

# PRAIRIE SMOKE

**NACHUSA GRASSLANDS  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT FOR 2011  
ISSUE 49, SPRING 2012**

The Nature  
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™



Hello friends,

What a year we had at Nachusa in 2011! Reaching our 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary brought many of us, both new and old friends of the project, together to celebrate all the accomplishments in the preserve's 25-year history.

In this issue:

The start of 2011 had us working on our new addition to the preserve, the 350-acre Ornate Prairie.

The seed harvest set another preserve record, and hopefully another fine prairie restoration will emerge this spring.

Newer volunteers Mark Jordan and Shannon Godby tell us why they work at Nachusa.

Veterans Becky and Hank Hartman give us their secrets in how to oversee established plantings and remnant habitats.

Among the many celebrations this past year, we also note the death of Mary Scott with two remembrances by fellow volunteers, Jenny Mitchell and Jay Stacy.

Twenty-five years in the making, bison will soon become a reality at Nachusa Grasslands. The Illinois Board of Trustees for the Conservancy recently voted in favor of our bison reintroduction plan. We expect to begin work on the infrastructure this year and have hooves on the ground by the fall of 2014. Stay tuned for more details.

We look to 2012 to be yet another high energy effort in working together with scissors and buckets collecting seed, on the fire line, walking fields looking for weeds, and educating children. Thank you for your continued support and we hope you have a chance to enjoy Nachusa this year.

Cheers!

Bill and  
Cody



# Ornate Prairie: A Year In Review

By Bill Kleiman

A little over a year ago, The Nature Conservancy purchased the 350-acre Orland tract which is located two miles north of the preserve headquarters. After closing on the 350-acre Orland tract, we started calling it Ornate Prairie for the Ornate box turtles we were seeing wandering the prairie and savannas there.

The Nature Conservancy wisely funds an extra amount of stewardship for the first year of ownership, and we also had some remaining funds from a State Wildlife Incentive Grant. We made the best use of these resources by keeping our seasonal crew through the winter to start a year of enormous restoration stewardship. We cut in over five miles of fire breaks through heavily brushed-in fence lines. This took chainsaws, a Bobcat skid loader with various implements, a lot of elbow grease, and a fair amount of stump herbicide. We worked through two winters. All this effort enabled us to implement prescribed fire on all but 20 acres in the first year alone!

We contracted a heavy-duty brush mower to flatten over 20 acres of invasive autumn olive brush and then seeded the area with two grain wagon loads of combine



This beautiful turtle, now threatened in Illinois, will appreciate the restoration work being done on the new tract. Photo by Heather Marshall.



Streamside panorama, one of many scenic vistas at the Ornate Prairie. Photo by Kirk Hallowell.

harvested seed. We hired a logger to harvest two acres of scrawny pines for pulp that were located on an old interior fencerow. Thousands of honey locust trees that were gaining momentum



Removing decades of trash is the first step in the healing process.

in the prairie pastures were treated with herbicide. In the savannas, we opened up the mid-level canopy by treating weedy species with basal bark herbicide across over 60 acres. This will rescue the light starved oaks and hickories

and will restart their regeneration. An old, dilapidated building was torn down, and several wagons of refuse were hauled to the recycling plant. A



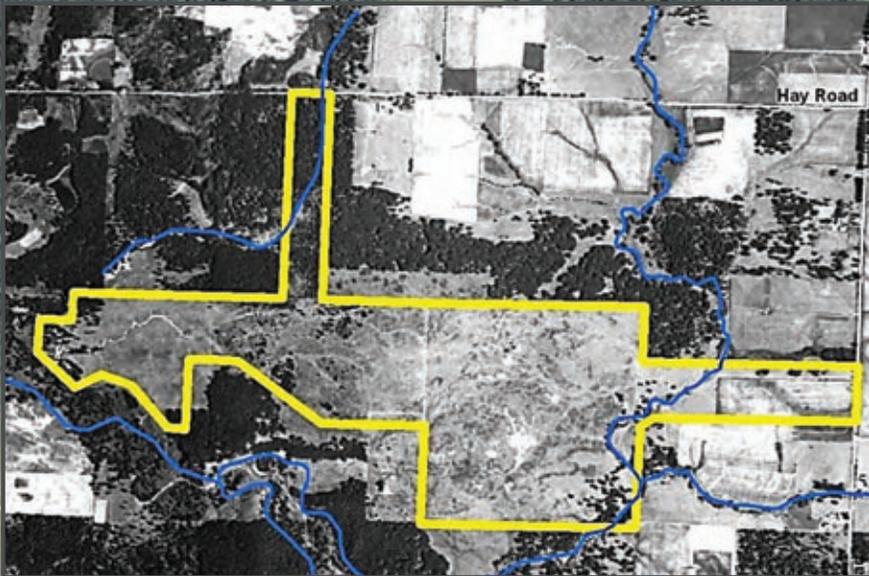
Mike Carr was the first to adopt a unit at the Ornate Prairie. He has already removed thousands of invasive shrubs in the prairie and oak woodlands.

few miles of interior fence were removed. A 20-acre field of cool season grass was put back to row crops that had been cattle pasture (we will plant it to high diversity prairie later). Call us crazy, but laggards we are not.

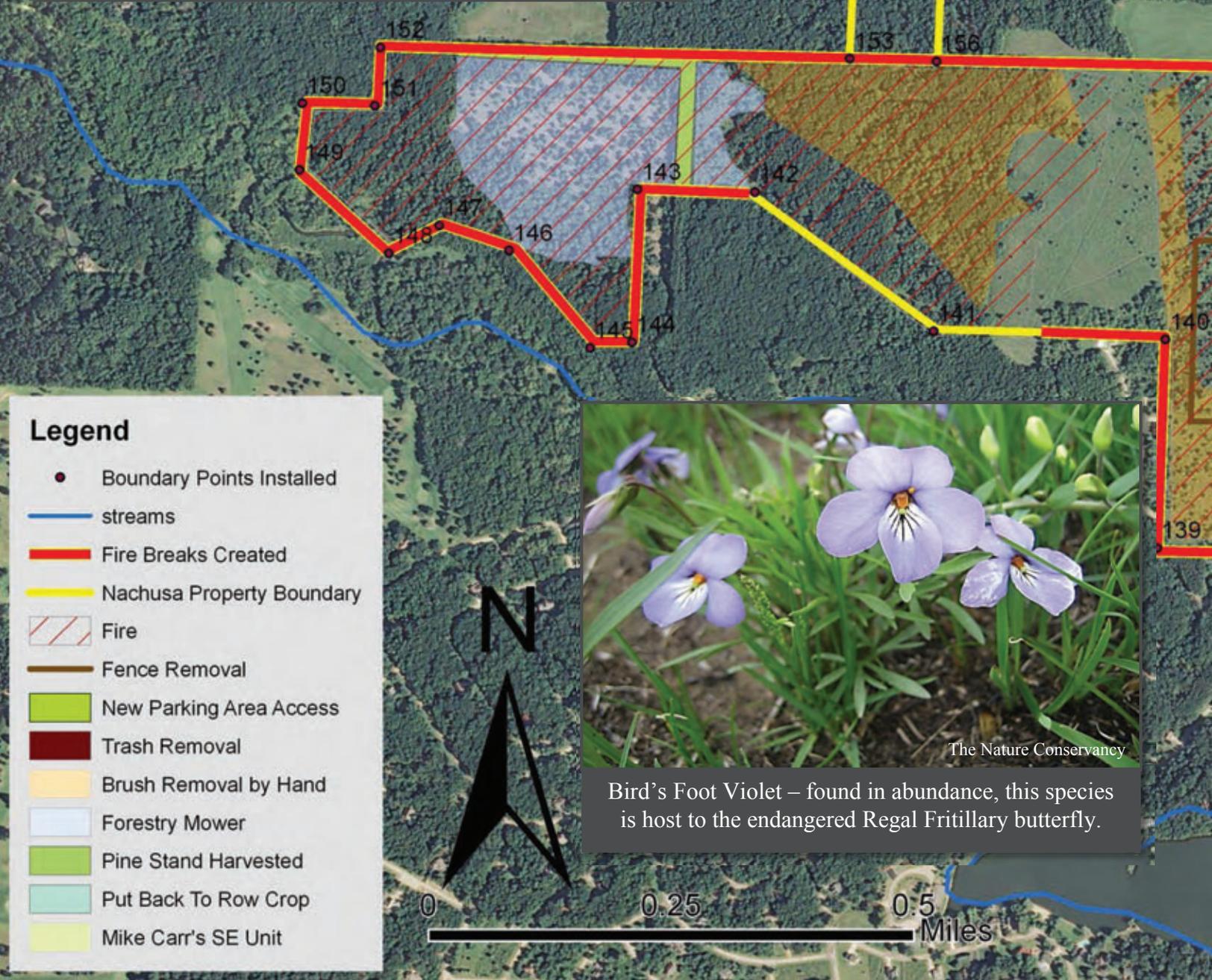


The first pass in the removal of a 25-acre solid wall of Autumn Olive, a pestiferous exotic shrub.

# ORNATE PRAIRIE THE FIRST YEAR OF STEWARDSHIP



Aerial photograph of Ornate Prairie in 1939. Note the openness compared to present day encroachment of exotic and native adventive woody species.



## Legend

- Boundary Points Installed
- streams
- Fire Breaks Created
- Nachusa Property Boundary
- ▨ Fire
- Fence Removal
- ▨ New Parking Area Access
- ▨ Trash Removal
- ▨ Brush Removal by Hand
- ▨ Forestry Mower
- ▨ Pine Stand Harvested
- ▨ Put Back To Row Crop
- ▨ Mike Carr's SE Unit



The Nature Conservancy

Bird's Foot Violet – found in abundance, this species is host to the endangered Regal Fritillary butterfly.



The Nature Conservancy

Bobolink framed in White Wild Indigo blossoms.



Heather Marshall

Delicate stiff sandworts grace the upland hills at Ornate Prairie.



The Nature Conservancy

First day after closing – Staff and volunteers take time out from cutting fire breaks to celebrate the new purchase.

# Volunteers Getting the Job Done

By Bill Kleiman

I live next to the preserve headquarters, and I see people come and go at odd hours. Many times I am up at 6am sipping my first hot cup of Joe and watch Al Meier cruise down the stewardship lane to start his day of volunteer work. I thought I was an early riser, but Al had awoken in the dark in faraway Bloomington, Illinois, hopped in his hybrid car, and drove two hours to Nachusa. He gets here, makes a pot of coffee, drinks a big mug of it, loads his tools into a utility vehicle, and is off to work for the day on his unit.

Or there is Mary Vieregg, arriving from Wheaton for the day to load weed-killing tools and a seed-collecting bucket and scissors. She will head out to her unit, slowly walking back and forth across the acreage looking for invasive plants to remove. Then she will look at her seed-picking list and start the pleasant search for abundant patches of her favored prairie plants. Perhaps cream indigo, blue eyed grass (actually an iris), or birds foot violet. Her husband, Jim, may well be along.

People volunteer at Nachusa because we give them important tasks to do, rare habitats to care for, and entire fields to plant to high diversity prairie. We give them the tools, training and mentoring they need to get the job done. In fact, the experienced volunteers often are the mentors for the new. People volunteer once a month or several times a week.

An estimate of all the hours of the regular cadre of volunteers adds up to at least six full time staff. And there are other volunteers that we see on a sporadic basis. Nachusa has two full-time staff, Bill and Cody, and a large seasonal crew of college-aged workers. But it is the community of volunteers that makes the project shine.



The Nature Conservancy

Al at work in the early morning, collecting seed for one of his stellar prairie plantings.



Volunteers are the heart of Nachusa, providing a helping hand in every process of managing the preserve.  
Photo by Wes Gibson.

# On Legacy and Stewardship

By Shannon Godby

Most people understand that the land does not truly belong to anyone person. When we are gone, others take our place, and properties change hands; time marches on while the land perseveres. Here at Nachusa Grasslands, however, ownership takes on a whole different persona. Sure, The Nature Conservancy holds the legal rights to the property, oversees the distribution of funds, and provides educated staff to manage the land the best they know how. It is no secret, however, that volunteers and stewards are the heart of any organization, and Nachusa Grasslands is no different.

Being new to the inner workings of the Grasslands, I originally had no idea what it meant to be a “unit steward.” The concept, it turns out, is fairly simple, a quietly genius way to leave a legacy of restoration and appreciation. This is where we revisit the idea of “ownership.”

Volunteers and stewards hardly “own” pieces of the Grasslands, but when a person comes here, gets their hands in the dirt, struggles against invasives, and nurtures rare and valuable plants, they become both physically and emotionally invested in the success or failure of a unit. In this way, accountability has been created, a sense of solemn responsibility and, hopefully desire to see something amazing come forth from their efforts. An intimacy with the land is born, and I believe the better you know something, the more you are able to love it and care for it. The land may not truly belong to any one person, but legacy can.



The Nature Conservancy

Illinois Trustee Wendy Paulson speaks about the importance of the volunteer stewards to the Conservancy’s Chief Operating Officer Brian McPeck during a tour of Nachusa Grasslands in 2011.

# Overseeding Big Woods

By Hank and Becky Hartman

In 2001 Big Woods had 22 acres of dense brome with no significant forb/grass population in the brome other than *Panicum* sp, *Asclepias verticillata*, *Sisyrinchium albidum*, *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Andropogon gerardii*, *Andropogon scandens*, and *Antennaria plantaginifolia*. These populations were small and widely dispersed. From 2002 to 2010 we overseeded the brome with a mixture of 1,160 pounds of bulk native seed containing about 250 species. As of December 2011 we have identified over 200 species in the brome fields.

Our opinions about overseeding into brome: It is best to overseed in the fall after a burn. There is a decreased seed germination rate when seeding into dense grass if the grass has not been burned. If the brome is to be burned in the spring rather than the fall, overseed in the fall so that the seed winters over. Overseeding into brome CAN be successful. Be patient.

You can herbicide brome with Poast after it greens up, but before the natives do, thus diminishing the competition for your seeds. Be sure that the panicums are not green or you will lose them. If you spray the brome, overseed the sprayed area or you might get nothing but trash replacing the brome.

Having legumes in your seed mixture helps prepare the soil for forbs. Clonal species such as *Antennaria* sp, *Aster ericoides*, *Coreopsis palmata*, *Solidago missouriensis*, *Helianthus occidentalis*, *Pedicularis canadensis*, and *Aristida purpurascens* will also push out the brome. *Pedicularis canadensis* is hemiparasitic on grasses and will diminish them. Overseed areas containing *Pedicularis canadensis* so that there will be prairie plants in place when the grass is decreased.

The before photo below taken August 13, 2002, looks west from a point southeast of Point 18. The trees in the background were cleared by a forestry mower in 2004. The dense brome in the foreground was overseeded several times in the following years.



The after photo above taken August 12, 2011, is from the same spot. Trees in the background of this photo are 100 yards west of the trees in the before photo. Native plants in the foreground have replaced the brome in the top photo.

Brome can be defeated, just be patient.

# Nachusa Grasslands 2011 Prairie Harvest and Planting Summary

By Cody Considine

We made history this past season, hauling in Nachusa's greatest seed harvest ever. The crew harvested 3,746.7 lbs. and the volunteers harvested 1,132 lbs., combined for a grand total of 4,878 lbs. that contained over 230 species which were all collected by hand with scissors or snips and five gallon pails. In addition, our combine brought in over 9,000 lbs. of seed.

## Crew Planting #103

Over 3,500 of drain tile was removed from the new planting #103 after the corn was harvested and prior to planting the prairie seed. We also created a couple of shallow scrapes to emulate small potholes. With the removal of the drain tile, the hydrology will be restored over time.

The crew planted 50 new acres containing 226 species. Three mixes (dry, dry mesic and wet) were calculated based on the current and expected habitat conditions. The dry mesic area was planted at 62lbs/acre, the wet area at 98lbs/acre, and the dry hill at 100lbs/acre (see map).

The proportion of species within a new planting mix is something we try to improve with each consecutive planting. Our goal for each new prairie restoration is

that it is floristically similar to remnant prairies in that it fools insects and animals along with botanists and scientists into thinking that it has never felt the cold steel of a plow.

## Crew Overseeding

We had enough hand-collected seed to overseed 80 acres in recently established plantings. We also overseeded several hundred acres of the preserve with combine seed. Several thousand pounds were also donated to local partners.



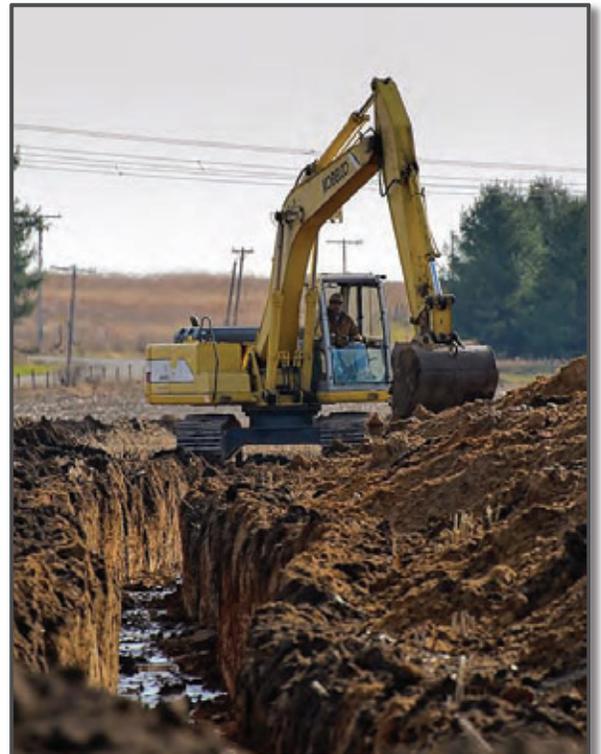
The Nature Conservancy

“Never have I encountered the richness, fecundity and floristic quality that is evident in the merely 3-year-old effort that you showed me just north of Bennett woods. A quick but stunning sample at your restoration showed a Mean C. value in the middle 5's and an Index higher than 20! These numbers approximate those in aboriginal remanants.” – Dr. Gerould Wilhelm



Heather Marshall, Elizabeth Jordan and Matt Gonnerman pose with their 3,016 lb. dry mesic mix seed pile for the new Holland Planting.

Photo by Heather Marshall.



The removal of drain tile will restore the hydrology in this new prairie planting.

Photo by Wes Gibson.

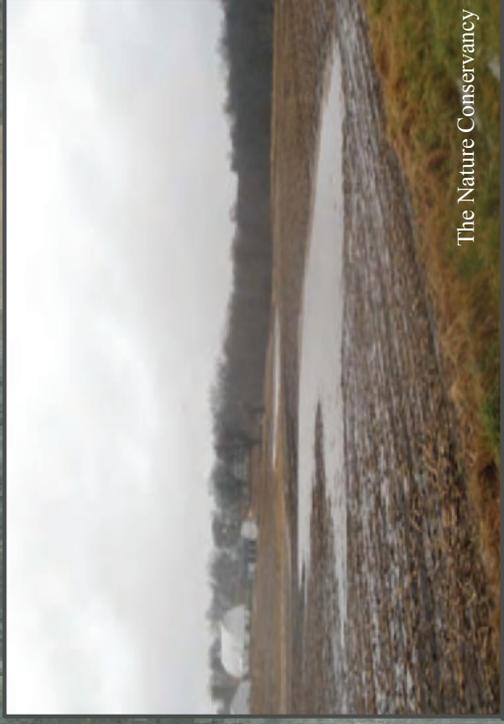
# Dewitt Holland Planting 2011 - 50 Acres

- Legend**
-  Planting #102 2010
  -  Doug Jr.
  -  Planting # 103 2011
  -  Dry Mesic
  -  Wet
  -  Dry Hill
  -  Exp. Harrow Strips
  -  Dropseed Garden
  -  Exp. Rye Strips



The Nature Conservancy

All of our four seeders in tandem planting the new 50 acre Holland Planting.



The Nature Conservancy

The two new potholes created in the new Holland Planting are already filling with water.

Lowden Rd.

0 320 640 1,280 Feet

Stone Barn Rd.



## Coming Home

By Mark Jordan

Forty years ago I spent time exploring an area that my friends and I, for reasons I cannot recall, called "Feitchels." It was here we hiked the limestone cliffs, camped, and played War Games. It was here I saw my first Whippoorwill, rested eye-to-eye with a red fox, and walked with my future wife. This was a special place of my youth. Then a teaching career took us to the wilderness of Alaska and to the Grand Canyon. We had encounters with Grizzly Bears, endured 50 below temperatures, watched the northern lights over Mount McKinley and hiked the layers exposed by the Colorado River. Yet, I would often recall my time at "Feitchels." After three decades I have retired and we have returned to Illinois.

In Alaska I knew of Nachusa Grasslands and was aware of the importance of restoring and preserving parts of the native landscape of Illinois. On trips back to Illinois, I would often find time to hike the grasslands. After moving back this summer, I made my way to Nachusa and learned more of the mission and the growth of the preserve. I also learned that the area I explored many years ago is now part of Nachusa Grasslands and is known as the Tellabs Unit. I was excited to revisit this area and to learn that it is now protected.

Tellabs is largely a forested area that has many oaks and hickories. A number of limestone outcroppings and open areas are also found. Sections were replanted with native prairie species last year. But there are also areas where invasive species such as honeysuckle and multi-flora rose dominate. Areas I recalled as being open are now overgrown.



Mark Jordan

In the fall of 2011 I agreed to become the steward of the Tellabs East Unit. I am looking forward to the challenge. With this place I share a history and a kinship and

want to work toward restoring the integrity of the woodlands and savannas. In the short-term I want to become familiar with the flora and fauna and begin the process of removing the species that do not belong.

I also look forward to continue working with and learning from the other stewards and volunteers who have dedicated themselves to the restoration of Nachusa. I have been impressed with their commitment and knowledge and their willingness to help someone more familiar with the tundra than the prairie. They are unsung heroes who work on beautiful days and in extreme conditions, sometimes on knees or bellies, to collect and plant seeds or to remove weeds. They are making a difference in Northern Illinois. I encourage others to put on some gloves and lend a hand.

In Alaska I was blessed to view the battles of bull moose, to hear the howling of a wolf pack, and to taste the sweetness of blueberries in the fall. Recently, I have seen the bounding of white-tailed deer, heard the hammering of the Red-headed Woodpecker, and enjoyed the juice of raspberries. It is good to be in Tellabs. It is good to be back home.



Cindy Schmadeke



The Nature Conservancy

## Mary Scott 1921-2011

There is hardly an acre of ground at Nachusa that doesn't bear the stamp of Mary Scott's footprints; so we've found it best to let the memories and the tears wash over us as they will. In the era of celebrity imbeciles and reality TV nitwits, here was a lady who soberly embraced a noble new avocation at the age of 80, then took off on an incredible seven year prairie restoration run, the likes of which we might never see. Mary worked four shifts a week, 8:30 a.m. to noon, year round, two mornings with Tom and Jenny Mitchell, two with me. She'd arise before dawn in her Mt. Morris mansion to brew her special toddy coffee and arrange the array of delicacies that made famous her 10:00 a.m. "coffee break buffet", which she'd spread out on the lowered tail-gate of a pick-up truck; she herself would fast from midnight to noon on workdays so as not to disrupt the rhythm of work with any trips to the bathroom! She could



perform almost any task: picking seeds of violets and wood-sorrel on her hands and knees in the newly burned grass of the spring prairie, yanking sweet clovers,



November 2006 - Mary walks the corn stubble, putting the final touches on a new planting with rare wind-borne seeds.

piling sawn branches to stoke our fires on frigid winter mornings; the bur oak acorns she gathered and dug in with her planting bar are still sprouting. After stabbing out 40 or 50 parsnips with her shovel, she'd look up with a wry smile, eminently pleased that she could keep pace with the best of us. Indomitable and cantankerous, gritty, yet filled with tender wisdom – she once gathered together a group of mid-level state and federal land

managers on a workshop tour and told them that the solution to their problem was "elbow grease"!! She darned our jackets when they tore, put band-aids on our scratches, and wiped our noses when we suffered disappointment – then sent us back into the fray. I can see her breath on a cold clear late October morning, and hear her voice: "Jay, did you come out here to smoke or to work? Let's load up and get this show on the road. These seeds won't pick themselves." For a splendid moment in time we were driven in our labors by a diminutive 87-year-old woman; and we were humbled and happy in our traces. – Jay Stacy

*Mary contributed so much to Nachusa Grasslands, in work, camaraderie, and with her chuck wagon bag. It's good to know she died as she lived: engaged, passionate, and gracious to the end. Peace to you, Mary. - Jenny Mitchell*



*This poem was one of her favorites:*  
"I look in the mirror and what do I see?  
I see an old lady who used to be me.  
I see a lined face tatted like lace  
A hint of surprise in once-intense eyes.  
The cheekbones prevail and hold up the skin  
Inclined at this age to lean toward the chin.  
I toss my head back as if to retread  
The path that has led to this worn-out head.  
The body I know can be covered with cloth  
But the face can't conceal all that life wrought.

I turn from the mirror,  
my step is still spry  
Is there still more to me than meets with the eye?"  
-Frances Ring



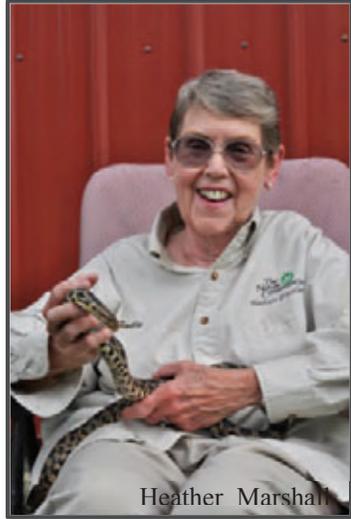
Bill with Mary on her last day at Nachusa.

## More Than Collecting Seed

By Sally Baumgardner

When we call it “seed collecting,” we really are cutting/collecting the dry seed heads of native plants we want to encourage to grow.

For me and for most of the volunteer stewards, this is just plain, downright, out and out, enjoyable FUN! We’re outdoors in fair weather, it’s easy exercise, we hear birds singing, and we continue to learn to identify more plants as we work.



So that’s the science – let’s look at the FUN. While in the field, we are more likely to meet or see our wild neighbors. Footprints in the sandy two-tracks reveal many travels of beetles (tiny) and other common animals all the way up to badger or deer (large).

It may sound odd, but we can get closer to an animal while in or on a vehicle. I get around in a golf cart, carrying my tools, on a mowed path. My most recent best sighting was that of a gorgeous mink, in its winter coat, on a hot August afternoon. It halted and froze in position. So did I. Beautiful!

It isn’t unusual to come across an Ornate Box Turtle, living on dry sand. Sure, we stop and get a good look, then make a note of its location to report to the turtle survey.

Coming across a tiny (3” tall), pure white orchid among plants 5 feet tall or more was an astounding find and worth a loud call to friends, “I found an orchid! Lorraine! Bring the camera!” Good idea to stash a camera safely in a deep pocket for such findings.

Another Best Encounter was the “B-52 sized” bumblebee that slowly floated toward the brilliant blue gentians near our feet. In order to produce seeds, the gentian’s flowers need a pollinator. The prime interest of the bee was nectar, and the insect had to enter the (apparently) closed flower to reach its reward. We watched in amazement as the bee used its front legs to pry open the top of the flower, then enter head first, and completely disappear inside. The camera was documenting all this, and the bee was out of sight for almost a full minute. We watched silently as the bee struggled to pull itself out of the flower top, its fuzzy body coated with pale yellowish pollen.

And then there was the Dad with the fifth-graders from Rochelle. Standing near the top of a round prairie hill, he called out: “Hey, what’s this dragon-looking thing?” How would you respond to that?

Of course, we dropped everything and ran up the hill. It was an easy-to-identify 7- to 8-inch long Eastern Tiger salamander. They are rather dragon-looking. And that’s another part of the fun.



# Strong Support for Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

By Bernie Buchholz, President Friends of Nachusa Grasslands

Since 1986, hundreds of Nachusa volunteers have invested thousands of hours and considerable treasure protecting remnants and planting prairie. Acting for the long-term protection of these amazing achievements since 2008, the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands is receiving strong support from both volunteers and donors.



## Stewardship Endowment Growing

Funding the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment is a top priority for Friends. The Endowment will eventually provide part of the annual financial support for Nachusa operations, thereby reducing the fundraising burden on The Nature Conservancy, which manages the Endowment. Members and supporters have already generously donated about \$70,000 to the Endowment, an outstanding start by any measure. And, in a remarkable show of trust in our mission, several families and individuals have included the Friends in their estate plans. We expect the endowment to reach the important \$100,000 threshold during 2012 – a major step on the way to our long-term goal of \$3 million.

## Scientific Research Awards Increased

Friends has now awarded two rounds of grants for scientific research to be conducted at Nachusa. Project outcomes will provide practical answers to restoration challenges and further establish Nachusa as a national center for prairie science. Two \$500 grants were given for the 2011 program. After adjusting the timing of the application and award process to better match the needs of researchers, members voted to increase the available grant pool and then awarded \$2,000 in early 2012. See the Friends' website for additional information.

## Celebrating Success with Friends

In recognition of Nachusa's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Friends sponsored a talk, hike and lunch in June 2011, led by the premier prairie advocate and restorationist, Stephen Packard. Stephen, who worked for TNC when Nachusa Grasslands was established, charmed the large crowd with stories of the project's founding and praised all that has been accomplished. We also recognized some of the hundreds of people who have given so much to Nachusa Grasslands over the years. Guests who had not visited recently were astounded and proud of how the project has flourished since its founding. Newer volunteers met and visited with the many dedicated stewards who preceded them in their restoration efforts.



Friends celebrated again at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Prairie Potluck in late June. Almost 100 folks enjoyed food, music, and prairie tours in what is becoming a favorite event of many Nachusa friends and family members. Plan now to attend the 2012 Potluck on June 23.

In the fall of 2011, Friends published its first annual report, featuring beautiful seasonal photos and inspiring narratives of our year at Nachusa Grasslands. To request a copy, contact us or download one from the Friends' web page.

## Participation Developing

The Friends of Nachusa Grasslands welcomes new members and supporters throughout the year. There is much to do, whether on the prairie or in keeping the organization moving forward. Let us know your interests, and we'll find a place for you. Join the Friends!

Website: [www.NachusaGrasslands.org](http://www.NachusaGrasslands.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Friends-of-Nachusa-Grasslands/122691964432289](http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Friends-of-Nachusa-Grasslands/122691964432289)

E-mail: [NachusaGrasslands@gmail.com](mailto:NachusaGrasslands@gmail.com)

Phone: 708-406-9894

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Prairie Potluck: June 23, 2012

Annual Meeting: July 21, 2012

## Stewards of Nachusa Grasslands

### Nature Conservancy Staff

Leslee Spraggins, State Director  
Bill Kleiman, Project Director  
Cody Considine, Restoration Ecologist

### Big Woods

Hank and Becky Hartman  
Co-Stewards: NIU's Committee for the Preservation  
of Wildlife

### Crosby Prairie

Shannon and Steve Godby

### Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

Al & Mary Meier

### Dropseed Hills

Mary & Jim Vieregg

### Eight Oaks Savanna

Jan Grainger

### The Fen

Kevin Kaltenbach

### Gobbler Ridge at Clear Creek Knolls

Bernie & Cindy Buchholz

Jay Stacy

Keith Anderson

### Gobbler Bottoms at Clear Creek Knolls

Dave Crites

John Heneghan

### Hamill-Winter Prairie

Mike Adolph

Co-Stewards: Bob Shone, Bob Brown

### Edith and Anna Heinkel Savanna

East Unit

Mike Crowe

West Unit

Jay Stacy

### Ornate Prairie

SE Unit

Mike Carr

### Rolling Thunder Prairie

Sally Baumgardner

Co-Stewards: George Bouska, Lorraine Gawlik, Max  
Baumgardner

### Prairie Smoke

Annual Stewardship Report for 2011

Issue 49, 2012

Cover photo: Dot's Knob by Kirk Hallowell  
Special thanks to Shannon Godby and Mary Meier  
Editor: Cody Considine

### Schafer Prairie

Jim Hodder

### Tellabs Savanna

East Unit      West Unit  
Mark Jordan      Keith Anderson

### Thelma Carpenter Prairie

Tom & Jenny Mitchell

### Kitten Tail Unit

West Chicago Prairie Stewards

### Harold Walkup Prairie

Daniel Thompson

### Other Stewards

Damian Considine, Ron Cress, Ray Derksen, David  
Edelbach, Karen Newman, Timothy Sherck, Kirk  
Hallowell

Science Stewards: *inquire for more details*

Open Grassland Bird Monitor: Ann Haverstock

Savanna Bird Monitor: Karen Lund

Herbarium Steward: Dwight Heckert

Butterfly Monitor: Marna Towne

Prairie Bush Clover Monitor: Open

Photo Monitors: Charles & Emmy Lou Larry

Education Coordinator: Ron Cress

Publicist/Liaison/Presenters: Open

### Youth Stewards

Mike Adolph, Sally Baumgardner, George Bouska,  
Bob Brown, Ron Cress, Lorraine Gawlik, Susan  
Kleiman, Bob Piros, John & Cindy Schmadeke

### 2011 Restoration Technicians and Interns

Heather Baker,  
Mike Saxton, Kim  
Schmidt, Caleb  
Robbins, Joel  
Hogle, Joe Fassig,  
Lovonne Brown,  
Mark Kruijs, Paul  
Bane, Matt  
Gonnerman,  
Elizabeth Jordan,  
Shannon Godby, Jill  
Fejszes, Pat Chess,  
Tyler Kerr, and  
Bryon Walters.



# Calendar of Workdays and Special Events 2012-2013

## March – Brush and Fire Season

- 3 Big Woods &  
Annual Fire Refresher for Nachusa Crew 9:00 a.m.
- 10 Bennett Savanna
- 17 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 24 Fame Flower Knob
- 31 Tellabs Savanna – West Unit

## April – Brush and Fire Season

- 7 Hamill-Winter Prairie
- 14 Harold Walkup Prairie
- 21 Big Woods
- 28 Tellabs Savanna – East Unit

## May – Weed Season

- 5 The Fen
- 12 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 19 Crosby & Schafer Prairie
- 26 Big Woods

## June – Weed and Seed Season

- 2 Fame Flower Knob
- 9 Tellabs Savanna – East Unit
- 16 West Heinkel Savanna
- 23 Tellabs West Unit  
4<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends Prairie Potluck
- 30 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

## July – Weed and Seed Season

- 7 The Fen
- 14 Big Woods
- 21 Fame Flower Knob  
Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Annual Meeting
- 28 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

## August – Seed Season

- 4 Tellabs West Unit
- 11 West Heinkel Savanna
- 18 Rolling Thunder Prairie
- 25 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

## September – Seed Season

- 1 Fame Flower Knob
- 8 Big Woods
- 15 **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autumn on The Prairie Celebration**  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wild walks, different expert  
leaders, hikes leaving every 20 minutes all day,  
children's tent, food, and music
- 22 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 29 West Heinkel

## October – Seed Season

- 6 Big Woods
- 13 Fame Flower Knob
- 19 Nachusa Science Symposium
- 20 Hamill-Winter Prairie
- 27 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie

## November – Brush, Planting, and Fire Season

- 3 Fame Flower Knob  
12 P.M 2012 Seed Harvest Celebration Potluck  
2 P.M Preserve Tour by Bill Kleiman
- 10 Ornate Prairie
- 17 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie
- 24 Gobbler Bottoms

## December – Brush and Planting Season

- 1 East Heinkel Savanna
- 8 The Fen
- 15 Big Woods
- 22 Tellabs Savanna – East Unit
- 29 Gobbler Bottoms

## January 2013 – Brush Season

- 5 Ornate Prairie
- 12 Tellabs Savanna – West Unit
- 19 Tellabs Savanna – East Unit
- 26 Gobbler Bottoms

## February 2013 – Brush Season

- 2 East Heinkel Savanna  
Annual Nachusa Planning Meeting
- 9 Ornate Prairie
- 16 Kitten Tail Unit
- 23 Gobbler Bottoms

## March 2013 – Brush and Fire Season

- 2 Dot & Doug Wade Prairie &  
Annual Fire Refresher for Nachusa Crew
- 9 Ornate Prairie
- 23 Big Woods
- 30 Fame Flower Knob



Photo by Kirk Hollowell

September 15, 2012  
23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Autumn on the Prairie Celebration

# The Nature Conservancy

Nachusa Grasslands Preserve  
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Franklin Grove, IL 61031  
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[www.nature.org/illinois](http://www.nature.org/illinois)

# The Nature Conservancy



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