteer at West Heinkel, as we were paired by Jay to cut and



Tom and Jenny enjoying some of Mary's "legendary goodies".

treat multi-flora rose along Johnny Creek. Our conversation drifted to various topics and she indicated that she knew Thelma Carpenter, whose thrifty ways and estate made possible the purchase by The Nature Conservancy of the 60 acres that we manage. Thelma

was a librarian at Oregon and Mary was involved with the library at Mt. Morris, so the two were acquainted. We invited Mary to come back again, and she did, every Wednesday and Sunday, nearly fifty-two weeks a year for seven years.

During this time she became not just a valuable volunteer for our Thelma Carpenter Prairie, but a dear friend. We went up and down hills together us three, sometimes Mary Vieregg or Jan or Jay along (really, there have been hundreds of volunteers), collecting seeds that started four plantings totaling 30 acres. She was there during the first winters when we took out a thousand cedar trees that had invaded and were shading out rare prairie plants. We dealt one-by-one with hundreds of bull thistle in our first planting; she pulled sweet clover everywhere, all the time; she speared parsnip with a special tool "The Parsnip Predator" that was just her size; she picked up trash; she hauled water to seedling shrubs we planted along the roadsides. There are three bur oaks near Carthage Road thanks to her.

Mary shared the glory of those poetic, rare days in June, and she endured with us also rainstorms, windstorms, and cold workdays although our rule was fifteen degrees or don't drive. Her canvas bag of goodies and specially brewed coffee became legendary at Nachusa Grasslands. Need a band-aid? Book of matches? Any size paper sack? She had it. She also had a habit of showing up early, searching the sandy patches near the parking lot for golden aster, pinching off the seed heads and filling little sacks that she carried in the huge trunk of her various sedans. So, to you M. Scott: good luck on your mountain and maybe see you in September.

Measuring Success

By Cody Considine

Clearly, Mary Scott had a substantial impact on the land and on those who had the privilege of knowing and working with her on the prairie. Even though Mary began restoring prairie at the spry age of 80, her story is similar to others of the Nachusa stewardship community.

Ann Haverstock has been monitoring grassland birds at Nachusa for the last 17 years.



Ann Haverstock



Male Dickcissel



Bobolink

Since 1991, Ann surveyed all the birds found in 11 fixed points through multiple visits to every point each year. Jim Herkert, a noted grassland bird ornithologist, and our Illinois Director of Science for the Conservancy in Illinois, recently described Ann’s work: “her data gives us the ability to track how our conservation targets are doing over the long-term. We have very few examples of this type of long-term data tracking our progress”. Jim recently analyzed Ann’s data and the results suggest restoration and management efforts are benefiting grasslands birds. Particularly, Jim noted “henslow's sparrow and bobolink are the two species showing the biggest increase at Nachusa over this period, these are two "core" grassland birds and this is a great trend. The bobolink increase is counter to the species general decline in the state (based on Breeding Bird Survey) which makes this all the better.” Ann’s work is another example of how one dedicated person can contribute in important ways. Or as Mary Scott would put it, “two feet and two capable hands do make a difference.”

Discovering Nachusa

By Keith Anderson

In September 2008, I finally made a trip to Nachusa that I've been meaning to make for quite awhile.

I arrived mid-afternoon, and thinking the barn was a visitor center, I walked right in and was warmly greeted by several people. The uniforms looked familiar, multi-pocketed khakis and jeans, long sleeved shirts, high top hiking boots and shoes, and most importantly, the wide brimmed hat. Even though we had just met, I knew these people.

I arrived at the next workday and was quickly teamed up with Bernie & Cindy Buchholz to collect seed. Bernie stopped the truck in a small wooded area, casually mentioned that we may see some red headed woodpeckers



Keith Anderson

around here. All I could say was "red headed woodpeckers! Seriously?" and then with perfect timing, they honored my anticipation by kindly showing up. Bernie & Cindy pointed them out flying between the beautiful old oaks and I couldn't get my binoculars quick enough. I had only seen them in my identifying books, and as is often the case, drawings don't convey the true beauty of these birds. I was in awe of how beautiful they are, and relished the chance to see them.

I think word got out that a “good prospect” was on the hook and Jay Stacy was sent in to close the deal. I met Jay, we talked briefly, and then he suggested we drive to a planting he did around 2001 saying “let me show you what we can do.”

Walking with Jay through that planting was one of those moments in life that stick with you. "What's this...? What's this? and Jay would enthusiastically give the Latin name along with a description of something unusual or interesting about the plant. “And this little guy..., isn't it a beauty? Wait till you see the wonderful flower on this one." I understood Jay. The diversity of the planting was inspiring. I saw in numbers, plants that I thought were uncommon or rare; favorites of mine such as rattlesnake master, compass plant, cup plant, lead-plant, and many more that I wasn't familiar with.



Jim Chiripolis (on right) with his parents visited Nachusa last July. Now an architect engineer in CA, Jim helped Ann Haverstock with bird surveys at Nachusa in 1992. *“Nachusa is my favorite Illinois prairie.” “This is one of my highlights when I come back to Chicago.”*

More than four months have passed, and my only regret is that I hadn't discovered Nachusa sooner. I've had the honor of working with some of the most dedicated, knowledgeable, hard working volunteers in my experiences of doing habitat restoration work. There are so many things to enjoy at Nachusa, the people, the plants, the wildlife, the diversity of ecosystems, the simplicity of the work, the discoveries. I didn't arrive at Nachusa with any expectations, but what I've found is that somehow, this is where I belong. I feel at home.

Some New Faces of Nachusa Grasslands

By Mike Adolph

Two new co-stewards are pitching in at Hamill-Winter Prairie, thanks to word-of-mouth. Bob Brown, of North Aurora, recently retired, volunteered. This last spring and summer he survived hours and hours of digging red clover, and has gladly killed honeysuckle and multi-flora rose, picked seed, and has just graduated to operating the Kubota and the Bobcat---much to his enjoyment. Bob served in Vietnam as an Army officer in charge of a small unit whose mission was to intercept NVA on the trails into the South. He was on the verge of becoming a Captain but decided against that, and instead joined Vietnam Veterans Against the War. He's had a range of jobs, lately as an eighteen-wheel trucker. His interest in birds is part of what brings him here. He and his high-school sweetheart, Ginger, have been married for more than forty years, and have two children and three grandchildren.



Mike Adolph & Bob Brown

Ken Reed, now of Naperville, also retired in '08. He was born in west central Wisconsin, to parents who ran the local newspaper. He met his wife, Betty, in college---UW EauClaire. In the Army his ability with the printed word got him assigned to cover sports played in Europe by our military. (He gets ribbed for that "rough duty.") They regularly go to their vacation home near Hayward, where Betty grew up. He'd like to get a patch of prairie plants established there. Ken came to Illinois in the seventies to take a job in public relations, and retired in that field with a decade at the College of DuPage. At Nachusa Ken also



Ken Reed

has experienced the drudgery of killing invasives and the pleasures of seed picking and driving the Kubota. He's learning the scientific and common names of the plants rapidly. His interest in all aspects of the project almost bubbles over.

Why they have joined us? They're interested in helping with something that matters; they want to be doing; they have a lot of life left after the work life is over and they see Nachusa the way we all see it.



Kevin Kaltenbach is "burning" with excitement.

Outreach for children at Nachusa Grasslands

Youth Stewardship Program

By Susan Kleiman

Nachusa Grasslands volunteers run an educational program to connect local students with stewardship and restoration of our natural communities. The Youth Stewardship Program began in 1997 with impetus from volunteer stewards and a kickoff grant from Crest Foods of Ashton.



Youth steward collecting seed.

Fourth grade students from Ashton-Franklin Center School participate in stewardship and activities at Nachusa Grasslands on two seasonal visits as well as several activities in the classroom before and after the visits. On site, the students are lead by volunteer leaders in small groups of five to eight. The small group format lends itself well to enhancing children's natural sense of excitement as they explore.

In their autumn visit, students harvest seed and compare various habitats. They also explore and search for plants they have "interviewed" in the classroom, adding first-hand knowledge to what they've researched. Often, after looking at a plant and then giving its name we hear the students say, "Oh, that's Joe's plant, remember...." And Joe isn't even in our small group, but the kids pay attention when their peers give oral presentations in class. They spend about 20 minutes sitting quietly in one spot: observing, writing, and drawing in special journals made for the program.

During winter, students separate seeds from the seed-heads and store them. They learn about local birds. They read from pioneer journals and read about other children and people working to steward the land in other parts of the state and country.

In their spring visit, students plant the seeds collected in the fall and use binoculars to look for the birds they learned about in the classroom. They visit the ear-



Jim Vieregg igniting Hotchkiss Unit.

liest flowers and have time to explore. Again they spend time sitting quietly with their journals. This “space” to be personally connected with nature is one of their favorite things to do. The students seem to realize they really need it and often ask, “When are we gonna’ do the quiet thing?”

This program has made it possible for over 500 local young people to explore and get to know this part of their natural heritage and to feel that they’ve contributed meaningful service to their community through stewardship.

Currently, we need more volunteers to help lead the students. In the future we hope to see a more year round permanent educational facility at Nachusa Grasslands. This could be an old farmhouse or barn where students (tots to college age) from many regional schools could get to know and care for the prairies, woodlands, and wetlands of their own backyard. This would require one full time educator in addition to volunteers.

Outdoor classroom

By Sally Baumgardner

When I began to lead tours, I had my own policy of “Don’t Say No.” All we had to do was determine a date and an interest. Showing Nachusa Grasslands to people of any age was the most important factor.

My school tours here began with an on-site meeting with two fifth grade (science and history) teachers from Etnyre School in Oregon, in October 1992. They agreed to introduce the students to a unit on the Illinois prairies, and I would provide enough time for each class to be immersed in a prairie. They specified that they wanted their students to experience prairie, not just walk on it. We were to promote involvement.

The youngsters saw and smelled the results of a prairie fire; they could be intimidated and “lost” in big



Sally Baumgardner

bluestem and Indian grasses; they were most welcome to touch and feel the textures of our native wildflowers. Eventually this led to their participation in seed collecting, and later, planting the harvested seeds. Always students want to see animals, and we find them in the form of insects (grasshoppers), small invertebrates like earthworms, and birds. Sometimes we see deer, and we encounter an ornate box turtle several times a year, in the spring. A hawk carrying off a snake convinced one girl that Nachusa is a wondrous place, and she volunteered to help me after school for many weeks and a summer. We are likely to discover scat, or some kind of footprints, left by a retreating animal. That evidence, with my mammal field guide showing paw print shapes and sizes of, say, round, 4-clawed and 1 ¾ inches long, will indicate that a red fox was here. Dangerous? No.



A rare Regal Fritillary lifting off the rare Hill’s Thistle.
– Ann Haverstock

Sometimes it feels as if our children are being “raised without meaningful contact with the natural world...” It is important to me to let the children think and observe on their own during what we call Quiet Time or Magic Spot, so that their own senses of curiosity and awe are awakened.

I include one large-muscle activity for all, and that is the chance to roll down a hill on a mowed path. Why? It’s partly because most of these 10-year-olds have never rolled down a hill. Don’t they play outdoors anymore? The five to seven schools I’ve hosted in these 16 years vary greatly in size, and, to keep groups small, we must recruit leaders. For Etnyre School, we need seven leaders each for morning and afternoon. The others need two or three each. We reach over 200 students each year.

One school sends only very small (one-leader-size) groups who really want to work. This participation and involvement benefits the preserve as well as the students.

I hope more leaders will step forward and enjoy the fun and excitement of students’ tours. Just think, you may help to guide a life.

My First Six months

By Cody Considine

It was approximately 10:30 in the morning on a cold January day on the campus at SIU. I was in the process of sanding tree cross-sections for the fire history analysis portion of my master's research. A week prior, I had interviewed for the Restoration Ecologist position at Nachusa Grasslands, a chance at an unbelievable opportunity to work in one of the rarest ecosystems in the world. I figured I would be getting the "call" anytime that week if I had been chosen for the position. Later in the morning, as I took a break from the belt sander, my phone started ringing; the caller ID displayed Bill Kleiman. My heartbeat increased dramatically and sweat beads formed on my forehead. "This is it" I thought to myself as I tried to get the word hello out of my mouth. Bill said we want you to be the Restoration Ecologist. Almost immediately an immense wave of emotions swept through me as I was overcome with excitement!

Months remained before I officially started in May, since I was in the process of completing my thesis. Prior to beginning this wonderful position, I felt slightly intimidated, even though I had been a seasonal crew member in previous years and had come to know the project very well. Nachusa is considered one of the premier places implementing natural areas management, boasting the most and best prairie restorations in the country. These distinguishing characteristics of the preserve are the result of great leadership from Bill Kleiman and the unrelenting work of the extensive vol-



Bill Kleiman instructs trainees during a prescribe fire training exercise.

unteer community. Regardless of the pressure I was feeling, I had to produce. There was no time for settling in; we had to get to business on day one with our primary tasks of the summer months: weed management and seed harvest. It was my responsibility to identify and implement weed eradication tactics. Also, of utmost

importance was collecting greater than two thousand pounds of seed. To reach these goals, I had to communicate this urgency to empower our seasonal crew. Failing to produce was not an option.

Therefore, the major challenges of my first six months were developing the most effective and efficient schemes for weed management and seed collection. After a full season of leading a crew of weeding and collecting, I have now determined that this time of year will always be challenging! A good way to describe my role during the weed and seed season is like a postal manager organizing and directing delivery personnel (assistant stewards) to the fastest and most efficient routes, so the most customers (weeds and seeds) possible receive their packages (weeds eradicated and seeds collected). Luckily, I had an amazing crew and support from Bill and the volunteer stewards! The 2008 seasonal crew collected the most seed ever in a single season. See the Harvest Report for details. We must take full advantage of our time each year to advance the epic campaign of restoring native habitat.

What will Nachusa be in 10, 20, 50, 100 years from now? A number of important factors will play into the continual evolution of our dynamic project; among others, we must have willingness, hard work, prompt decision making, and just a little bit of luck. As my career progresses, I hope my actions will inspire others to assist in restoring this landscape as I have been inspired by the Nachusa community.

Seed Collecting Adventures with Damian Considine

By Hank Hartman

Damian gets around. As an employee of the state highway department, he sees plants along roadsides that most of us would never see. One day he asked us to go pick seeds with him. The first stop we picked Solomon seal, false Solomon seal and some other species which grow in savanna areas. The next stop was at a small remnant area with the largest puccoon bushes we had ever seen. At Nachusa, we pick individual puccoon seeds; here we were picking hundreds at a time. While there, Damian decided to taste prickly pear cactus. Unfortunately some of the small spines on the pads were not completely removed, and they found their way into his tongue. He said it didn't have much flavor anyway. Next we traveled to the remnant he had leased for seed picking. On the way, we were traveling along a dirt road when some beautiful red flowers in the ditch came into view. Damian almost drove off the road when we realized that we were seeing about a quarter mile of cardinal flowers in the wet ditch. Unfortunately, the owner mowed most of the plants trying to keep the area clear. After they ripened, he was able to pick some seeds and generously donated them to Nachusa.

The prairie remnant he leased had a different mix of



Damian with Hank pointing at cardinal flower along a roadside.

plants than we have at Nachusa. On excursions to the remnant we picked fragrant sumac (which we had never picked), golden aster (picked more in one hour than we had picked in the last five years at Nachusa), poppy mallow, prairie parsley, meadow sweet, lots of lead plant, New Jersey tea and many others. Once when we were there, I placed my hand on the ground to support myself while sitting down only to find that I had located a nice patch of sand burs. I discarded those seeds.

Around The Prairie Stewardship Reports

Adventures in Photo Points

By Charles Larry

They emerged from out of the big bluestem, cautious, unsure of which way to proceed. From the waist down they were drenched and muddy. Above they wore a layer of beggar's ticks and burs. Dauntless, they were determined to continue the journey to find the object of the quest—a golden rectangle. A scene from an Indiana Jones movie? No, just the experiences of two new recruits in their first year of attempting to do Photo Points. The “golden rectangle” is a boundary marker with a number on it. At each of these (there are 137 of them...) one team mem-



Charles Larry

ber takes a compass reading while the other moves 20 feet out in each cardinal direction, holding a stake with a sign marking the direction and point number. The one at the point snaps a photo. This helps Bill, Cody and the stewards monitor the changes happening over time in all parts of the prairie.

As this was my, and my wife Emmylou's, first year doing Photo Points, we had a slow start. There were many things to learn. Map distance, for instance. We had walked a very long way, carefully following the map, and found a rectangle not numbered. We concluded it must be point number 91, noting its location to shoot on the return, in case we were mistaken. After walking perhaps 4 times as far as we had already come, we found a rectangle labeled 91. Ok, what looks to be a short distance on the map proves to be a much greater distance. Some of the points are difficult to get to. Walking blindly in 7 foot tall grass, with obstacles constantly looming up, the conversation might go like this: “Are we going north?” “North? Uh, we started out going north. Now I'm not sure. I'm not even sure which way is sky...” Thus it must have been for the first explorers of the area.

Of course the above narrative is meant in a humorous vein. What it doesn't convey is that the Photo Points project is interesting, fun, and important. It's amazing to look at the photo binders at the office and see the changes over time. I guess the main prairie secret we learned is that the map is not the territory. Looking for points on a map in no way prepares you for what you find traveling through the landscape—the challenges and the beauty. This first year we tried to photograph points that have never or rarely been photographed. We did a total of 12 points over the two week time period in July/August allotted for taking the photos. Next year we will do better. Throughout the year as I'm out at

FRIENDS OF NACHUSA GROUP FORMED

Nature took 12,000 years to create the great American prairie. It should be no surprise that restoring it takes time – lots of time.

Already two decades have passed since Nachusa's founding. Completing our dream of a landscape scale restoration will take decades more – an uncommon time frame in a world where results are measured in seconds.

With the long term in mind, volunteers recently announced creation of the not-for-profit Friends of Nachusa Grasslands. Its simple but challenging goal is to help build an endowment that will ultimately contribute a substantial portion of the operational costs of the preserve - in perpetuity.

The Friends group will help insure that the time and treasure you invest in building Nachusa will be protected for the long term.

Contact Bernie Buchholz 708-386-3708.

Nachusa taking photos of a different kind, we search for Photo Point locations to reference next year. We learned some things and now know better what to expect. And we have seen the latest Indiana Jones movie for inspiration!

Hook Larson Prairie

By John Schmadeke

When The Nature Conservancy acquired the Hook Larson Prairie unit, I had been a Nachusa volunteer for about two years. I remember when the property was mostly cornfield with two large sections of pine trees.

We knew, of course, about the big prairie fragment under the power lines. We also knew there were other smaller fragments scattered about, but my recollection is that we found more remnant than we expected. This included a patch of bird's foot violet buried in the midst of cedar trees. During the first winter at Hook, a group of us including Bill Kleiman, Jay Stacy, Ron Ingram, Gene Miller and Gerald McDermott took out several hundred trees to open this patch of hidden remnant. To this day, few at Nachusa know about this site.



Cindy & John Schmadeke



Smiling faces after clearing some fire breaks at Franklin Creek Natural Area

Some years later we had to move to Boston where Cindy and I lived for five years. Upon returning, we became stewards of Hook Larson Prairie. That's when we found another hidden site (actually discovered by Tom and Jenny Mitchell and Jay Stacy) full of shooting stars and violets. But it was hidden in a forest of honeysuckle.

In the years that Nachusa has had this unit, the cornfields have been planted to prairie, and the two strips of forest have been removed by loggers (the last one just a few months ago). A lot of work has gone into this unit. Despite this there are areas where parsnip and sweet

clover are rampant, in some cases threatening to overrun some of the finest remnants at Hook. Also, there is a ruderal area along the north side of the two-track that was too steep to farm and so became breeding ground for cedars, box elders, parsnip and sweet clover. Last winter with the help of lots of other people the trees were removed, and over the summer the weeds were mowed and sprayed.

This fall about 10 acres of this ruderal area was over seeded with little blue stem. The honeysuckle at the hidden shooting star site has been mostly removed. The site has been over seeded with native species matching the adjoining remnants.

Despite all the work invested into this unit, it is still a challenge. For those of you who enjoy a walk through Hook or who harvest seed from Hook, you know what the site contains; some great remnants, some large and successful plantings and some really nasty weed patches.

Hook Larson Prairie is a 140-acre unit that represents some of the best that Nachusa has to offer. To Cindy and I it represents a return to a unit where we helped with some of the earliest work as well as an opportunity to secure the safety of prized remnants. Next time you visit this unit, enjoy its beauty and imagine what it might look like in another decade or two.

Herbarium Update

By Dwight Herkert

2008 was a busy year in the herbarium. Thirty five new species were collected, mainly trees and shrubs. The total number of plants in the herbarium at the end of 2008 was 576. I appreciate the help that everyone gave me on this project. Please keep looking for new plants that can be added to the herbarium.

Also many thanks go out to Paul D. Sorensen, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences and Curator of the Herbarium at Northern Illinois University. Dr Sorensen did a complete review of the Nachusa Herbarium to check for the correct identification of all of the plants collected. This was a time consuming job for Dr. Sorensen and we thank him very much for his help.



Dwight Herkert

Dropseed Hills

By Mary Viereg

The knolls of the Dropseed Hills unit this year gave us a glimpse into the private life of the fringed puccoon (*Lithospermum incisum*).

A few flowering individuals had been noticed on three of the five knolls during the last four years. They seemed to be lovely but lonely



Jim & Mary Viereg

outposts of optimism for what the unit could someday be. Or maybe they were the lone remainders of populations too small to sustain themselves. It was hard to know for sure, and experience had indicated that the species was hard to start from dispersed collected seed.

It turns out that the fringed puccoons on Dropseed Hills are happy with what has been done there. Four years of tree removal and brush clearing, annual burning, and a moist spring stimulated a gush of new individuals all flowering profusely on the dry sandy slopes of all five knolls. The pale yellow blush of the fringed petals collectively made a joyful noise unto spring midway up the slopes.

How had it happened? No seed had been collected elsewhere to plant there. Had the seeds been lying dormant over the decades? Had the remaining individuals been so prolific as to create this explosion of bloom? Were there more individuals there that had gone unnoticed?

The explanation probably lies in the secrets of the plant itself. It turns out that most of the large, showiest spring flowers are sterile. It's really the tiny self-pollinating fall flowers that produce the fertile seeds that perpetuate the species. Also, the woody black taproot is long-lived explaining why it's found even in semi-desert habitats of Utah and New Mexico and the lightly grazed plains of the Dakotas. (Incidentally, these same taproots were cooked and eaten by the Nlaka'pamux people of British Columbia. The taproot and its bark apparently make a beautiful purple dye, too, and interest in this genus has recently been revived as a possible source of modern drugs.)

It seems that the sunshine and the ample spring rains stimulated the long dormant, unplowed taproots and the latent seed bed of the fringed puccoons of Dropseed Hills, and they were off to the races.

Rolling Thunder Prairie

By Sally Baumgardner

Twenty years ago, Dorothy (Dot) Wade advised me that there would be occasional "bursts" of new growths of native plants because of my restoration efforts. She spoke from experience. Dot and her husband Doug, avid nature enthusiasts, studied the native plants wherever they lived in North America. They are credited with recognizing Nachusa Grasslands as having enough nice original prairie to restore, and well worth saving for future generations.

Here at the Rolling Thunder Prairie Unit, I try to remove (subtract) invasive alien plants, and then I sow (add) seeds of Illinois native plants collected nearby. However, I seldom saw what Dot called "bursts." Until the spring of 2000. For some reason, I needed to climb the weedy north slope of the little hill just west of my home. There never was much hope of finding good



Sally
Baumgardner

prairie plants in such an overused, formerly sheep-grazed area. Suddenly I realized I was stepping on kittentails! Yes, Wulfenia. (No, they won't mature into cattails that live in wetlands – kittentails are short, green early spring forbs that grow on dry soil.) How did they get here?

Each step I took only led to another one of these really rare wildflowers. Did I unlock some prairie secret? How could this be? These plants were growing in profusion (well, 14 plants is a lot when their rarity is considered). And I had not planted them; they must have been there all along. I'm guessing this little remnant "burst" may have survived because the round, flat basal leaves of kittentails are just too short for sheep's teeth. I am not about to introduce sheep just to test this theory.

Let's fast-forward to August, 2008, after 19 years of restoration work: brush cutting, controlled burns, treating non-native plants with every known method of removal/eradication, and then adding in large amounts of seeds of native wildflowers and grasses. Volunteers from all over helped, singly and in groups. A C2000 grant from the state of Illinois provided funds for me to hire reliable workers from our neighborhood. All ages pitched in and scattered seeds wherever they were directed. Thank you to all!

Our most persistent and prolific alien plant is birds' foot trefoil, and every year we try to at least reduce the numbers of these pests. We locate and spray them from May to August, and then all of us become frustrated and very tired of it. However, this dreadful weed did lead us to a truly big burst that honors Dot Wade's prediction.



Gay Feather Patch

On a perfectly gorgeous day in early August, after spraying yet another infestation of trefoil, I stretched out and looked around and was suddenly bowled over by a burst of color – Magenta! Brilliant Lilac! Vivid Lavender! There were brightly colored spikes growing four to five feet tall against the light green of our sedge meadow. They were prairie blazing Stars (gayfeather), *Liatris pycnostachya*, and there were hundreds of them!

All in full glorious bloom, sparkling and alive with colorful insects and interested little birds watching those insects. I had not known they were there at all. Somebody -- get the cameras!

We had previously collected the seeds of these blazing stars, with permission, from a wetland in Lee County. We must have had those energetic school children hand scatter them, as they blanketed a really broad area. This was the year for the prairie to unlock her secret place for this kind of blazing star, and she let them flower in wild abandon.

It was a happy effort to collect the seeds of these blazing stars. We took the top 3/4s of most of the stalks, leaving the rest for nature to direct. The harvested material was shared with other volunteers at Nachusa Grasslands. From now on, I will keep my eyes open for more of Dot Wade's predictions at finding the secrets of the prairie.

Doug & Dot Wade Prairie

By Al and Mary Meier

At Nachusa, the stewards and staff have successfully restored high quality prairie on land that has been plant-



Al Meier



Mary Meier

ed in row crops for decades. Restoring a fallow field is more difficult, however, because prairie plants struggle to become established in places where non-native and invasive species already dominate the landscape.

In 2003, thirty acres of the Dot & Doug Wade unit that had been unsuccessfully restored to prairie nearly a decade earlier were now not much more than weedy, fallow fields. We therefore decided that we would have better chance of creating a high quality prairie restoration on this site by plowing the land and planting it in corn for a few years, rather than continuing to nurture the failed prairie planting. We were hoping that the agricultural herbicides would destroy the weeds that were flourishing on the land, in preparation for a new prairie planting.

After three years of corn cultivation, we again attempted restoration on the first six acres of the thirty acre field in the fall of 2006. The following year we planted an additional five acres.

In 2008, much of our stewardship of the Dot & Doug Wade Prairie was devoted to these two plantings, especially the six acre 2006 section. In its second year, the prairie is returning to life. Dozens of prairie species have emerged, and the land is covered with forbs that one would expect to see in a second year prairie restoration. But, in addition to these welcome arrivals, we also discovered many undesirable species, mostly yarrow and Canada goldenrod.

The large numbers of these unwanted invaders left us wondering whether three years in row crops was an ade-

quate amount of time to eliminate these species from the seed bank. Based upon this troubling question, we decided to hold off temporarily on restoration of additional acreage on our unit.

There are three benefits to this plan. First, for each additional year that the soil is planted in crops, we believe that more and more seeds from weed species will be removed from the seed bank, allowing us to start from a clean slate when we decide to begin restoring additional land. Second, not restoring additional acreage for the time being allows us to collect seed for overseeding the restorations that we have done in the past two years. Third, we will have more time to concentrate on weeding the current new prairie, giving the native



Kleimans celebrate 15 years with Nachusa.

species more room to grow.

Therefore, our efforts on the Dot & Doug Wade Prairie in 2008 were largely devoted to controlling weeds in the 2006 and 2007 plantings and overseeding these plantings with large amounts of seed, mostly from very conservative forbs.

This upcoming growing season we're hoping to see the prairie plants thriving and the unwelcome species diminishing on the 2006 planting. And we're also hoping that weeds will be much less of a problem on the 2007 planting. Since these five acres were planted in corn for an additional year, we're anxious to learn if the extra exposure to herbicides resulted in fewer weeds surviving in the seed bank.

What we find in these two plantings this year may dictate how quickly we restore the remaining twenty acres. If the new prairie is flourishing and the weeds are diminishing, then restoration efforts may begin again. However, if the weeds continue to plague these plantings, further restoration may be delayed for a number of years.

The Nature Conservancy 

Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Sandstone Bluffs Secrets

By Jan Grainger

On November 17, 2008, I loaded three big barrels onto a truck and drove them out to a field on the preserve in a section that is known as Tellabs Savanna. The Tellabs name results from a generous contribution. The field is nestled below spectacular sandstone outcrops so I call the area Sandstone Bluffs. The barrels were full of seed. Today was the day to plant some prairie. I drove the tractor round and round at “Turtle” speed until the hopper had shot out all of my precious seed on to the sandy soil. 110 pounds, 105 species. I spent several hours planting special seeds by hand as well—poking porcupine grass tips into the sand or carefully “stepping in” the lupine and violets.

I have now joined the club of Nachusa Grasslands Volunteer Stewards who have collected, weighed, dried, recorded, mixed and planted many pounds of those marvels of nature—seeds.

What a package of potential a seed is! Most of the prairie seeds I harvested weigh almost nothing but contain the genetic plans for a future. Housed within is a tiny embryo, a bit of stored nutrient and a protective coating. There is so much uncertainty in a seed’s future. Will it germinate? Is it viable? Does it require freezing, or fire? Does it need to pass through an animal’s gut? Does it need battering by the wind and rain? Does it need fungal threads busting through its seed coat?

If its environment supplies what it needs it may send out root and shoot, but then what challenges does it face? Will there be a partnership with surrounding microbes or will it be consumed in the food chain? Will it succumb to competition from its many neighbors?

As a child I wore a mustard seed around my neck. (It was trapped in plastic I think) That necklace came from my mother and a short verse was included about the faith of a tiny mustard seed and moving mountains. It helped me develop a hopeful and positive outlook. Here at the Sandstone Bluffs, the seeds hold the secrets and I have the hope.



Jan Grainger

Hamill-Winter Prairie

By Mike Adolph

Hamill-Winter Prairie takes in about 150 acres, with plantings made in '87---the west end---and in '91---west of No Name Knob. North of Coyote Point there are five large Bur Oaks we call the “Low Oaks” that are slightly higher and to the south of a wet area. The “High Oaks” are several good-sized Bur and Black Oaks on the knobs southeast of Coyote Point. Maybe a dozen small Bur Oaks are scattered between the Low and High Oaks. All this will make a fine savanna after we’ve all gone.



Mike Adolph

The Main Complex of six knobs held savanna---surveyors called it “barrens”---according to their map of 1839. Penn Sedge had survived as a relict of those oaks on some of these knobs as recently as 10 years ago.

Twenty or more American plum thickets are scattered about on the knobs and in the swales. A few are increasing. They provide nest habitat for Bell’s Vireos, Empidonax Flycatchers and Goldfinches. We work to keep honeysuckle out of these thickets. In the years when they bloom the plums are spectacular. The fruit that follows is half again as big as a large grape.

Rubus briars occur here and there, but don’t seem to be increasing. Smooth sumac stands are increasing.

The wet area extends north into Prairie Potholes Unit. Notably it contains fair amounts of *Asclepias incarnata*, *Cassia hebecarpa*, *Liatris pycnostachya*, *Sium suave*, *Gentiana andrewsii* and *Gentiana crinita*. A *Rosa palustris* was recently discovered hiding.

Diversity of the forbs is increasing in the area close to Lowden road, from Isabel’s Knob to the Yellow House and out to the Knobs and the '91 planting. Prominently, *Zizia aptera*, *Lithospermum canescens*, *Callirhoe triangulata*, *Lilium philadelphicum*, *Delphinium tricorne*, and *Camassia scilloides* have shown up, and since there is no registry requiring a person to jot down for us what seeds they’ve put out, it’s not possible to declare that these “came back” from the seed bank. The wide distribution of the first three suggests that they weren’t seeded.

The rich diversity of forbs on Isabel’s Knob compared to the paucity of forbs on No Name Knob might be explained in part by the latter having been grazed much more, since it was next to a farmhouse. Even so, *Callirhoe t.* is showing up on all the unit’s high, sandy areas close to Lowden road, but individuals seem to “give up” after a year or two.

After the tiles were destroyed in the west part of the '91 field the planting was successful, especially in the west area and on the ridge. Diversity has decreased since, which is not surprising. Even so, this planting is a success. The bigger '87 planting, however, has large stretches of just big bluestem and a “plantation” of Stiff Goldenrod. The plan for these areas is to take between five and ten acres a year, harrow-rake and then heavily overseed with forbs.

After this and after the king devil and red clover infestations are dealt with we’re putting in for a sauna and a big-screen TV.

Prairie Surprises - Big Woods

By Hank & Becky Hartman

In 2008 it rained and the 2-track ruts NEVER totally dried out. The rain must have set up perfect conditions for birdsfoot trefoil (BFT) seeds to germinate. We have sprayed BFT annually since 2002, and we



Hank & Becky Hartman

thought we were getting ahead of it since we have tried for years not to let it produce seed. SURPRISE: the unbelievable amount of seed in the soil seed bank! Enough BFT seed germinated in 2008 so that we had large areas with up to 500 plants per square foot. We used twice the amount of herbicide in 2008 than we did in 2007. Part of the extra herbicide use is due to the fact that Al gave us seven acres of his unit ('the BFT field') to incorporate into Big Woods. SURPRISE: we found isolated BFT plants alone in the savanna; hundreds of yards from any other BFT. Wish we could definitely say how the seed is spreading. On a side note, we found many fairly isolated BFT plants in other units while

picking seed. Some were as large as four feet in diameter.

In 2007 we were surprised to find three short green milkweed plants, *Asclepias viridiflora*, about 50 feet apart, forming a triangle in a field which was pure brome in 2001. None of our compatriots will admit to planting seed or plants. In 2008 three plants reappeared, in the same area, but this time in a straight line. All plants bloomed both years, and we got one seed pod.

During the January 2009 hike which was billed as a Redheaded Woodpecker hike to Big Woods, the hikers were surprised to actually see six redheads. Thanks birds for cooperating.

Nachusa mourns the passing of three friends



Clarence Heinkel
1914 to 2008

Clarence Heinkel's sometimes gruff exterior concealed a kind and humble man with a heart of gold who loved pretty flowers, butterflies, and wide open spaces. Years ago, when Nachusa was little more than a few remnant hills and a dream, Clarence sold a farm he owned and bought the Grasslands 300 acres of corn fields and brushy oak woodlands. One day Project Director Bill Kleiman sheepishly and apologetically drove Clarence to view a newly planted cornfield in its first spring; to all but the trained eye it appeared to be nothing more than a field of dandelions. Clarence sat quietly, looked at the bright yellow color, noticed a few species of spring butterflies, and took in the vista. When Bill launched into a technical discussion of plant succession and the long time frame involved in restoring a genuine native prairie Clarence stopped him with a touch on the arm and said, "Don't worry. I think it's beautiful. I believe in what you're doing."

Last summer his grandson scattered Clarence's ashes on a high meadow in an open oak woodland overlooking a sculpted and restored wet prairie in one of the two units that bear his name. May you rest in peace, Clarence.



James Hotchkiss
1928 to 2008

Jim Hotchkiss was a friend of Nachusa Grasslands way back when this set of scruffy farms was plotted to be a subdivision. At that time there was solely a vision of a large natural area started by some wide eyed staff and approved by a bold Board of Trustees for the Illinois chapter of the Conservancy. Starting in 1989, Jim was one of those volunteer trustees and by our good fortune his wife Nancy owned a farm within what would become Nachusa. Jim was out often on their farm doing the usual lawn mowing and fixing things, while Nancy worked her garden into a profusion of color and abundance.

Jim loved the Conservancy and worked hard winning us friends, donations and cachet within the Chicago financial community. He received the prestigious Oak Leaf Award from the national board for his trustee work. His wife Nancy told me how the work with the Conservancy gave him joy and purpose. Our volunteer stewards describe their work here with similar phrases. Jim could see that Nachusa had a cadre of volunteers that affirmed the project with their sweat and donations. Jim opened the Nachusa Endowment Fund with a donation and was there last fall as we discussed the long range vision of raising funds to help steward the property in perpetuity. We will miss you, Jim.



Bernard Kleinman
1926 to 2008

Several years ago Nachusa acquired a large and lovely tract of land, greatly expanding the Grasslands to the north and west, funded with an oh-so-generous gift by Bernie Kleinman and his wife Annette, who survives him, in memory of their lifelong friend DeWitt Holland. This fall Bill, Cody, and the Conservancy's summer crew laid down an initial 20-acre upland prairie planting, heavily weighted in pounds per acre with a diversity of well over 100 species, the first planting in a series that will accelerate in scope as the next few years go by. Drawing upon our ever increasing store of experience and harvesting the latest in technologies, we intend each planting in the sequence to be larger and more authentic than the one before. Before long these beautiful rolling hills will shimmer with pretty orange little bluestem along with flowers and sedges and grasses of every shape and size and color under the rainbow. In the years to come bison will roam again in the Rock River Valley, and people from all over the world will come to see them. Thanks to the Kleinmans' bold vision and their generous hearts.

Thank you, Bernie. And thank you, Annette. We remember and will make you proud.

Seed Harvest Report for 2008

The 2008 seed harvest season had the greatest yield in Nachusa history.

Crew Harvest

Hand: 2,313 lbs
Machine: 1,119 lbs

Harvest Grand Total for 2008: 5,449 lbs

Harvest amounts include over 200 species.

Volunteer Harvest

2,017 lbs

	<u>New Plantings</u>	<u>Enhanced Plantings</u> (overseed)
--	----------------------	--------------------------------------

Crew:	40 acres	80 acres
FCNA:	8 acres	-----
Volunteer Stewards:	<u>20 acres</u>	<u>82 acres</u>
Total:	68 acres	162 acres
Acres seeded in 2008: 230 acres		



1,532 lbs of Dry Mesic Mix



STEWARDS OF NACHUSA GRASSLANDS

Leslee Spraggins
Bill Kleiman
Cody Considine

State Director
Project Director
Restoration Ecologist

STEWARDS

Big Woods

Hank & Becky Hartman

CO-STEWARDS

NIU's Committee for the Preservation of Wildlife

Clear Creek Prairie

Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County-Katie Schoenfeldt

Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

Al & Mary Meier

Dropseed Hills

Mary & Jim Vieregg

Eight Oaks Savanna

Jan Grainger

Fen Unit

Kevin Kaltenbach

Gobbler Ridge

Bernie & Cindy Buchholz

Hamill-Winter Prairie

Mike Adolph

Bob Shone, Bob Brown,
Ken Reed

Edith & Anna Heinkel Savanna

East Unit

Mike Crowe & Cassie Krueger

West Unit

Jay Stacy

Roadsides

Tom & Jenny Mitchell

Hook Larson Unit

John & Cindy Schmadeke

Rolling Thunder & Harold Walkup Prairies

Sally Baumgardner

George Bouska, Lorraine
Gawlik, Max Baumgardner,
Earl Thomas

Sand Farm

Russ Brunner

Tellabs Savanna

Ron Ingraham

Sandstone Bluffs

Jan Grainger

Thelma Carpenter Prairie

Tom & Jenny Mitchell

Kittentail Savanna

West Chicago Prairie Stewards

Gobbler Bottoms

Dave Crites & John Heneghan

Bennett Savanna

Josh Sage & Janet Guffy

Open Units

Prairie Potholes, Schafer Prairie, Coneflower,
Barn Steward

Other Stewards

David Edelbach, Ray
Derksen, Mike Saxton,
Keith Anderson

Amber Address



Cindy Buchholz is joyful during a prescribed fire.

*The following donations were made to
Nachusa Grasslands in the last year.*

THANK YOU DONORS

\$50,000 and above

Estate of Mrs. Joseph Radov

\$10,000 and above

ComEd, An Exelon Company

\$5,000 and above

M.R. Bauer Foundation

\$1,000 and above

Alan & Mary Rhodes Meier, John Santucci, Ron & Patricia Ingraham, David & Mary Crossett in honor of Bernie and Cindy Buchholz, Bays English Muffin Corporation, Genesis Nursery, Edward III & Mary Calihan, Barbara & Marvin Ehlers, Donald & Penny Moser in tribute to Ruth Ravenel, IL-DNR C-2000 Grant for Prescribed Fire Equipment, Thelma Carpenter Estate, Dorothy Lundahl, Robin Read

\$100 and above

Sue & Brent Coulter in honor of Mary & Jim Vieregg, Mary & Jim Vieregg, Mary Scott, Pat Hayden & Cynthia Fraase, Becky & Hank Hartman, Alan Meier, In tribute to Russell and James Lawson by Annette, Tom and Jeannie Lawson, Douglas Macleod, Jon & Beth McCormick, Chris Addy, CNA Foundation, International Women Associates, In honor of Bill Kleiman by Ann Haverstock, Susan Christensen

Other Generous Donors

In Memory of Sue Anne Worrell by Kathe Harms, George Dilling, Sally & Max Baumgardner, David Edelbach, Cynthia Vasquez in tribute to Marcel Fremont, Gerould Maurer, Environmental Education Association

Nachusa Endowment Fund

Alan & Mary Rhodes Meier, Cindy & John Schmadeke, Todd & Tonya Bittner, Bernard Kleinman, Robert Bittner, In tribute to Jim Hotchkiss by Hotchkiss and Associates

In Memory of Agnes Kleiman

Becky & Hank Hartman, Ellen Baker, Kathleen Petrak, Dan Huck, James & Lynn Marie Huck, John & Cindy Schmadeke, Judith Leonard, Mary & Al Meier, Mary & Jim Vieregg

In Memory of Clarence Heinkel

Virginia Iverson, Richard & Jean Heinkel, Schwab Charitable Fund, Richard & Betsy Glade, Wesley & Lester Landmeier, Robert & Ruth Goebbert

Remembering Thelma Dahlberg 1908-2008



Nachusa Grasslands neighbor and friend passed away this last autumn. Thelma was a warm and gracious person who was a pleasure to be with. A native of South Dakota, she understood the loss of prairie and wanted her property, adjacent to the grasslands to be a better home for the native flora

and fauna and we were happy to oblige with prescribed fire several times. Thelma also helped edit and write for the Prairie Smoke in the mid 90's. Thank you, Thelma for the wonderful times. We will miss you.

Restoration Guidelines

By Janice Cook

No mix is complete
Without
All of the
Laughing, chuckling
Murmuring, muttering,
Sneezing, wheezing,
Grumbling, groaning,
Weeping, wailing
Sobbing, sighing
Yawning, snoring,
Scowling, howling
Whispering, shouting,
Singing,
Celebrating,
Sounds of the people.



Typical summer day – stewards of Nachusa.

AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE 2009

Chair: Joshua Clark, Co-chair: Open

Science Stewards: Open
Bird Monitoring: Ann Haverstock
Butterfly Monitoring: Jan Grainger
Herbarium Steward: Dwight Heckert
Insect Collector: Open
Lespedeza leptostachya monitor: Open
Photo Monitors: Charles & Emmy
Lou Larry

Publicist/Educator/Presenters: Hank & Becky
Hartman, Sally Baumgardner, Gene Miller,
Dwight Heckert

Youth Stewards Leaders: Mike Adolph,
Sally Baumgardner, Susan Kleiman,
Ron Ingraham, Mike Adolph,
Bob Shone, Barb Rutherford,
George Bouska, Bernie Buchholz.

2008 SEASONAL ASSISTANT STEWARDS

We had many assistant stewards come and go through out the 2008 season due to permanent jobs and graduate school.

<u>Summer Crew</u>	<u>Fall Crew</u>	<u>Saturday Steward</u>
Mike Saxton	Clare Kernek	Ian Kenney
Michael Miller	Chris Sonnier	
Janet Guffy	Dan Adcock	
Emmet Ryan	Jared Considine	
Brian Glaves	Michael Miller	
Dan Adcock		
Dan Wildeck		



Fall Crew

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways that you can make a difference by volunteering at Nachusa Grasslands. You don't have to show up every week, just once a month or quarter or year – all would be very helpful. The list of volunteer opportunities is endless, but here are some possibilities.

- Cut and herbicide invasive woody plants such as multi-flora rose and bush honeysuckle.
- Spade or pull non-native plants like white or yellow sweet clover, wild parsnip, Queen Anne's lace, burdock, mullein.
- Help with barn cleanup.
- Collect seeds from May to November for planting new areas or overseeding.
- Equipment repair/ small engine maintenance.
- Newspaper publicity for hikes and workdays.
- Lead a hike.
- Be a leader for the youth prairie tour experience for 4th and 5th graders.

Hike Nachusa

Take a hike around Nachusa Grasslands led by various Nachusa volunteers.

- Visit areas off the beaten path or with unusual features.
- During 2009, most hikes are scheduled on Sundays at 2 p.m. and listed on next page.
- Meet at the Headquarters Barn a few minutes before scheduled hike time.
- Wear sturdy shoes (not sandals) and long pants.

For information:

Call Becky Hartman 630.309.2110
or Email bhhartman2001@hotmail.com

Calendar of Events, Workdays and Hikes for 2009

Volunteer Stewards and Co-stewards lead workdays. New volunteers are always welcome to come learn and work with us. We have workdays every Saturday, starting at 9:00 A.M. Meet at the Preserve Headquarters (red barn) at 8772 S. Lowden Road.

Volunteers break for lunch at the barn and then sometimes continue stewardship or go for a hike in the afternoon. We also have stewardship during the week and we can likely team you up with an experienced steward; give us a call at 815 456-2340 or email bkleiman@tnc.org.



AUTUMN ON THE PRAIRIE

20th Annual Celebration at Nachusa Grasslands
Saturday, September 19, 2009, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

A free event with fun for the entire family: guided walking tours of the preserve, paintings by local artists, children's activities, gift raffle, horse drawn wagon rides, live music, and good food.

Issue 46, March 2009

Editor Cody Considine

Calendar of Events, Workdays and Hikes 2009

March - Brush and Fire Season

- 7 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 14 Annual fire refresher training for Nachusa Crew
- 15 Hike Sunday 2 P.M.
Geology of Nachusa Grasslands - Tom Mitchell
- 21 Tellabs Savanna
- 28 East Heinkel Savanna

April - Brush and Fire Season

- 4 Gobbler Ridge
- 11 Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 18 Hamill-Winter Prairie
- 19 Hike 2 P.M. The Fen
- 25 8 Oaks
Autumn on The Prairie (AOTP)
Committee meeting at 1 P.M.

May - Weed Season

- 2 Sand Farm
- 9 Gobbler Ridge
- 10 Bennett Savanna Sunday workday
Hike Sunday 2 P.M. Gobbler Ridge -
Cindy & Bernie Buchholz
- 16 Big Woods
- 23 Thelma Carpenter Prairie & Tellabs
- 30 Hook Larson Prairie
- 31 Photography Hike Sunday 4 P.M. John Schmadeke

June - Weed and Seed Collecting Season

- 6 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 7 Photography Hike Sunday 4 P.M. John Schmadeke
- 13 The Fen
AOTP Committee meeting at 1 P.M.
- 14 Hike Sunday 2 P.M. Johnny's Creek to high E. Heinkel
Photography Hike Sunday 4 P.M. John Schmadeke
- 20 W. Heinkel Savanna
- 21 Photography Hike Sunday 4 P.M. John Schmadeke
- 27 Hook Larson Prairie
- 28 Photography Hike Sunday 4 P.M. John Schmadeke

July - Weeds and Seeds

- 4 Hook Larson Prairie
- 11 Big Woods
AOTP Committee meeting at 1 P.M.
- 12 Bennett Savanna Sunday workday
Hike Sunday 2 P.M. Savanna walk
- 18 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
Open House for Land Owners, RSVP. See how we
manage our property
- 25 E. Heinkel Savanna

August - Seeds

- 1 Gobbler Ridge
- 8 Hamill-Winter Prairie
- 15 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
Saturday Evening! 6:45 P.M. Hike Until the Fat
Coyote Howls / Sunset & Perseid Meteors
- 16 Bennett Savanna Sunday workday
- 22 Clear Creek Prairie
- 29 Big Woods

September - Seeds

- 5 The Fen
- 12 Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 19 **20th Annual Autumn on The Prairie Celebration**
10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Imagine Illinois in 1800
Wild walks, different expert leaders, hikes leaving every
20 minutes all day.
- 26 Hamill-Winter Prairie

October - Seeds

- 3 Tellabs Savanna
- 9 Nachusa Grasslands Science Symposium. RSVP. A
gathering of scientists.
- 10 Gobbler Ridge
- 11 Bennett Savanna Sunday workday
Sunday 2 P.M. Introduction to harvesting seed on the
prairie
- 17 8 Oaks
- 24 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 31 Thelma Carpenter Prairie

November - Brush, Planting and Fire Season

- 7 Big Woods
12 P.M. Seed Celebration Potluck
2 P.M. Preserve Tour - Bill Kleiman, Nachusa Grass-
lands Preserve Manager
- 14 Rolling Thunder
- 21 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 28 The Fen

December - Brush and Planting Season

- 5 Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 12 Hamill-Winter Prairie
- 13 Hike Sunday 2 P.M. Holiday High Calorie Long Hike
Naylor Rd. to Stone Barn Rd.
- 19 E. Heinkel Savanna
- 26 Bennett Savanna

January 2010 - Brush Season

- 2 Tellabs Savanna
- 3 Hike Sunday 2 P.M. Clear Creek Beaver Pond
- 9 Hook Larson Prairie
- 16 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 23 Bennett Savanna
- 30 Big Woods

February 2010 - Brush Season

- 6 Fen
- 13 Gobbler Ridge
- 20 Hook Larson Prairie
- 27 W. Heinkel Savanna

March 2010

- 6 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 13 Annual Fire refresher training for Nachusa Crew
- 20 Tellabs Savanna
- 27 East Heinkel Savanna

REACHING NACHUSA GRASSLANDS • www.Nachusagrasslands.org

The preserve is open to the public. The main trail head to the preserve is at the Visitor Entrance with the kiosk on Lowden Road. All volunteer workdays meet at the Preserve Headquarters red barn (located 1/2 mile north of Visitor Entrance) at 8772 S. Lowden Road up a long driveway.

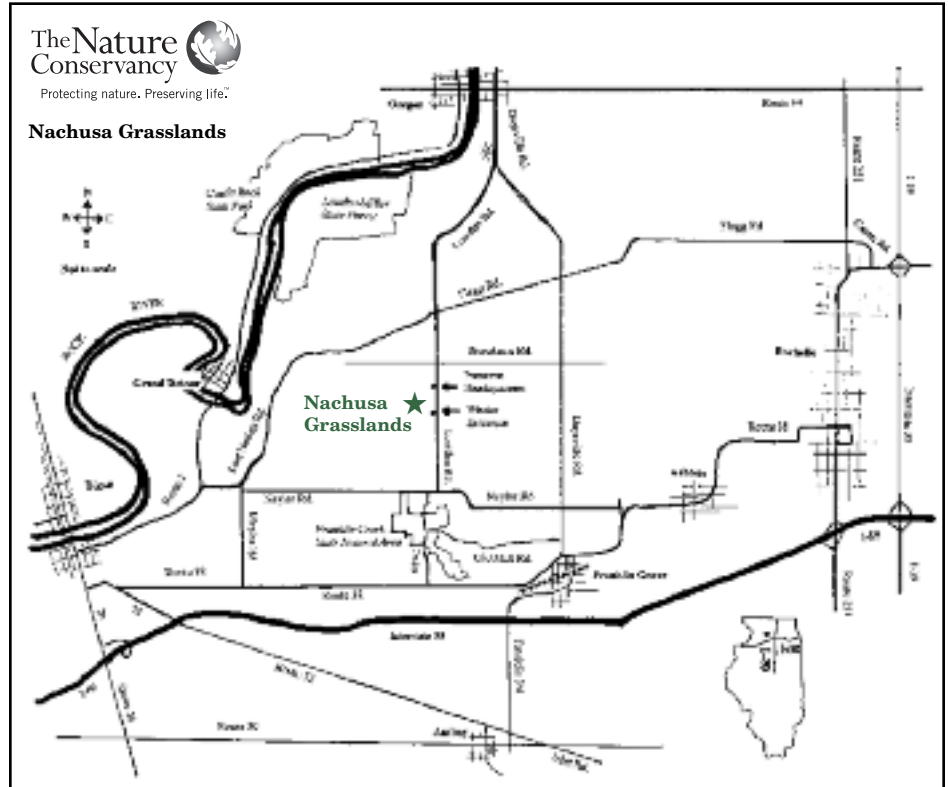
From I-88: (East-West Tollway): Exit at Rt. 251 North (Rochelle), to Rt. 38 West. Travel through Ashton and into Franklin Grove (approx. 16 miles), turn right (north) on Daysville Rd./1700E. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd./1950N, turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd./1500E, turn right (north) and go 1 mile to Visitor Entrance (on the left with kiosk).

From Route 64: Just east of the Rock River in Oregon, turn south on Daysville Rd./1700E. Travel approx. 2.5 miles and turn right (45 angle) on Lowden Rd./1500E (Lowden-Miller State Forest). Travel south 5 miles to a 4-way stop at Flagg Rd. Continue south another 2 miles to the Visitor Entrance (on the right with kiosk).

From Dixon:

Option 1: Take Rt. 38 East into Franklin Grove then turn left (north) on Daysville Rd./1700E. Travel 1.5 miles north to Naylor Rd./1950N, turn left (west) and go 2.2 miles to Lowden Rd./1500E, turn right (north) and go 1 mile to Visitor Entrance (on the left with kiosk).

Option 2: From downtown (Rt. 26/Galena Ave.) take Rt. 2 North two miles, then turn right (east) on Lost Nation Rd. Go one mile to Maples Rd./1150E, turn right, then left immediately onto Naylor Rd./1950N. Go east for 3.5 miles to Lowden Rd./1500E. Turn left (north) and go one mile to Visitor Entrance (on the left with kiosk).



Nachusa Grasslands is owned and operated by The Nature Conservancy, a private, non-profit group whose mission is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



The Nature Conservancy

Nachusa Grasslands Preserve
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(815) 456-2340
www.nature.org
www.nachusagrasslands.org

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