**“Bison Babies Broadcast” Script – Part Three**

For our third and concluding “Bison Babies Broadcast” sponsored by [Friends of Nachusa Grasslands](https://www.nachusagrasslands.org/), we are happy to report that Nachusa’s bison are thriving as shown in part by the arrival of this year’s calves. Although the animals breed, birth, feed, and care for themselves with minimal human intervention, ongoing research into keeping them healthy as well as their effects on our native plants and other living creatures is critical to our herd management practices.

Every year, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands awards monetary grants to qualified candidates conducting scientific research significant to Nachusa Grasslands. In 2020, Friends has distributed almost $48,000**,** divided in varying amounts among twelve researchers.

Five of this year’s projects focus on our bison herd. Topics include the effects of the bison on bird breeding, vegetation structure and abundance, native seed growth in wallows, soil quality, and tick populations. The researchers’ findings will be shared at next spring’s Nachusa Grasslands Science Symposium and on the [Friends 2020 Science Grants](https://www.nachusagrasslands.org/science-grants-2020.html) web page.

In previous years, several studies have also investigated how the bison interact with our flora and fauna. Recently, a paper by Friends’ research grant recipients, Angie Burke, Dr. Holly Jones, and Dr. Nick Barber, was published in the *Natural Areas Journal*. Their team from Northern Illinois University collected data on how the reintroduction of bison has impacted the presence of small mammals at Nachusa. Check out Angie’s April 27th blog post, “[Small Mammals—The Little Things That Matter](https://www.nachusagrasslands.org/nachusa-blog/small-mammals-the-little-things-that-matter),” on the Friends’ website for details on their conclusions.

Bison diet, the herd’s behavior at different locations and times of day, their effects on grassland bird populations, and several other related projects have been conducted with Friends’ funding. See the various [Science Grant pages](https://www.nachusagrasslands.org/science-at-nachusa-grasslands.html) on the Friends’ website for additional information.

Donations designated for our science program will enable Friends to continue funding similar research, as we still have much to learn. You are invited to play a part in this essential part of our mission.

To support the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands’ science program, click on the link in the video caption. You can donate [online](https://www.nachusagrasslands.org/2020-campaign.html) or [download a form](https://www.nachusagrasslands.org/uploads/5/8/4/6/58466593/friends_of_nachusa_grasslands_donation_form_2017.pdf) to mail in with your check. Contributions from new donors will be matched by a local foundation, and everyone who donates by the end of the fundraising campaign will receive a beautiful 5X7 photograph of Nachusa’s bison taken by volunteer photographer, Dee Hudson. In addition, new ongoing monthly donors will be sent an 8X10 bison photo.

We hope that you have enjoyed learning about Nachusa’s bison babies, their parents, and our efforts to understand their effect on the landscape. Friends of Nachusa Grasslands appreciates your interest in what’s happening with our herd. If you have any questions, please post them in the comments, and we will do our best to answer them.