“It is amazing to stroll through Nachusa Grasslands and realize I am seeing swaths of plants I have never seen before; their common names bestowed by our pioneer ancestors as they crossed what used to be the vast expanse of native prairies: pasque flower, rattlesnake master, bastard toadflax, hoary puccoon, cup plant, kittenails, tick seed and shooting stars. Like the plant life of the Florida Everglades, most of these plants exist only in our native prairie remnants. We have propagated a few for our gardens, some of their relatives we have met; otherwise, to walk through our American prairie is to see grasses and forbs that exist almost no place else in this world.”

– Nancy Hotchkiss
(pictured with Bernie Buchholz)
Message from the President

Nachusa is quite a story…. one that takes place in a parallel universe where the rules and values that govern are different … dare I say better … than our “regular lives.”

It is a story of ordinary people on a nearly invisible landscape determined to roll back the seemingly inevitable tide of nature’s degradation. Determined to protect native grasslands, an ecotype that helped make the Midwestern soils the envy of the world; soils aborning for 12,000 years that would feed and power a young nation.

Restoration is authentic, honest work. The landscape doesn’t lie, although the truth may take years to be revealed. We persevere. Call it stick-to-itiveness. We are optimistic in the face of overwhelming challenges. No quarterly returns here.

If leadplant needs 10 years to mature, then we will take our pleasure deferred.

The Nachusa universe is a place where, for those of us who had forgotten, the dignity of physical labor is rediscovered. Where Nature is very much in charge, but receptive to our efforts.

This world values community, with all its rough edges. We display our strengths and weaknesses in a common effort. We are mainly modest, except for a bit of bragging about the world’s best restorations.

We are of this place. There is an unmistakable “hereness” that we’ve learned to inhale. We listen to this unique landscape so that we can mend it.

In the process of this great effort, we begin to reveal to and remind a forgetful nation of this landscape’s amazing beauty and complexity.

You are all a part of this special universe – this unusual community, each in your own way, whether it’s by educating children, repairing equipment, raising cash, giving tours, washing dishes after the Potluck, offering encouragement, picking up roadside trash or doing hands-in-the-soil restoration.

If you are not yet part of our universe, step behind the curtain. Try it out. There is plenty of room on the Prairie. Just remember that the rules here are a bit different.

Your financial support reflects your passion. You are the flesh and bones, the community, the energy, the creativity and the passion that advances this noble work. In less than three years and way ahead of schedule, the Friends have exceeded the $100,000 target to permanently establish the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment, even as we continue to expand our support for science and stewardship.

This is indeed a special place.

Bernie Buchholz

October 2012

President, Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
Mission
Because so little tallgrass prairie remains, our mission first and foremost is to preserve, protect, and share the precious endangered ecosystem – the rare grasses, wildflowers, birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and insects – that is Nachusa Grasslands.

The Friends of Nachusa Grasslands strives to accomplish this mission by funding an endowment that will help defray the cost of natural areas management, staff and operating expenses; conducting and encouraging stewardship; and encouraging education and scientific activity at the preserve.

Build an Endowment
Invested and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in accordance with its policies and procedures, the goal of the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment is to support the conservation and preservation of native plants, animals and natural communities by providing funds for long-term stewardship.

Accomplishment: During the 2011-2012 fiscal year, donor support of the Endowment totaled $58,200.00, up from $35,530.28 the previous year. The Endowment balance as of June 30, 2012 was $93,930.00.

Need: Our goal is to raise $3 million in principal for the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment. Friends has set an interim goal of raising $250,000 for the Nachusa Grasslands Stewardship Endowment as a part of the TNC Bison Initiative.

To include the Friends in your will, we should be named as:
Friends of Nachusa Grasslands, a nonprofit corporation, organized and existing under laws of the State of Illinois, with address of 8772 S. Lowden Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031; tax identification number: 26-3303031.

To name the Friends as a beneficiary of your life insurance or retirement account, use this information for the form:
NAME: Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
ADDRESS: 8772 S. Lowden Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031
TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 26-3303031
RELATIONSHIP: Nonprofit Corporation
Conduct & Encourage Stewardship at the Preserve

Stewards and other volunteers are the heart and soul of the prairie at Nachusa. Whether it’s planting, harvesting, educating, monitoring, photographing, repairing, or advocating, we have a role that fits your passions and time.

Accomplishments: As of June 30, 2012, Friends had 41 Voting Members, up from 25 in 2010-2011, as well as 113 additional donors committed to conserving the 3,000+ acres of Nachusa Grasslands. Friends cares wisely for both the land and the resources entrusted to us to make sustainable preservation possible.

Need: Friends provide warm and welcoming opportunities throughout the year, inside or out, to work with flora and fauna. There is much to be done and it “takes a village” to ensure that stewardship, science, education and funding are all made possible, accessible and meaningful.

Encourage Education & Science at the Preserve

In 2011-2012, Friends awarded a $2,000 Scientific Research Project Grant to Kim Schmidt, a Master’s Degree student at Southern Illinois University. Kim is studying the population, characteristics, and habitat use of the ornate box turtles (Terrapene ornata ornata) in Nachusa’s restored tallgrass prairie, remnant prairie and oak savanna. The methodology employed includes presence/absence surveys, mark-recapture and radio-telemetry surveys.

For 2012-2013, Friends may award grants of up to $4,000 to qualified candidates conducting scientific research significant to Nachusa Grasslands. Details on the application process can be found at http://www.nachusagrasslands.org/Science/Science_TOC.html.

How to Help in this Diverse Ecosystem:

❖ Volunteer for “Stewardship Saturdays”: Every Saturday morning from 9 a.m. to noon, a workday is hosted by Stewards of units across the preserve. Meet fellow prairie enthusiasts who will guide and mentor you along the way. Spring and fall also afford special training and opportunities to serve on a prescribed fire crew.

❖ Share YOUR knowledge and talents: Volunteer to lead a youth or community group tour. Whether it’s with elementary, high school, college or various environmental organizations, people of all ages come from far and wide to visit Nachusa and enjoy and learn from the prairie.

❖ Capture the Essence of Nachusa Grasslands: Volunteer for the Nachusa Photography Corps.

❖ Be a Citizen Scientist: Monitor birds, dragonflies, butterflies frogs or other native flora and fauna.

❖ Transform a Cornfield into a Native Landscape: Volunteer to be a Steward of your very own unit and participate in this leading-edge experiment in the new science of restoration ecology!

Several of the activities described above including workdays, prescribed burns, and youth education are offered and overseen by TNC. Except for specific Friends-sponsored events such as the Prairie Potluck, all Nachusa volunteers are under the auspices of TNC. Friends provide this information about programs and opportunities to help fulfill our goals of encouraging stewardship, science and education, but Friends is not responsible for these activities.
Seed collection usually begins in May and ends in November. Staff and volunteers harvest native species to re-create prairies or overseed existing grasslands. With scissors and snips, buckets and bags, they hand collect about 230 different types of seeds, dry and mill them, and then store everything until planting season.

Deciding if a particular species is ready for harvest is a complex task, so the stewards and staff confer frequently on when and where to begin collecting. Each season presents new challenges, which keeps the process interesting and rewarding.
Brush clearing takes place from December to May, and weeding is most intense from May to August. Invasive and non-native species are removed to allow prairie and savanna plants to flourish.

Nachusa’s prescribed fire season is usually October/November and March/April and requires a highly trained fire crew. Burning helps to promote species diversity by controlling invasive weeds, shrubs, and trees. Fire also stimulates new plant growth and returns nutrients to the soil.

Without clearing, weeding, and burning all of our restoration efforts would soon be undone.
Returning former cropland to prairie and overseeding established areas are accomplished through various planting methods. Most of the sowing is done in late November or early December after the area has been burned. Snow provides an ideal surface, as it helps us see what we have already covered.

After mixing our seeds according to the soil conditions and hydrology of the target area, we pull pendulum or drop seeders behind tractors or trucks. We also plant many seeds by hand.
Nachusa Grasslands is a living laboratory for students from elementary through graduate schools. Tours, field trips, and research projects – some supported by grants from Friends – provide insights into prairie and savanna land management practices as well as native flora and fauna.

Celebrations occur throughout the year, most notably at the Friends Annual Prairie Potluck on the fourth Saturday in June along with numerous TNC-sponsored events and get-togethers. Fellowship and fun are always part of our days (and nights) at Nachusa Grasslands.
Thank You!

SUPPORTERS ($1 TO $1,499)
Cindy and Fred Acker
(in memory of Richard Acker)
Mike Adolph*
Keith Anderson*
Michael Annin
James Armstrong
Ellen Baker*
John and Jane Balaban
Sally and Max Baumgardner*

David Crites*
Jon and Emily Dempsey*
DeWayne and Donna Fellows
Pete Fenner
Conrad and Carol Fialkowski*
Seth and Kristin Flanders
Ralph Frank*
Terry Lyn Funston
Lorraine Gawlik
Robert Glaser*
Ourania Gleason
John and Janet Gundy
Kirk Hallowell
The Hamill Family Foundation*
(on behalf of Nancy Hamill Winter)
Hank and Becky Hartman*
John Heneghan*
James and Betty Higby
Don Homer*
Carolyn Hotchkiss*
John and Ingrid Hotchkiss
Nancy Hotchkiss*
Jim Hoyt*
John Huck*
(in memory of Roxana Huck)
Josue Huerta
Tan Fui Lian and Robert Inger*
Ron and Pat Ingraham*
Mark and Patti Jordan
(in memory of Jack and Doris Jordan)
Kevin Kaltenbach
Nancy Bingham and David Kanzler
(in memory of James Hotchkiss)
Robert and Marilyn Katrein
Bill and Susan Kleiman*
Cliff Knapp
Mickey Collins and Aki Knezevic
John Ayres and Lisa Marie Lanz*
Suzan Lanz
Emmylou Studier and Charles Larry
Jeannie and Tom Lawson
(in memory of Annette, Russell, and James Lawson)

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands Donors
July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012

Patrick Lessner*
Dennis and Charlene Loescher*
Tricia Lowery*
Clark and Pamela Lumsden
Alan and Mary Meier*
Tom and Jenny Mitchell
Diane Moore*
The Morrison Family Foundation*
(on behalf of Bruce and Beth Boyd)
Lisa Murphy
Oregon Healthcare Pharmacy Services, Inc., Mark Mongan, President*
John Peterson*
Sandy Phillips*
Bob and Sherry Piros
Josh Price
Albert Pyott
Renae Rebechini
(in celebration of the marriage of Bob Norris and Renae Rebechini)
Kevin Rohling
John and Barbara Rutherford*
Martha and Zink Sanders*
Kathleen Saxton
(in memory of Thomas “McGee” Maher)
Bruce and Ellen Scherger
Cindy and John Schmadeke
Juergen and Meredith Schroeer
Richard Schutter
Mary Scott*
Tim Sherck*
Dale Shriver*
Judy Snyder*
Rebekah and Mark Snyder*
Les and Pat Szewczyk
Daniel Thompson*
George Tolliver
Miriam Potter and Stanley Vachta
Mary and Jim Vieregg*
Mary Watson
Jennifer Wilson
Evelyn Young
Tawani Enterprises Inc.
Anonymous

CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS
($1,500 TO $4,999)
Alan Carpenter*
Dave Crossett and Mary Walsh*
Jan Grainger*
Jeff and Joan Meiners*
Steve and Mary Meiners*
Paul and Carol Soderholm*

RESTORATION BENEFACTORS
($5,000+)
The Bobolink Foundation*
(c/o Wendy Paulson)
John Santucci
Jay Stacy*
Crest Foods
Anonymous

DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF
NACHUSA STEWARD MARY SCOTT
Bernie and Cindy Buchholz
Clark and Pamela Lumsden
Mary and Alan Meier
Tom and Jenny Mitchell
John and Cindy Schmadeke
Jay Stacy
Mary and Jim Vieregg

IN-KIND DONORS
Bowron/Komerska Graphics, Ltd.
Belvidere Central Middle School National Junior Honor Society
Nancy Hotchkiss

Donors who have given in consecutive years at the same or a higher level
• Deceased Donor
## 2012 Financial Results

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<th>7/1/11 - 6/30/12</th>
<th>7/1/10 - 6/30/11</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BEGINNING BALANCE</strong></td>
<td>$ 5,712.15</td>
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<td><strong>REVENUES</strong></td>
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<td>Cash Donations</td>
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<td>CRP Income</td>
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<td>Gifts to TNC Endowment</td>
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<td>Government Fees</td>
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<td>Development</td>
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<td>Science Grants</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>CRP Herbicide</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>ENDING CASH BALANCE</strong></td>
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## Balance Sheet 6/30/12

**ASSETS**

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<td>Certificate of Deposit</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 33,130.90</td>
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**LIABILITIES**

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<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<td>Funds Balance</td>
<td>$ 33,130.90</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 33,130.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-“Tending our prairie remnants and restorations is challenging, but even weeding can be gratifying when we survey an area free of invasives after a long day of cutting and clearing. Our best reward, however, comes from seeing an abundance of prairie species flourishing under our care.”

~ Mary and Al Meier
To Learn More

Save the Dates

Science Grant applications due November 30, 2012
Science grant recipients announced February 1, 2013
Prairie Potluck June 22, 2013
Friends Annual Meeting July 20, 2013
Nachusa Photography Exhibit Watch for Date in October of 2013

Recommended Reading

A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
Miracle under the Oaks, The Revival of Nature in America by William K. Stevens
Nature’s Second Chance: Restoring the Ecology of Stone Prairie Farm by Steven Apfelbaum
Of Prairie, Woods & Water edited by Joel Greenberg
Plants of the Chicago Region by Floyd Swink & Gerould Wilhelm
Prairie Restoration Handbook by Packard & Mutel
Prairie, A Natural History by Candace Savage
Tallgrass Prairie Wildflowers 2: A Field Guide to Common Wildflowers and Plants of the Prairie Midwest by Doug Ladd
Where the Sky Began by John Madsen

How to Contact Us

Friends of Nachusa Grasslands
8772 S. Lowden Road
Franklin Grove, Illinois 61031
708-406-9894
nachusaggrasslands@gmail.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS who contributed to this annual report by capturing the beauty of Nachusa Grasslands and the mission of Friends. Each copyrighted photo is marked with a symbol indicating the photographer’s name.

John Ayres
Cindy and Bernie Buchholz
Ron Cress
Ann Haverstock
Kirk Hallowell
Hank and Becky Hartman
Bill Kleiman
Lisa Lanz
Charles Larry
Heather B. Marshall
Sandy Phillips
Kim Schmidt

Front Cover: Monarda fistulosa
Inside Cover: Gobbler Ridge
Back Cover: East off of Dot’s Knob

The mission collage on the following page is a testament of the committed work of the photography corps, stewards and volunteers of Nachusa Grasslands: Thank you!

Friends annual report creation by Betsy Bowen-Komerska, graphic designer and Lisa Marie Lanz, volunteer.

Editing provided by Bernie Buchholz, Mary Meier and David Crites.
“Every day I spend on the prairie is a day of joy. The moment I set foot on that ground, my thoughts move only to the present, my body relaxes, and I move forward only guided by my intuition. This peace is only increased by the time I share with wise and funny people with whom I share my love of the Grasslands.”

~Kirk Hallowell
"A world of grass and flowers stretched around me, rising and falling in gentle undulations, as if an enchanter had struck the ocean swell, and it was at rest forever...."

- (Journal of Eliza Steele, 1840, Summer Journeys in the West)
  Submitted by Mary Vieregg