

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes July 25, 2015

Friends Present: Mike Adolph, Lisa Ayres, Bernie Buchholz, Cindy Buchholz, Mike Carr, Jeff Cologna, David Crites, Cindy Crosby, John Heneghan, Betty Higby, Nancy Hotchkiss, Dee Hudson, Laurie Faller, Bill Kleiman, Kathy Lawrence, Kent Lawrence, Tricia Lowery, Al Meier, Mary Meier, Mike Saxton, Carol Soderholm, Paul Soderholm, Emmylou Studier, Daniel Thompson, and Mary Vieregg

Researchers Present: Tom Anton, Elizabeth Bach, Nick Barber (and his son, Brendan), Julia Brockman, Bethanne Bruninga-Socular, Angela Burke, Heather Herakovich, Dave Mauger, Sarah Smith, Pati Vitt, and Mark Wetzell

Opening: President Bernie Buchholz called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and asked everyone present to introduce themselves and give a brief description of their roles with Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (Friends).

Bernie gave a brief history and overview of Friends, nonprofit, tax-exempt entity created in 2008 by Nachusa Grasslands volunteers dedicated to supporting Nachusa Grasslands. We are not affiliated with The Nature Conservancy. Our mission is to fund endowments; conduct and encourage stewardship; and support education and scientific activity at Nachusa Grasslands. In perpetuity, annual proceeds from the endowments will help defray the cost of the operations at the preserve, regardless of who owns the property.

Bernie also explained that the Friends Bylaws establish that we are a strong Board-led organization. The voting members elect the Board of Directors, and then the Board makes all the decisions affecting the group by a majority vote after listening to the views expressed by the members.

Quorum: A quorum (10% of the 39 voting members) was established.

Minutes: The minutes from the July 19, 2014, Annual Meeting were approved.

Board of Directors Election: The membership unanimously elected Kirk Hallowell and John Heneghan to two-year terms.

Mike Carr is continuing to serve the two-year term to which he was elected last year.

Mike Adolph has retired as a Director after serving for six years – thank you Mike.

Election of Officers by Board of Directors: The Board elected the following officers – President: Bernie Buchholz; Vice President: Mike Saxton; Vice President: Nancy Hotchkiss; Cindy Crosby: Vice President; Treasurer: David Crites; and Secretary: Mary Meier – for one-year terms.

Administrative Items: The following topics were discussed, although not all in the order presented below. A few sections include follow-up notes as well.

Friends Volunteer Opportunities: A handout listing the following needs was distributed. Names of those who have volunteered are listed in italics as well – more are welcome.

- **Develop and manage a new mobile-friendly Friends website** (Our current website, www.nachusagrasslands.org, does not display properly on smart phones or tablets.):
Dee Hudson, Mary Meier, Jeff Cologna, and Charles Larry.
Thank you to Hank Hartman who has served as our webmaster for many years.
- **Coordinate Prairie Potluck event** (Update electronic and print invitations; print and mail hard copies; record RSVPs; organize and oversee volunteers for set-up and take down; schedule hikes and leaders; record lessons learned.):
Laurie Faller, Cindy Buchholz, and Susan Kleiman
- **Assist VP Development** (Contact potential donors; submit grant applications.):
Betty Higby
Also, Betty has been sending out the new donor appreciation gifts for the past year and plans to continue to do so – thank you, Betty.
- **Operate CRP program** (Submit required forms to FSA; direct stewardship, primarily herbicide application; maintain spreadsheet; make new applications when permitted.):
Mike Carr
- **Update Friends of Nachusa Grasslands GuideStar profile** (<http://www2.guidestar.org/organizations/26-3303031/friends-nachusa-grasslands.aspx>):
Kathy Lawrence
Note that all Friends supporters can submit reviews of Friends on the GuideStar site in order to enhance the stature of the group and perhaps increase donations.
- **Research and update additional non-profit evaluation websites** (Set up profiles and contribute reviews.):
Kathy Lawrence
- **Respond to public inquiries made to Friends' emails and telephone calls** (Provide answers to questions that relate to Friends' mission. Currently all requests for tours and presentations are referred to Bill Kleiman.):
Kathy Lawrence
- **Science Research Grants Committee** (Read applications on one's own timetable after the November 30 deadline and meet sometime during the first half of December to help select recipients and determine grant amounts, based on the current budget.):
Mary Vieregg, John Heneghan, and Mike Saxton – current
Daniel Thompson, Mike Carr, and Jeff Cologna – new
Bill Kleiman and Cody Considine – non-voting consultants
We need at least one more voting member to have an odd number.
Thank you to Sally Baumgardner and Bob Shone who served on the committee in previous years.

- **Annual Report Committee:**
Cindy Crosby and Mike Saxton

Mike reported that our 2014-2015 Friends Annual Report theme is “Simple Pleasures.” He has asked stewards, volunteers, staff, researchers, and donors to share a moment, view, species, task, sound, insight, friend, or experience at Nachusa that gives them pleasure – something that brings a smile to their faces or a lift to their spirits. Our talented photographers and artists will capture or illustrate the various article themes. Mike has been collecting submissions and has received seven items so far – a few more are needed, so let him know if you’d like to participate.

Cindy will serve as the Annual Report editor and will request assistance as needed.

- **Photo Corps**
Kirk Hallowell Charles Larry, Dee Hudson, and several other photographers

Also, Charles Larry administers the “Photography at Nachusa Grasslands” Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/356617574475489>).

- **Online Donor Management System Investigation Committee:**
Mike Saxton, Paul Soderholm, and Mary Meier
Thank you to David Crites for previous research into various options.

Endowments

Friends has two Endowments, both with permanent principal. We cannot withdraw any of the funds (other than annual distributions) or transfer the balances to other Endowment managers, regardless of the wishes of our Board of Directors or other members.

As of June 30, 2015, total endowed funds are \$684,699. Annual distributions benefit Nachusa Grasslands – our goal is to raise a total of \$3,000,000.

Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment: The purpose of the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment (TNC Endowment) is to support the conservation and preservation of the native plants, animals, and natural communities at Nachusa Grasslands by providing funds for long-time stewardship. Our goal is to protect the preserve in perpetuity with annual proceeds from the Endowment principal. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) invests and manages the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment in accordance with their policies and practices.

The balance in the TNC Endowment was \$500,291 as of June 30, 2015, an increase of \$144,424 over 2013-2014. Donor support during the 2014-2015 fiscal year was \$122,500, including \$105,000 from Friends. Investment income was \$ 25,261. Investment interest transfers out were \$3,036.00 for Nachusa Stewardship (money included in the Nachusa budget) and \$300.00 for the TNC fund, which supports the investments and other corporate administration.

Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands: The Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands (CFNIL Endowment), owned and managed by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL), was established in June 2014. A new temporary Nachusa Grasslands – Carroll Starr Endowment (CFNIL-Carroll Starr Endowment) was set up in October 2014 to hold funds designated for the Carroll H. Starr Endowment Challenge.

CFNIL Carroll H. Starr Endowment Challenge: Last fall, Friends was selected to participate in a Carroll Starr Endowment Challenge. We will have three years to raise \$150,000 to earn a \$50,000 match. According to the challenge agreement, the first \$50,000 of the \$150,000 that we will raise can come from our 2014-2015 CRP earnings, and the rest must be donations from supporters. Once we receive the \$50,000 match, the CFNIL-Carroll Starr Endowment will be merged into the CFNIL Endowment.

As of June 30, 2015, the balance in both CFNIL Endowments was \$184,038, an increase of \$73,916 from July 1, 2014. This amount reflects 2014-2015 gifts of \$20,200.00 from Friends supporters, either via Friends or directly to CFNIL, and \$50,000 in CRP income contributed to the CFNIL-Carroll Starr Endowment.

As directed by the Board, the annual distribution of \$833.44 was donated to TNC for Nachusa stewardship. CFNIL fund administration fees were \$337.

Financial Report – Statement of Operations; Sources and Uses of Funds and 2015-2016 Budget: Treasurer David Crites presented the following income and expenditures report for 2014-2015 as well as a proposed budget for the year ending June 30, 2016.

The majority of the members requested that the Board of Directors amend the proposed budget as follows:

- Increase the gifts to the CFNIL-Carroll Starr Endowment to \$130,000
- Increase the Science Grant awards maximum to \$20,000
- Increase our grants to other organizations to \$1,100.
- Decrease expected donations to the TNC Endowment to \$34,000.

David mentioned that we can now receive income from the AmazonSmile program. Friends of Nachusa Grasslands is a registered charitable organization, so supporters can designate us if desired. Our participation should not be considered a solicitation that Friends do business with Amazon. See <https://smile.amazon.com/about> for details.

David also noted that our PayPal donations have increased substantially. Mary estimates that we received over 100 PayPal payments from about 40 donors, including six supporters who made recurring donations during the year.

The “Development” category includes expenses related to fundraising, donor acknowledgments, publications, and social events, such as the Prairie Potluck and the Annual Meeting supper.

Below is the final budget approved by the Board of Directors:

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Treasurer's Report 2014-2015

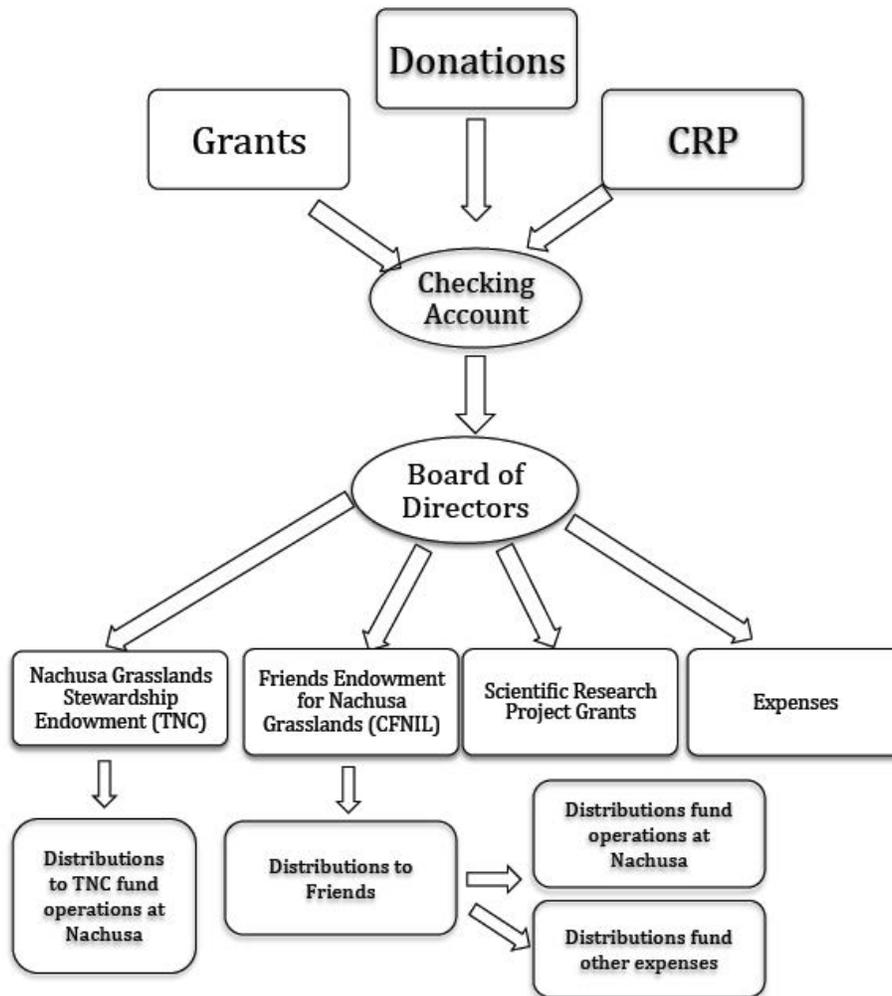
Budget and Actual Results:

	<u>7/1/14-6/30/15</u> Actual	Percent	2014-2015 Budget	Variance	Proposed 2015- 2016 Budget	Percent of Budget
Beginning Balance	18,255.60		18,255.60	0.00	23,378.51	
Revenue						
Cash Donations	146,078.00	74%	125,000.00	21,078.00	150,000.00	75%
CRP Annual Payment	50,000.00	25%	47,345.00	2,655.00	50,000.00	24%
CFNIL Endowment Income	833.44	<1%	0.00	833.44	1,000.00	<1%
Amazon Smile Income	22.70	<1%	0.00	22.70	25.00	<1%
Total Revenue	196,934.14	100%	172,345.00	24,589.14	200,025.00	100%
Disbursements						
In Direct Support of Our Mission Statement						
Gifts to TNC Endowment	105,000.00	55%	95,000.00	10,000.00	35,000.00	17%
CFNIL Nachusa Endowment	62,500.00	33%	47,345.00	15,155.00	130,000.00	64%
Science Grants	15,000.00	8%	15,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	10%
Nachusa Operations via TNC	833.44	<1%	0.00	833.44	1,000.00	<1%
Stewardship	0.00	0%	6,000.00	-6,000.00	5,000.00	2%
Grants to other Organizations	500.00	<1%	650.00	-150.00	1,100.00	<1%
Subtotal	183,833.44	96%	163,995.00	19,838.44	192,100.00	95%
Expenses						
Banking Fees	187.64	<1%	100.00	87.64	250.00	<1%
Government Fees	25.00	<1%	28.00	-3.00	25.00	<1%
Insurance	3,563.23	2%	3,653.00	-89.77	3,800.00	2%
Development	4,201.92	2%	8,000.00	-3,798.08	6,000.00	3%
Subtotal	7,977.79	4%	11,781.00	-3,803.21	10,075.00	5%
Total Disbursements	191,811.23	100%	175,776.00	16,035.23	202,175.00	100%
Ending Cash Balance	23,378.51		14,859.85	8,518.66	21,228.51	

Cash Flow Chart:

To help members and supporters better understand the sources and utilization of Friends income, the flow chart below was distributed and discussed:

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Cash Flow Model



Gifts, CRP, and Endowment Cash Flow Designations:

Bernie recommended and the Board of Directors approved the following rules for handling cash flow for the 2014-2015 fiscal year:

- Donor gift designations are always honored.
Our remitter envelopes will be revised to list the CFNIL Endowment option along with TNC Endowment and Science Research Grant designations.
- All non-designated gifts (minus Science Research grants and expenses) will flow to the Nachusa Grasslands – Carroll Starr Endowment until we reach the \$150,000 amount required for the match.

- All Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) receipts will flow to the Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands managed by the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (see CRP details below).
- Once the Carroll Starr challenge has been reached, all non-designated revenues will flow to the TNC Endowment.

Development:

Donor Households: 194 (Some made several donations throughout the year.)

New Donors: 53

Donor Tiers:

Restoration Benefactors – \$5,000 or more: 10

Conservation Champions – \$1,500 to \$4,999: 12

Supporters – \$1 to \$1,499: 173

Prairie Perennials: 109 (Donors who have given to the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands in consecutive years [July 1 through June 30] at the same or a higher level)

Recurring Donors: 12, through PayPal or employer programs

Annual Solicitation Results:

From November 2014 through February 2015, we received about 150 donations, totaling over \$100,000. Many were in response to our solicitation letter and remitter envelopes included with the Annual Report mailing.

Ways to Support Nachusa Grasslands:

1. A gift to Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
 - Unrestricted gift
 - Designated gift to the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment. This Endowment is held by TNC.
 - Designated gift to the Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands. The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) holds this Endowment for the Friends.
 - Designated gift to the Science Grants program

For details, contact Bernie Buchholz (708-406-9894; nachusagrasslands@gmail.com).

2. A gift directly to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) designated to the Friends Endowment for Nachusa Grasslands. CFNIL holds this Endowment for the Friends. For details, contact Jon Bates (815-962-2110; jbates@cfnil.org) or Bernie
3. A gift to the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
 - Gift to support Nachusa operations: Bill Kleiman (815-456-2340; bkleiman@tnc.org).
 - Designated gift to Nachusa: Diane Gerrish (312-580-2153; dgerrish@tnc.org)

- Undesignated gift to TNC: Diane Gerrish

Types of Gifts

Gifts can include checks, credit card payments, electronic fund transfers, cash, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, IRAs, life insurance policies, conservation easements, and real property.

Both Endowments can accept mutual funds, stocks, and bonds, but these financial instruments cannot be given directly to Friends, because we do not yet have a brokerage account.

All entities may be designated in estate plans and wills. Draft language is available in the Friends 2013-2014 Annual Report.

Heritage Heroes Legacy Project

The Heritage Heroes project was initiated in early 2015 to encourage planned giving among Friends donors. Planned giving is a natural step in a growing development program and is intended to support the Friends' endowed funds goal of \$3 million.

Heritage Heroes is a Friends initiative led by Kirk Hallowell, with assistance from Bernie Buchholz and Mary Meier.

Cover letters, details, and response cards were sent to all current Friends voting members as well as selected individuals from the Friends donor list.

To date, nine couples or individuals have named or are committed to naming Friends in their planned giving (one wishes to remain anonymous).

- Anonymous
- Cindy and Bernie Buchholz
- David Crites
- Kirk and Katie Hallowell
- Cecilia and Mark Hochsprung
- Al and Mary Meier
- Mike Saxton
- Tim Sherck
- Daniel Thompson

These Heritage Heroes were acknowledged at the Friends Annual Meeting and will be noted as Heritage Heroes with an "HH" by their names in the Annual Report.

A summary of the program and brief profiles of two Heroes will be included in the 2014-2015 Annual Report. Heritage Heroes will also be integrated into our ongoing development efforts.

Increased Nachusa Visitors:

The bison are bringing many visitors to Nachusa. As Friends representatives, we can welcome folks and share information about the preserve as well as our organization when possible. Such efforts have resulted in several new Friends supporters.

Communications:

Prairie-Update MailChimp Emails: Mary Meier sends out Prairie-Update emails regarding various Friends and Nachusa activities. We currently have 510 subscribers. Anyone who would like to help with this task should contact Mary.

Annual Report: Cindy Crosby stepped in as editor in the fall of 2014 – her talents and efforts are much appreciated. In November, we distributed about 250 copies of the 2013-2014 Friends Annual Report along with remitter envelopes and a request for donations. The “Nachusa: Then and Now” theme and design garnered many positive comments.

Facebook Page: Secretary Mary Meier reported that the Friends Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Nachusa-Grasslands/122691964432289>) has about 2,775 followers, an increase of about 1,875 over last year.

Mary, Kirk Hallowell, and Charles Larry update the page frequently with photos, news about upcoming events, and links to items of interest. Suggestions for postings as well as submission of photos are welcome.

Website: See “Volunteer Opportunities” above regarding the Friends website.

Donation Acknowledgments and Thank You Notes: Mary provides formal donation acknowledgments to all our donors, even though it is not required for amounts under \$250. For 2014-2015, Mary sent about 230 acknowledgments by email and regular mail. Nancy Hotchkiss mailed handwritten thank you cards to everyone who donated more than \$100 during the year.

2014 Prairie Potluck Review: About 70 guests attended this year’s potluck on June 20, and another 25 came only for the tours. Even though it rained off and on, everyone seemed to enjoy the event. Feedback included appreciation for Jim Kanas’ music and a suggestion that Friends provide all the items for grilling next year. The date for the 2016 potluck will be Saturday, June 18.

Stewardship and New Volunteers: We have several new people who have been regularly volunteering at Nachusa, and some are also Friends supporters. We enthusiastically welcome them all.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): The Federal government reimburses landowners for reserving tillable acreage for wildlife habitat and soil conservation. Friends currently leases 412 acres of CRP land from TNC for this purpose and is responsible for monitoring and managing the land. For the last fiscal year, the payments from the USDA totaled \$50,000, and we expect to receive the same amount this year. Management activities included applying herbicide to Canada thistle, primarily along the eastern edge of Carthage Road. We purchased 5 gallons of broadleaf herbicide at a cost of \$1,900, which should also meet our needs for next year.

Scientific Research Project Grants:

2014-2015 Awards – \$15,000

1. Thomas Anton, Michael Dreslik, and David Mauger, Independent researchers – \$1,000. This team is undertaking a comprehensive survey of the state endangered Blanding's Turtle in all of its potential habitats at Nachusa.
2. Elizabeth Bach, PhD., Post-doctoral research fellow, Illinois Natural History Survey – \$2,200. Dr. Bach is studying the functional role of prairie soil fungal communities in cycling and storing carbon and nitrogen in prairie ecosystems.
3. Nicholas Barber, PhD., Northern Illinois University – \$750. With Dr. Barber's supervision and as part of the Research Rookies Program, this grant will support a beginning student research project on the impact of bison on dung beetle community assembly in restored and remnant tallgrass prairies.
4. Julia Brockman, Master's degree graduate student, Southern Illinois University – \$2,000. Ms. Brockman is studying bison habitat selection and their avoidance of humans at Nachusa.
5. Bethanne Bruninga-Socolar, PhD. graduate student, Rutgers University – \$2,000. The aim of this project is to investigate how species and populations of bees, the most important pollinators in tallgrass prairie, respond to prairie restoration.
6. Angela Burke, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University – \$1,200. This project will attempt to quantify how changes in fire intervals and the presence or absence of bison affect small mammal populations in restored and remnant prairie.
7. Heather Herakovich, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University – \$1,500. This is the second year of a study of grassland bird density in 11 plots of land that range from 1-year post restoration to 26-years post restoration as well as remnant control prairies and agricultural field controls.
8. Sarah Smith, Master's degree graduate student, Northern Illinois University – \$950. This project will use both field and laboratory methods to analyze dynamic soil properties (aggregate stability, color, structure, carbon content, organic matter content, bulk density) and particle size across a wide range of differently aged and variable topographic restorations in order to study how soils in restorations change over time.
9. Pati Vitt, PhD., Chicago Botanic Garden – \$1,600. This is a continuing study of Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*). The specific goal is to determine the effects of litter cover and burning on the germination, growth rate, and seed production of this threatened species.
10. Mark J. Wetzel, M.S., Illinois Natural History Survey, and John W. Reynolds, PhD., Oligochaetology Lab, Kitchener, Ontario – \$1,800. These researchers will sample at least 40-50 sites spread across a wide range of habitats at Nachusa in order to provide accurate species level identifications of the earthworms found at the preserve.

Maximum Grant Amount for 2015-2016: After discussing various options for next year's Science Research Grants, the membership requested that \$20,000 could be awarded for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, and the Board approved the amount.

Al Meier suggested that we consider adopting a policy that 10% of the prior fiscal year's income be designated for the grant program, so we do not have to expend our time and energy in deciding the amount each year.

Bill reminded the group that TNC has budgeted \$25,000 for research at Nachusa this year, so that will be another considerable source of funding.

Science Symposium:

Because of the number of grant recipients this year, each recipient was allotted only five minutes to present their findings at the Annual Meeting. This constraint resulted in the researchers not being able to share very much information on their projects.

We discussed organizing a symposium at Nachusa (perhaps with help from Jeff Walk, Illinois TNC Science Director, and universities such as NIU and SIU), where researchers doing work at Nachusa would give longer presentations, followed by questions and answers. Anyone else interested in the work would also be welcome to attend, including Friends, past grant recipients, and potential researchers.

After the meeting, the Science Grant committee decided to host a symposium on Saturday, October 24, at the Franklin Creek Gristmill, 1893 Twist Rd, Franklin Grove. Mary Vieregg spoke with all of the researchers except one, and they all thought late fall would be a good time for the event. They were excited about attending.

Researchers doing work at Nachusa this year, including several recipients of Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Scientific Research Project Grants, will be giving presentations on their work followed by question and answer sessions.

The symposium will begin in the mid-morning, break for an informal lunch, and continue into the afternoon with more presentations and a poster session. The poster session will allow researchers to share more information with attendees who are interested in speaking with them personally.

Everyone is welcome to attend and will be asked to RSVP so that food and seating needs can be adequately planned ahead of time.

We will also focus on publicizing donation opportunities related to Science Grants at the symposium and other venues.

Conflict of Interest Policy: As required by our Bylaws, the Directors and Officers acknowledged that they had all read and were in compliance with the Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Conflict of Interest Policy, with the exception of two circumstances that the Board of Directors has acknowledged and approved:

Friends Officers Mike Saxton and David Crites are employed by The Nature Conservancy on the Nachusa fence-building crew through the fall of 2015.

Mike Saxton serves on the Friends Scientific Research Grant Committee and, after the awards were made in early 2015, was offered and accepted a paid position as a research assistant for Bethanne Bruninga-Socular, one of the grant recipients.

Donor Confidentiality Policy: After the meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a Friends of Donor Confidentiality Policy. A copy is appended to the Minutes.

New Business

Expand Board of Directors: According to our Bylaws, we can have 3 to 5 Directors. We currently have 3 Directors, so we will consider adding more in 2016. We need to have an odd number to facilitate majority voting. Mike Carr encouraged our members to serve Friends either as Directors or Officers, although Directors do not have to be Nachusa volunteers. See Bernie or a Director for additional information.

TNC-Nachusa Grasslands Update by Bill Kleiman:

Bison Re-Introduction: The bison are doing well. The fence-building crew is hard at work on the south unit. The tunnel under Stone Barn Road is in development. We have been receiving lots of media and visitor attention, including many requests for tours. In the fall, 13 more animals will arrive. The date of the Nachusa round-up has not yet been determined.

Visitor Outreach: A contractor has been hired, and design plans for a interpretive facility are about half done. The project should be completed in 2016.

2016 Annual Meeting: The next Friends Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2016, at the Kickapoo Center in Oregon. Thank you to Kent and Kathy Lawrence for inviting us to their air-conditioned facility. Details about the location, time, and agenda will be provided prior to the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Group and Researchers Photos: Thank you to Dee Hudson for taking the photographs of the Friends as well as the Science Research Grantees on the next page.

Catered Dinner: Sandwiches ordered from Arthur's Deli, chips, and cookies were served.

Science Grantees Presentations: Ten researchers reported on their projects, outcomes to date, and expenditures of award funds. They also answered questions from the audience.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Meier, Secretary
August 24, 2015



Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2015 Annual Meeting Attendees



Friends of Nachusa Grasslands 2015 Scientific Research Grant Recipients

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Donor Confidentiality Policy Adopted August 20, 2015

The Friends of Nachusa Grasslands (Friends) recognizes that the operation of the organization requires the maintenance and management of extensive donor and prospect records. Donor records often contain personal information that has been shared with or developed by Friends on a confidential basis. "Records" means all files, including electronic data, containing information on donors or prospective donors to Friends. The purpose of this policy is to state the position of Friends on donor confidentiality and donor anonymity.

- All information about Friends of Nachusa Grasslands donors and donations is handled with respect and confidentiality.
- We do not rent or sell our donor lists to third party organizations.
- The personal information donors provide when making a donation will not be disclosed to any unauthorized third parties.
- Friends Officers and Directors are not permitted to use donor information for any purpose other than to carry out the services they are performing for the benefit of Friends.
- At the discretion of the President, Officers and Directors may make all or part of any record available to authorized Friends volunteers to assist them in executing their specific responsibilities.
- All Officers, Directors, and authorized volunteers accessing donor records in the conduct of Friends business shall maintain the confidentiality of said records.
- If donors provide Friends their postal addresses or email addresses, they may receive periodic mailings about Nachusa Grasslands news and/or events sponsored by Friends or The Nature Conservancy. Anyone who prefers not to receive this information should let us know by sending an email to nachusagrasslands@gmail.com or calling 708-406-9894.
- Donors who have supplied their telephone numbers to Friends may receive telephone calls from us regarding their donations or any requests they have made.
- Unless otherwise stipulated, the names of donors will be printed in the Friends Annual Report.
- Other than listing donors in the three giving tiers established by the Board of Directors (Restoration Benefactors – \$5,000 or more; Conservation Champions – \$1,500 to \$4,999; and Supporters – \$1 to \$1,499), Friends will not publish the amount of any donor's gift without the permission of the donor.
- For Memorial or Celebration Gifts, the names of donors may be released to the honoree, next of kin, or appropriate member of the immediate family, unless otherwise specified by the donor. Gift amounts will not to be disclosed without the express consent of the donor. Honoree designations not identified as anonymous will be published in the Friends Annual Report.
- Friends may accept anonymous gifts and will handle them appropriately. If so requested by the donor, the name of the donor and size of the gift may be withheld from the Board of Directors and other Officers at the President's discretion. When made known to Directors and Officers, the anonymity of any such gift will be respected.